

TECHNICAL BULLETIN No. 33

DESCRIPTION

This Technical Bulletin describes the types of flooring which may be used for overlaying onto an existing floor covering. **It must be noted that in the case of an overlay the FloorworX product warranty will become null and void.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Overlaying one floor covering onto another is bad flooring practice, which frequently results in an unacceptable finish and should be avoided wherever possible. It is preferable that the old floor covering and any adhesive residue be removed and the sub-floor restored to a condition normally acceptable for the laying of flooring. (I.e. All resilient flooring materials require a smooth, hard, clean and level surface, not only for appearance but also for achieving a satisfactory adhesive bond and long-term durability). However, to completely remove the old floor covering and adhesive, and to ensure that the sub-floor is in good condition may prove to be a costly operation. The four most common types of overlays are as follows:

- 1.1. Semi-flexible homogenous tiles over semi-flexible homogenous tiles.
- 1.2. Heterogeneous sheeting over semi-flexible homogenous tiles.
- 1.3. DIY Self-adhered vinyl tiles over semi-flexible homogenous tiles.
- 1.4. Fully flexible homogenous ranges over semi-flexible homogenous tiles.

2. PREPARATION

- 2.1. Ensure that the old tiles are firmly bonded to the sub-floor.
- 2.2. Remove all the polish or emulsion sealers from the old tiles using a stripper.
- 2.3. Rinse the floor twice using clean water to remove all traces of the polish stripper.

2.4. Allow the floor to dry thoroughly.

2.5. Address all gaps, cracks or imperfections with a recommended or reputable screed smoothing compound to ensure that the sub-floor finish is smooth.

3. APPLICATION OF ADHESIVE

- 3.1. In the case of 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 above, it is recommended that FloorworX No. 62 acrylic adhesive be used.
- 3.2. Evenly spread the adhesive using a fine notched trowel.
- 3.3. Allow sufficient time for the volatile's in the adhesive to flash-off.
- 3.4. When the adhesive feels tacky (but not wet) the new flooring can be laid.
- 3.5. Bed the new flooring into the adhesive using an articulated 68 kg three-sectional metal flooring roller before the adhesive has hardened.

4. PRECAUTIONS

4.1. Overlays are always aesthetically vulnerable to the old floor covering showing or "grinning" through, irrespective of floor preparation. The extent of the transfer is relative to the frequency and type of loads that traffic the floor over time; therefore they should be avoided wherever possible. If the necessary, overlays on homogeneous semi-flexible vinyl tiles are possible, provided that care is taken in the preparation of the old floor and the choice of the adhesive.

4.2. When laying cushion vinyl sheeting over semi-flexible homogenous vinyl tiles, ensure that the adhesive which is used is one which will not stain the cushion vinyl sheeting, i.e. FloorworX No. 62 acrylic adhesive.

5. NON-RECOMMENDED OVERLAYS

Overlays which are likely to give unsatisfactory results and should, therefore, be avoided are as follows:

5.1. HETEROGENEOUS OR CUSHION VINYL SHEETING OVER HETEROGENEOUS CUSHION VINYL SHEETING

When this type of overlay is considered, there is usually a problem with the old flooring such as lifting at joints, patterns effects or general deterioration. Laying over such a surface will only give rise to premature failure of the new flooring. Additionally, two layers of cushion vinyl will result in severe indentation problems from the furniture.

5.2. SEMI-FLEXIBLE HOMOGENOUS VINYL TILES OVER HETEROGENEOUS OR CUSHION VINYL SHEETING

The heterogeneous or cushion vinyl floor will not provide a firm enough substrate for the laying of homogenous or semi-flexible vinyl tiles and severe indentation problems will result.

5.3. DIY SELF-ADHERED VINYL TILES OVER HETEROGENEOUS OR CUSHION VINYL SHEETING

The laying of self-adhered vinyl tiles over a cushion vinyl floor will result in a short life span for the new floor, aggravated by indentation problems.

5.4. SEMI-FLEXIBLE HOMOGENOUS VINYL TILES OVER FULLY-FLEXIBLE HOMOGENEOUS VINYL TILES SHEETING

The fully-flexible vinyl floor will not provide a firm enough substrate for the laying of semi-flexible homogenous vinyl tiles.

5.5. LUXURY VINYL PLANKS / TILES

5.5.1 Traditional LVP / LVT products are very flexible and are available in stick-down (dry back) or click options. Overlaying these products on any type of existing floor covering is not recommended as any imperfection or undulations will become visible and end up "grinning" through. It also renders the product liable to delamination in the event of the floor covering upon which it is installed failing.

Overlaying will always present a risk, as it is totally dependent on the existing - or old flooring - being able to breathe or "freely expand and contract"

relative to temperature changes. The best option therefore in all cases is to remove the existing or old flooring.

5.5.2 However, in the event of these products being overlaid at risk on ceramic or porcelain tiles, then it is highly recommended that the soundness and evenness of the sub-floor be evaluated from the onset, as any movement or delamination will compromise the installation. If the existing tiles are loose, cracked or not adhered to the substrate, the complete area of tiles has to be removed. It is then imperative that the floor is properly prepared with the relevant priming or bonding agent prior to the application of a reputable self-levelling screed compound.

5.5.3 Overlaying LVP / LVT products on the following sub-floors are not permissible:

- Any solid or engineered wooden floor
- Any laminated floor
- Any parquet block wooden floor
- Any slasto, slate, mosaic or terracotta flooring

5.6 HARDWOOD FLOORING

5.6.1 Overlaying any type of hardwood flooring on the following sub-floors is not permissible:

- Any solid or engineered wooden floor
- Any laminated floor
- Any parquet block or mosaic wooden floor
- Any slasto, slate or terracotta flooring.

! **NOTE:** In all instances of overlaying, if a flooring installation is not mentioned in this Technical Bulletin, **consult the FloorworX Technical Department** for advice.

i For more information please contact the **FloorworX TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT** by sending your query to **technical@floorworx.co.za**