

Gluedown

Installation Guidelines

Gluedown floors should be installed in accordance with these instructions as well as the applicable national standards and building codes for the installation of resilient flooring at the time of installation, to ensure a quality fit. These floors are not suitable for installation outdoors or in rooms that will be continually wet. They are suitable for use in traditional residential bathrooms, kitchens, laundry / utility rooms.

Failure to observe and follow these installation guidelines and / or current national standards and building codes at time of installation may result in any potential warranty claim being void.

National standards and building codes

European Union: DTU 53.2, DIN 18365 (Teil C)

United Kingdom: BS 8203

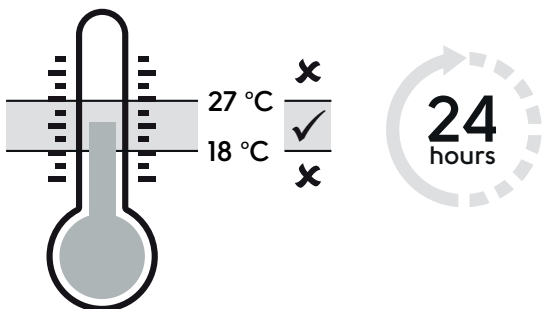
Pre-installation

It is the responsibility of the installer to visually inspect all materials in optimal lighting to confirm it is the correct design, colour, batch, quality, free from defects and quantity as ordered. If the material or batching is incorrect or where defects are apparent, the store of purchase must be contacted before the material is installed. Complaints and claims regarding clearly identifiable defects will not be accepted after installation. Preparation and installation should not begin until all other trades have completed their work.

Acclimatisation of material

Flooring materials should be removed from packaging at least 24 hours prior to installation and allowed to condition in the room where installation is to take place (tiles / planks may be stacked but must be rested flat). Exposure to direct sunlight should be avoided during the acclimatisation and installation process by means of window coverings or temporary measures.

For optimum performance, room temperature should always be maintained between 18-27°C.



Subfloor preparation

Subfloor preparation must comply with applicable national standards and building codes for the installation of resilient flooring at time of installation and in strict accordance with these installation guidelines.

The subfloor must be firm, hard, flat, level, smooth, dry, clean and dust-free and should be prepared dependent on your subfloor type.

See section **Types of subfloor** for specific preparation guidelines.

Moisture in subfloors

Moisture of the base subfloor (e.g. concrete) must be measured according to the relevant local standard.

- Where the hygrometer test is specified, the moisture of the subfloor must be less than 75% RH.
- Where the calcium carbonate test is specified, construction moisture must be no more than 2% CM for cementitious screeds and no more than 0.5% CM for calcium sulphate screeds. For any subfloor showing a moisture value above these limits, a suitable damp proof membrane / moisture suppression system must be used.

NOTE: some national standards require the pH of the concrete slab to be controlled.

Arranging the planks / tiles

The design on this product is randomly distributed and can be heavier on some tiles / planks than others. To prevent heavy and light colour shading areas, the tiles / planks should be unboxed and shuffled.

Installation procedure

1. Lay the tiles and planks into spread adhesive, following the instructions of the specific adhesive type used, to ensure maximum bond strength and minimise the risk of peaking and gapping.
2. Use a hand roller for each small section immediately as you progress. Wipe excess adhesive off immediately with a damp cloth.
3. The whole area should be rolled in both directions after installation using a 68 kg roller or a hand roller in confined areas, paying particular attention to the edges.
4. Ensure all planks and tiles are free from traffic for 24 hours after installation (or protect them from direct contact e.g. cover with board / sheeting).

- Clean-up surplus adhesive following manufacturer guidelines. For most adhesives, it is recommended that they are removed while still wet, using a damp cloth.
NOTE: If using a moisture-curing adhesive, use mineral spirits (for tools only), or builders wipes, do not clean with water. Cured adhesive can only be removed mechanically. Follow adhesive instructions for detailed clean up procedure.
- Maintain climate conditions as per acclimatisation process after installation.

