

Feb 2021

## INSTALLATION METHODOLOGY FOR DESSO CARPET TILES

### Inspection of the materials delivered before starting the installation.

- Always inspect the carpet tiles delivered to you before commencing fitting.
- Make sure that the quality, colour, pattern, etc., correspond exactly with your order. (The quality, colour and batch number are mentioned on each box).
- An arrow indicating the pile direction can be found on the back of each carpet tile.
- For an even result, it is very important to use tiles from the same batch in the same room.
- Any carpet tile can be susceptible to a certain amount of “pile distortion” when taken out of the box. This may result in visual differences in appearance between the tiles during, and immediately following installation, however, this visual differential will diminish as the pile recovers to its natural position. (This is not a manufacturing defect).
- Storage of carpet tiles before an installation. Boxes should not be stacked higher than 6 – 8 cartons on top of each other to prevent excessive pile distortion/pile crush

### Site conditions

- The material should be unpacked at least 24 hours before installation and allowed to acclimatize to room temperature (48 hours in case of EcoBase™ backing).
- The product should be installed at a minimum room temperature of 18°C with a maximum relative humidity of 65%
- A floor temperature of at least 10°C should be maintained. (Most Desso carpet tiles can be installed on floors with underfloor heating, providing the maximum operating temperature of the floor does not exceed 27°C. The heating should be turned off at least 48 hours before installation.
- The appearance of the carpet tile floor finish depends largely on the condition of the sub-floor, so the preparation of the surface is of paramount importance.

### Designation of responsibility

As per SANS 10186 Code of Practice: The installation of textile floor coverings, the flooring contractor shall ensure that the sub-floor is sufficiently dry, shows no signs of crumbling and it is sound. If the substrate is not acceptable to the installer, he should not proceed with the installation until he has informed the contractor in writing and the conditions have been improved or he has obtained a written waiver of responsibility from the contractor. As soon as the installation is complete, the installer should obtain a certificate of completion from the contractor and any necessary protective measures for the textile floor covering should be implemented.

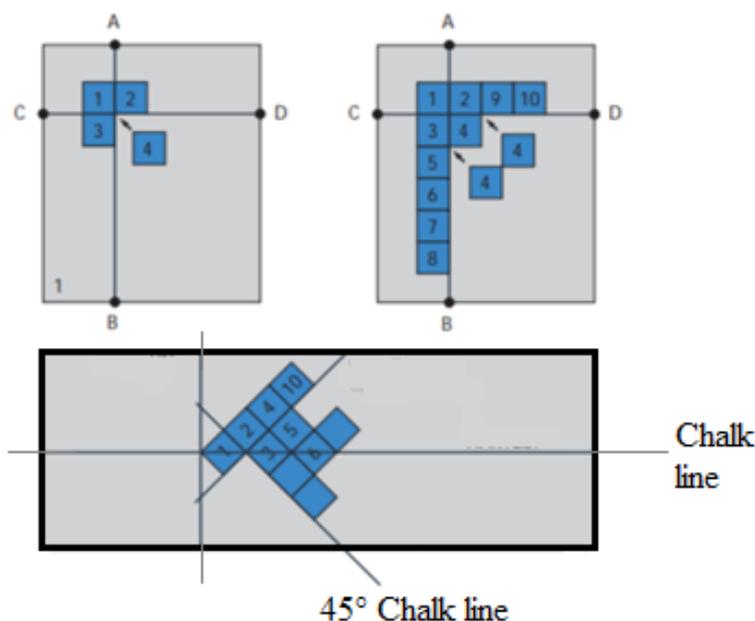
### Sub-floor preparation

- The floor should be smooth, hard, clean, sound and level surface, not only for appearance but also for achieving a satisfactory adhesive bond.
- It should also be swept or preferably vacuumed, to remove all dust and dirt. (Always brush the sweepings away from the area onto which the flooring is to be laid).

- It is important to remove any traces or patches of oil, grease or any oil-based paint from the sub-floor surface. This can be done using either paint strippers or degreasing compounds. Once clean the subfloor must be thoroughly washed to remove any stripper or residue and then allowed to dry thoroughly.
- Floorboards should be level and firmly fixed. Uneven surfaces where permissible should be levelled by the application of 6mm Marine Plywood or 9mm Standard Plywood. The wood may require sealing to prevent the absorption of the applied pressure-sensitive adhesive.

