

Installation Guidance Note: Corkment Underlay

Corkment is an acoustic underlay designed for use with Forbo linoleum sheet, Flotex and Tessera (when permanently adhered). Manufactured by calendaring cork granules, oxidised linseed oil and other materials onto a jute backing, using a process similar to linoleum manufacturing. **Note:** Corkment is not suitable for use under acoustic linoleum/vinyl floor coverings or vinyl tiles.

BENEFITS

- Under 2.5 mm Marmoleum, 2.0 mm Corkment offers a ΔL_w 14 dB impact sound reduction and can help achieve a 6-star* AAAC rating ($L_n T'w < 40$) for most multi-dwelling applications. *Acoustic test report ($L_n T'w$) available upon request.
- Durable – does not decompose in use.
- Provides some underfoot comfort without becoming tiring for pushing trolleys.
- LBC Declared Red List Free

GENERAL ADVICE

The appearance, performance and durability of the installed floor covering will be determined to a large extent by the quality of the prepared subfloor and the conditions in which they are laid.

The installation of Corkment should be carried out in accordance with AS 1884:2021 Floor coverings - Resilient sheet and tiles - Installation practices. Areas to receive flooring should be clean, free from other trades, fully enclosed and weather tight. Subfloors should be clean, smooth, sound and permanently dry.

The open time of the adhesive will depend on site conditions and porosity of the base. It is best practice to conduct an adhesive bond test before starting the installation. Bond testing will assist in identifying both the working characteristics of the adhesive (waiting and working time) for the site conditions, and also any potential bonding problems.

Always conduct moisture tests on **all** substrates. All ground-based level floors should have an effective moisture barrier.

Areas to receive flooring shall be adequately lit to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and for final inspection.

Floor coverings shall not be installed over structural expansion joints or construction joints.

Beginning the installation is an implied acceptance of site conditions by the parties involved and liability for any failure directly related to inadequate site conditions becomes the responsibility of the installer and/or flooring contractor.

Prior to installation rolls should be checked to ensure that the correct material has been received and that the material is in good condition. No claim will be accepted for obvious damage if the material has been fitted.

As with all newly installed floor coverings, Corkment and any floor covering installed on it, should be protected from heavy traffic, particularly high point load wheeled traffic for 72 hours and must not be washed for 48 hours after installation.

ACCLIMATISATION



It is essential that the laying area is at a steady temperature of 18-27°C, at least 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation. The material and adhesive should be conditioned in the same environment for at least 24 hours prior to the installation. Where the underlay has been stored or transported immediately prior to delivery in temperatures below 10°C the acclimatization period should be extended to 48 hours.

Ensure that all recommendations for substrate and job site conditions are met prior to beginning the installation.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Corkment can be used in conjunction with under-floor heating systems. A separate guidance note "[Installation of Forbo Floor Coverings on Underfloor Heating Systems](#)" provides more information on the conditions for installation in such circumstances.

RECOMMENDED ADHESIVE

Corkment should be fully adhered to the subfloor using 611 Eurostar Lino Plus adhesive.

If alternative products are to be used consult with the supplier for more information, guidance and warranty.





Use a V2 'V' notched trowel for 611 Eurostar Lino Plus for Corkment and Marmoleum and apply the adhesive.

FLOTEX/TESSERA WITH CORKMENT



For Flotex or Tessera with Corkment installation use F54 adhesive using a V1, 1.6 mm x 1.6 mm 'V' notched trowel and allow the adhesive to dry for up to 40 to 50 minutes depending on the climate and subfloor conditions on site, do not allow the adhesive

to flash off prior to the floor covering installation. F54 is initially tacky but will fully cure with time.

Trowels will wear during use, check the trowel both before and during use to ensure that the proper, specified trowel notch is used and maintained. The adhesive must be spread evenly over the entire floor area with particular attention to edges – this will ensure that the sheet is fully bonded at the perimeters.

Install one length of sheet at a time, making sure to place the material into wet adhesive and roll afterwards with a 68 kg roller, rolling in all directions to ensure a firm bond. It is important to only spread sufficient adhesive that can be covered within the open time of the adhesive. Areas that cannot be rolled with the large roller e.g. abutments such as door frames or skirting boards should be rolled with a hand roller or pressed into the adhesive with a rubbing hammer.

Always clean away excess adhesive with a damp cloth before it is allowed to dry.

INSTALLATION

- Corkment is fully adhered to the subfloor using 611 Eurostar Lino Plus adhesive.
- When used with sheet floor coverings, Forbo recommend that Corkment is installed at right angles to the direction of installation of the floor covering.
- If the Corkment and the finished floor covering must be installed in the same direction as the sheet floor covering a minimum 15 cm overlap should be allowed at the seams.
- If Corkment is installed underneath linoleum tiles, then care should be taken to ensure that seams in the Corkment do not coincide with joints in the tiles.
- Cut the sheet material to the required lengths and then back roll each cut length before scribing to the long wall and length ends in order to release any roll tension from the winding of the sheet. Once the sheet has been back rolled stand the cut lengths upright in this state for approximately 15 minutes before unrolling for fitting.
- Forbo recommends that Corkment is installed one sheet at a time. Always install all Corkment sheets in the same direction. It is recommended that each sheet be scribed-to-fit and that the factory edge be properly removed before adhering (see below).
- Seams should always be under-scribed after the material has been placed into the adhesive and rolled. Following these recommendations will give the installer the best opportunity to manage the open and working time of the adhesive and ensure that the flooring material is placed into wet adhesive.

POINTS TO NOTE

- Regardless of the top floor covering seams should be cut to leave a nett fit (closed) seam. However, as with linoleum sheet, allowance must be made for a fractional expansion in the width of the Hessian backed material as it picks up moisture from the adhesive. This expansion is minute and will be halted by the curing of the special linoleum adhesive, but unless allowed for in cutting, tightly cut seams will peak and fail (this is not a product defect). The recommended procedure for cutting net fit seams can be found in the Forbo installation [Guidance note for Marmoleum sheet](#).
- The installed underlay should be left for at least 24 hours before laying the floor covering (this is to allow the adhesive to dry).
- The chosen floor covering should be adhered to the top of the Corkment using a Forbo adhesive appropriate to the floor covering.
- The installation guidance for the chosen floor covering should always be followed.

For further information, please contact Forbo Flooring Systems Australia.

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