Use of adhesives

NOTE: the company will not be liable for any loss, damage or complaint if the incorrect installation method or adhesive system is adopted for the installation, and / or the adhesive manufacturer's instructions are not strictly followed.

Types of subfloor

1. Solid subfloors

Concrete / sand cement screeds

These subfloors should comply with the requirements of the national standards and building codes noted on page 1.

New and old

For all concrete floors, mechanically abrade the floor to remove contamination (laitance, paint, plaster, adhesive etc). Apply a suitable damp proof membrane (as required), primer and underlayment system in accordance with the product manufacturer(s).

Power floated concrete

After using a water drop test to determine porosity (beading of water droplets), mechanical abrasive preparation either via diamond grinding, scarification or light shot blasting may be necessary to remove laitance and allow adhesive to disperse into the substrate. Where moisture values exceed the above limits, these surfaces must still be abraded before the application of a suitable damp proof membrane / moisture suppression system.

'Anhydrite' (calcium sulphate-gypsum)

Anhydrite screeds can be difficult to identify and can be mistaken for more traditional cement-based products. Consult with the screed manufacturer to ensure what smoothing compounds, primers and sealers are required with your system. Ensure all surface laitance is sufficiently abraded and removed and the floor is sufficiently dry before proceeding.

Painted floors

Mechanically remove all paint back to the original base. Assess and treat as per the exposed subfloor, apply an appropriate primer & levelling compound in consultation with the underlayment supplier.

2. Wood subfloors

All chipboard / particleboard / Weyroc / MDF / OSB

Overlay with a 5.5 mm flooring grade plywood*, fixed according to national standards. Plywood joints should be smoothed over using skim coat / patch or using an appropriate primer and levelling compound by consulting your underlayment supplier. Plywood must be fixed according to manufacturer's instruction and to national standards to eliminate potential movement later from changing climatic conditions.

Flooring grade plywood floors

Plywood joints should be smoothed over using skim coat / patch or using an appropriate primer and levelling compound by consulting your underlayment supplier. For any plywood floors with thickness less than 5.5 mm, treat as chipboard. Test for dampness and vacuum all dust to facilitate bonding.

Standard floorboards / tongue and groove

Floorboards should be well secured, loose boards firmly fastened, and worn / broken boards replaced. Install a minimum 5.5 mm flooring grade plywood*, fixed according to manufacturer's instruction and to national standards. Plywood joints should be smoothed over using skim coat / patch or alternatively a suitable primer and levelling compound by consulting your underlayment supplier. For areas where frequent spillages are likely, use fibre cement sheets instead installed to manufacturer's guidelines and current building codes.

NOTE: Being extremely porous, fibre cement sheets must first be primed with an appropriate primer and, where required, a smoothing or levelling compound, by consulting your underlayment supplier.

Undulating timber floors

These should first be levelled, by sanding or planing to remove undulations. Then overlay with flooring grade 5.5 mm plywood*. Using a suitable floor patch, fill in the plywood seams and fasteners.

Alternatively, a suitable primer and smoothing compound may be used for patch-filling prior to installation of plywood or fabricated underlays, in consultation with your underlayment supplier.

Wood mosaic panel, woodblock, wood strip, laminate / click products

These floor coverings must be removed together with any underlay and flooring accessories. The subfloor should be treated appropriately.

*All plywood must conform to BS 8203 Annex A or equivalent national standard.

3. Other existing subfloors

Asbestos

Some older resilient tiles and adhesives can contain asbestos. Asbestos and asbestos adhesive residue must be mechanically removed by a professional abatement company prior to installing any LVT. In case of doubt contact the relevant authority for advice on removal and disposal.