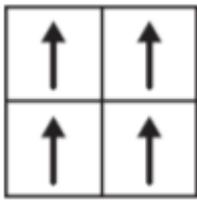
### Installation

- The working area must be coated with **Mapei UltraBond Eco Tack pressure-sensitive adhesive or a PSA that is equal or better**, and only once the application is completely dry, can the tiles be installed using standard fitting techniques. (Premature placement of the tiles, i.e. when the pressure-sensitive adhesive is still wet, will result in a permanent bond.)
- Caution also needs to be exercised when applying the adhesive to raised access floor panels to ensure that the adhesive whilst still wet, does not penetrate the joints between adjacent panels.
- Make sure that the carpet tiles are installed tightly against each other. The backing must fit snugly so as not to squeeze any of the pile. (If the carpet tiles are pressed too tightly, creeping, warping and peaking can occur).
- Care should be taken with cut pile products to avoid trapping edge tufts between the joints
- The use of hand-knicker ensures that the tiles are butted firmly together making the joints a lot less visible this way.
- It is recommended that a hand seam roller be used to embed the carpet tile edges into the adhesive to strengthen the adhesive bond.
- Never start installing carpet tiles against a wall. Always start from a calculated point in the room along a perpendicular line or chalk line.
- In offices start with the corridor and then install the rooms afterwards, to obtain a good connection.



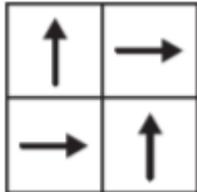
**Pile Direction**

- The arrows on the underside of the tiles indicate the pile direction and can be used to install the product in different ways.
- Most tiles produced by Desso, particularly the cut pile ranges, are normally installed "monolithic" with the directional arrows all pointing in the same direction.
- Some tiles have a very pronounced pile direction or design and have to, or can be installed "Quarter-turn", "Ashlar" or "Brick" i.e. (It is, however, always advisable look at the Technical Specification of the product before application).
- Should there are no arrows on the underside of the tile, then the range can/must be installed randomly.



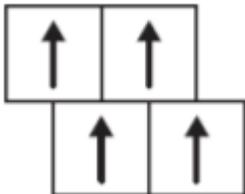
**Monolithic (One way)**

The carpet tiles are installed in the same direction to create a uniform floor covering



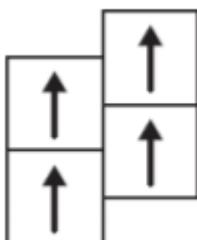
**Tessellated**

The arrow on the backside of the carpet tiles are alternately turned 90°



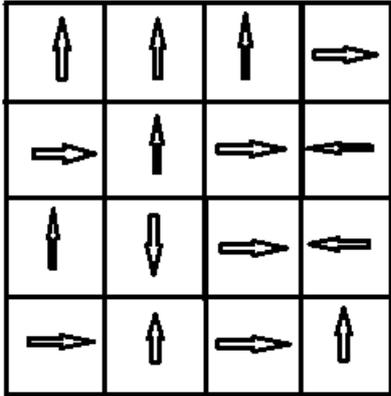
**Brick-bond / Half brick**

Each tile is horizontally shifted half a row so that 4 corner points never coincide



**Ashlar**

Each tile is vertically shifted half a row so that 4 corners points never coincide



