


### TECHNICAL BULLETIN No. 37

#### DESCRIPTION

This Technical Bulletin describes the site conditions required before the layer commences installing FloorworX Resilient, Rubber, Linoleum, Luxury Vinyl Planks and Tiles (LVP/T) floor coverings. Some of these conditions may appear obvious, but they are not always complied with. If any of the following recommendations are ignored, several problems will likely arise during or after the installation of the flooring.

 **Note:** All Resilient, Rubber, Linoleum and LVP/T coverings are only ever as good as the sub-floor upon which they are laid.

1. The sub-floor should be totally enclosed by walls and roofing.
2. All windows, doorways and shop fronts should be either completed or boarded. Ideally, all ceiling installations should also be completed. (Protection of the installed flooring will be crucial in instances where ceilings are only installed after the floor coverings).
3. All building materials and equipment, e.g. sand, scaffolding, tools etc. should be removed.
4. Do not allow heaps of rubble, sand, concrete, etc to remain on the surface of the sub-floor since moisture transfer to the sub-floor takes place.
5. All paint spots and foreign matter must be removed from the floor surface by scraping or rubbing down with a carborundum stone, after which, the total floor area should be thoroughly swept or vacuumed to remove all traces of dust and grit. It is also important to remove paint, grease or any traces or patches of oil, using either paint strippers or degreasing compounds. Once removed, the sub-floor must be thoroughly washed to remove any stripper or residue and then allowed to dry thoroughly.
6. The sub-floor on the ground level should be protected from rising moisture using an effective damp-proof membrane.  
**(See FloorworX Technical Bulletin No. 30: Moisture in Sub-Floors & Damp-Proof Membranes.)**
7. The sub-floor must be dry before the installation of the flooring. Test the sub-floor for dryness by using a suitably approved Concrete Moisture Meter. (*Tramex CME 4, Caisson / Romus VI-D4 Pinless Concrete Moisture Meter, GE Protimeter Mini or a Hygrometer*).  
**(See FloorworX Technical Bulletin No. 30: Moisture in Sub-Floors & Damp-Proof Membranes.)**
8. As per SANS 10070 Code of Practice: The installation of resilient thermoplastic and similar flexible floor covering materials, the specifier and the main contractor shall ensure that the sub-floor is acceptable to receive the specified product in respect of levelness, smoothness, soundness and cleanness. The minimum requirement is that the sub-floor is compliant to a Grade 1-floor finish as set out in this standard. This optimum floor finish can be achieved by means of a high-quality, reliable, cementitious self-levelling compound, for levelling and smoothing work on interior surfaces. Screed smoothing compounds should be avoided except for making minor repairs. Do not use smoothing compounds on power floated finishes.  
**(See FloorworX Technical Bulletin No. 32: Sub-Floor Surface Preparation.)**
9. Expansion Joints - Expansion joints are designed to accommodate movement within the building and it is important to note that it is not permissible to install any vinyl floor covering over these joints as it is deemed as bad flooring practice. It is therefore recommended that the floor covering be stopped at the edge of either side of the expansion joint, and then the joint filled with a suitable "soft joint sealing compound" and then covered with an expansion joint cover.  
**(See FloorworX Technical Bulletin No. 32: Sub-Floor Surface Preparation.)**

10. Control or Saw-cut joints may be covered with a vinyl floor covering on the premise that the concrete has settled and no further movement will occur and that the joints are properly addressed with a cementitious compound that is deemed as appropriate for the specific type of joint.

**(See FloorworX Technical Bulletin No. 32: Sub-Floor Surface Preparation.)**

11. Sub-floor temperature should not be less than 6°C or more than 27°C.
12. FloorworX flooring and adhesives should be stored at a temperature of between 18°C and 23°C.
13. Ensure the use of a recommended adhesive with the appropriate flooring.

**Instructions for installation must be carefully followed.**

**Care must be taken to:**

- 13.1. Use a correctly notched trowel.
- 13.2. Correctly mix two-part adhesives.
- 13.3. Adhere to instructions relating to “open and flash off times”.

**(See FloorworX Technical Bulletin No. 35: FloorworX Adhesives and their Applications).**

14. All installations, except Novilon, must be rolled with a 68kg articulated three-sectional metal floor roller on completion.
15. It is vitally important that after installation the flooring should be adequately protected, preventing damage caused by other trades working on the site.
16. Do not wash or seal the floor for 48 hours after the installation in order to allow the adhesive to cure. It is however strongly recommended that the applicable maintenance regime relative to the type of floor covering installed be correctly implemented.
17. Any uncertainty surrounding these procedures should be clarified with the FloorworX Technical Department.

**(See FloorworX Technical Bulletin No. 38: Cleaning and Maintenance of FloorworX Flooring.)**

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