Asphalt

Our product cannot be laid directly onto asphalt subfloors. A suitable smoothing compound should be applied in consultation with the underlayment supplier, with preparation of the asphalt in line with smoothing compound manufacturer's guidelines, ensuring the asphalt is sufficiently degreased, cleaned and primed.

Metal floors

The metal surface should be cleaned, degreased and then mechanically abraded to remove contamination / rust and provide a surface key. Where this gives a level surface, the floor covering should be adhered with 2-part chemical cure adhesives or 1-part moisture-curing adhesives; otherwise it must first be primed and levelled with the recommended levelling compound. Refer to supplier.

Quarry tile / mosaic / terrazzo / porcelain / ceramics

Test floor for evidence of damp. If dampness is detected consult your supplier.

In most cases these substrates will not be sufficiently absorbent for the adhesive to disperse into the substrate. These should either be removed, and the subfloor prepared and treated as per the exposed subfloor, or mechanically prepare the surface by thoroughly cleaning, rinsing and abrading the surface, taking extra care to ensure that the surface is firm, dry and free of wax, oil, dust and loose tiles / fragments and that all holes are repaired with a suitable fast-set repair mortar. Apply an appropriate primer & levelling compound by consulting your underlayment supplier, ensuring that all grout lines are filled with no show-through. A second topcoat of primer and levelling compound may be required to smooth over old tile grout lines.

Resilient floor coverings e.g. linoleum, PVC, cork, thermoplastic, carpet

Remove existing floor covering and all traces of adhesive residues. Then treat the subfloor appropriately.

Miscellaneous floors

Magnesite, Granwood, etc. Consult your supplier.

Extreme temperature fluctuations and high spillage areas

(Sunrooms / Conservatories / areas adjacent to panoramic or floor to ceiling glazing / unheated rooms / high spillage wet areas).

In areas where a temperature more than 50°C is possible, or high spillages and repeated wet conditions, the floor must be installed with 2-part chemical cure adhesives or 1-part moisture-curing adhesive. It is necessary to keep the

temperature in these areas at 18-27°C for 24 hours prior to, during, and 24 hours after installation. Shade windows prior to and at least 48 hours after installation.

Underfloor heating

Planks / tiles may be installed over underfloor heating systems, but these must be constructed so that the temperature at the adhesive interface does not exceed 27°C ensuring the correct adhesive is used. The underfloor heating must be commissioned before installation commences. It should then be switched off 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after installation. The temperature can then be gradually increased to 27°C at no more than 2°C per day to the desired temperature.

Electrical underfloor heating: please consult manufacturer to ensure their system is compatible with this flooring. Mesh / wire systems must be bedded into a base coat of appropriate primer & levelling compound to cover the wires or mesh by consulting your underlayment supplier.

The room temperature must be between 18°C-27°C prior to and during installation, for both concrete and timber subfloors.

For underfloor heating pipes set into concrete, prime the surface before applying a compatible levelling compound as per the manufacturer's instructions.

IMPORTANT: Care must be taken to avoid damage to the floor caused by localised "hot spots / thermal blocks". Consideration must be given in placing rugs, and items of furniture which do not allow hot air circulation. No responsibility for damage to floor tiles can be accepted under these circumstances.

Maintenance

- Use entrance mats to protect against grit and moisture
- Ensure mats and rugs are not rubber-backed (of a non-staining variety) to prevent any discoloration of the floor.
- Avoid sliding or dragging furniture or other objects across the floor - use floor protector pads to prevent scratching.
- Use large castor cups or other means to protect against indentation from heavy furniture.
- Regularly sweep the floor to remove loose dirt or grit as these can cause fine scratches.
- For a thorough clean, a range of pH neutral cleaning materials are available. Avoid the use of household cleaners and bleach-based detergents. These could make the floor slippery or cause discoloration.
- Always mop up spills as soon as possible to reduce the risk of slipping and possible staining.
- Do not subject this flooring to standing water. This will present a slip hazard.
- Floor care guides are available from your supplier or the website.