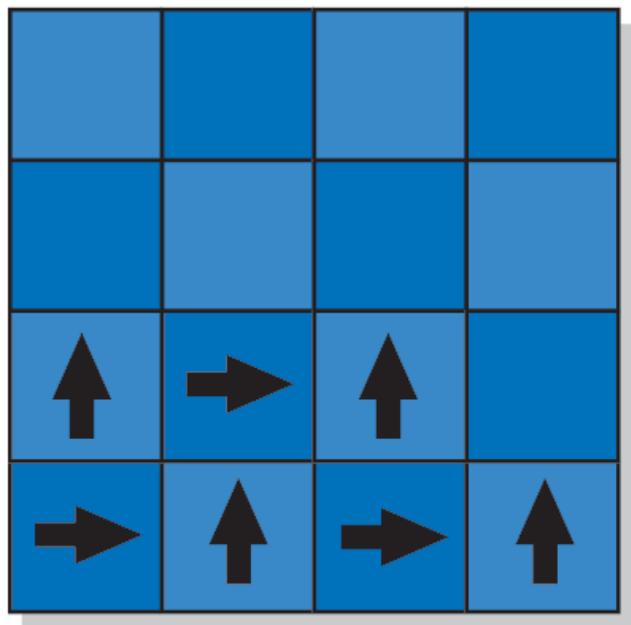
Random Installation

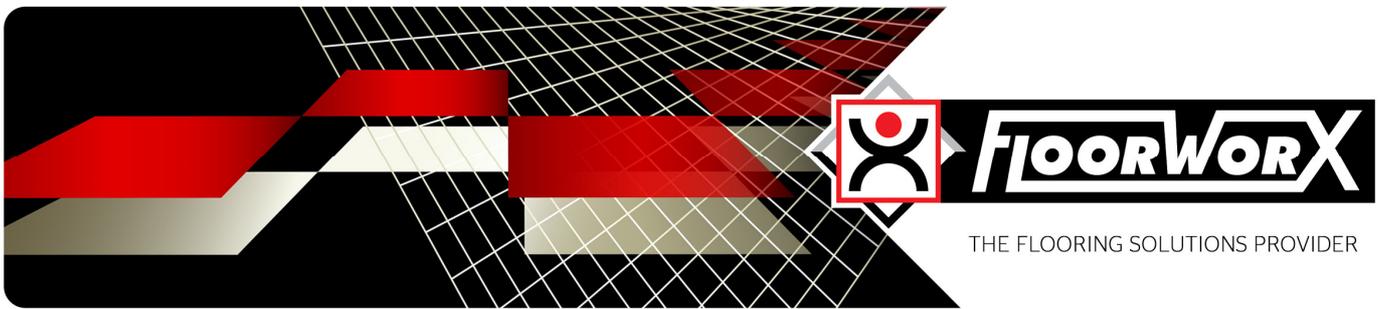
**Two Different Effects**

The majority of carpet tiles may be installed to give two different effects or appearances as shown in the below diagrams.

**Chequerboard appearance**

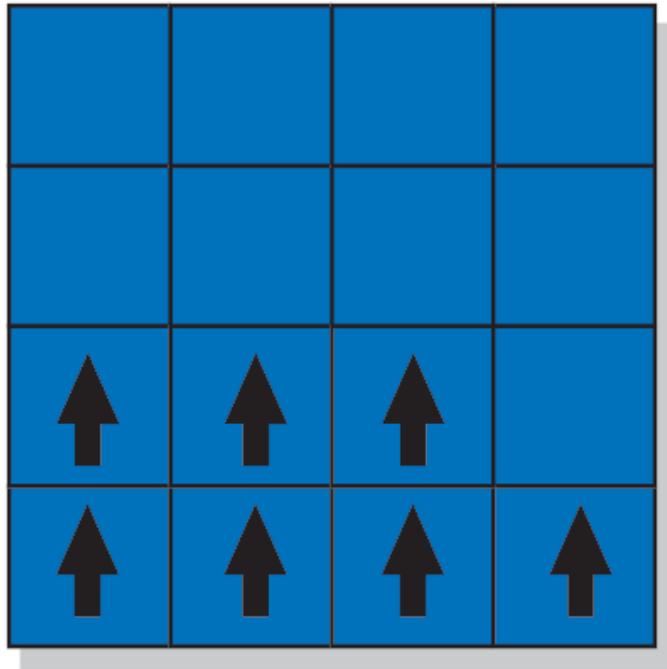
- For this effect, the tiles should be installed with the pile direction at right angles to the adjacent tile. This type of installation may be necessary for carpet tiles with a short (loop) pile and needle felt or fibre bonded tiles. This type of installation should not be used with cut pile products.





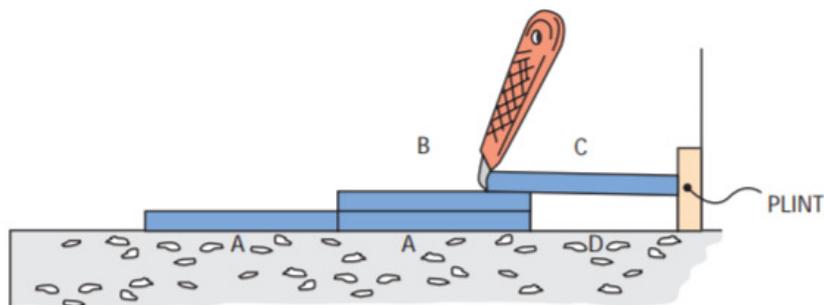
### Broadloom appearance

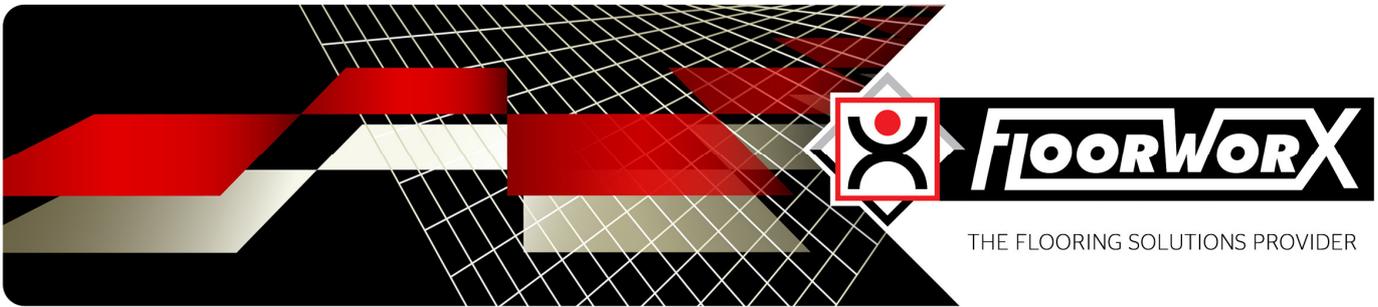
- The tiles should be installed with the arrows on each tile pointing in the same direction. This type of installation is necessary for all cut pile tiles and printed qualities. Install the carpet tiles where possible transversely to the light, or with the arrows in the traffic direction of the room.



### Cutting of tiles

- To finish the room, the carpet tiles in most cases have to be measured and cut to size using a Stanley knife.
- To ensure a good fit to skirting boards cut the tile using the methods shown in the diagram below, and place the cut edge against the skirting board.
- When calculating the starting point, check to ensure that tiles can be installed without the need for narrow cuts, minimum 10 cm. (It may, therefore, be necessary to adjust the starting point)
- Carpets are cut on the backing.





### Stairs

- Carpet tiles are suitable for installation on stairs; however, they must be fitted with nosing.
- It is permissible to secure the tiles and sections of the tiles with a pressure-sensitive adhesive on the treads only, however, the preferred option would be to use a contact adhesive on both the treads and risers.

### Castor chairs

- In areas where office furniture has castor wheels, the tiles must be installed on an all-over pressure-sensitive adhesive system. To prevent damage from occurring to the tiles, the castor wheel should have a minimum diameter of 50 mm and be at least 20 mm wide.

### Raised flooring systems

- Raised access flooring systems are normally 600 mm panels. Desso can supply carpet tiles in the 500 mm format and certain products can be made available in 600 mm. The installation technique will vary depending on whether 500 mm tiles are laid conventionally as with a normal floor, or whether a 600 mm tile is placed over the access floor panels.
- Either size of carpet tile can be installed over a raised access flooring system using a recommended pressure-sensitive adhesive. The adhesive should be applied with a roller and care should be taken to ensure that the adhesive stops before the edge of the raised panels. This enables panels to be lifted freely as and when the need arises.

### Adhering carpet tiles with low electrical resistance values

- In areas that accommodate mainframes and precision electronic equipment, stringent antistatic requirements are applicable.
- When Desso contract carpet tiles with low electrical resistance values are being fitted, it is recommended a conductive adhesive is used.
- In exceptional cases, the application of a so-called 'copper or Aluminium strip/grid' is recommended. **(For more detail kindly contact the FloorworX Technical Department in this regard).**

(Note Desso are capable of also producing contract carpet tiles with reduced electrical resistance for highly demanding conditions in certain computer centres and similar locations. **(Kindly contact the FloorworX representative in this regard).**)

### Protection during and after installation

- Until the area being tiled is completed with all perimeter tiles adhered in position, there should be no walking on or movement of heavy furniture over the partly completed installation. Once the installation has been completed the surface should be protected particularly if the area is to be used by other trades during final finishing.

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