



Dec 2021

## INSTALLATION METHODOLOGY OF VINYL TILES & SHEETING TO STAIRS

### Application

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

**Note** - Sub-floor temperature should not be less than 6°C or more than 27°C.

### Installation of Tiles

#### Preparation

Surface preparation is paramount as it will impact the result in terms of performance and aesthetic appeal and the overall success of the entire installation.

The tread and riser surfaces must therefore be **Dry, Firm, Level and Smooth, and Clean.**

#### Dry:-

- Ensure that the treads and risers are dry by testing with a suitably approved Concrete Moisture Meter. (*Tramex CME 4, Caisson/Romus VI-D4 Pinless Concrete Moisture Meter, GE Protimeter Mini or a Hygrometer*).
- Follow the appropriate test methodologies relative to the type of instrument being used to carry out the necessary testing.

#### Firm

- The surface must be sound and not likely to crack or crumble

#### Level and Smooth:-

- Ensure that the tread and riser surfaces are level and smooth, with no cracks, bumps or hollows.

#### Clean:-

- The surface must be free of grease, oils, dust, dirt, wax or any other contaminant which could prevent adhesion.

It is also important to ensure that where the bottom of the riser meets the back of the stair tread, it is square and free of any dirt or loose impediment and that the leading edge of each step tread is firm and square.

**Note** - Any cementitious remedial work must be carried out with a reliable and suitable cementitious screed compound. It is advisable to consult with a company that specialises in these types of compounds to ensure the correct product is applied.

The Vinyl Stair Nosing should only be installed after the treads and risers have been fitted. The vinyl nosing must butt up against the flooring covering on the tread area and fit over the vinyl on the riser face area.



## Adhesive options:-

- FloorworX No 71 Contact Adhesive must always be used on risers. It is however also permissible to use it on the tread if necessary. The adhesive must be applied to both the tile and the prepared surfaces using a flat trowel, brush or paint roller.
- FloorworX No 62 Acrylic water-based adhesive can only be used on the treads, spread using a trowel fitted with a TKB-A2 notched blade.

## Material

- Before installation, the tiles should be checked to ensure that the correct colour, batch number, and quantity have been received and that the material is in good condition.
- Only use material from the same batch/dye lot. (The use of different production batches will always result in visible shade differences. The batch numbers are marked on the box and must be checked before the commencement of the installation).
- **Boxes must not be stored more than 5 high, as this will result in distortion and potential damage.**
- Any uncertainty surrounding quality-related matters must be clarified with the *FloorworX* Technical Department, as **claims will only be considered if less than 100 sqm are laid before the complaint has been reported.**

## Installation

- The stairs should be swept or preferably vacuumed, to remove all dust and dirt.
- Obtain centre position across the width of the stair tread/riser and mark with a pencil or chalk line. (Refer to Illustration 1)

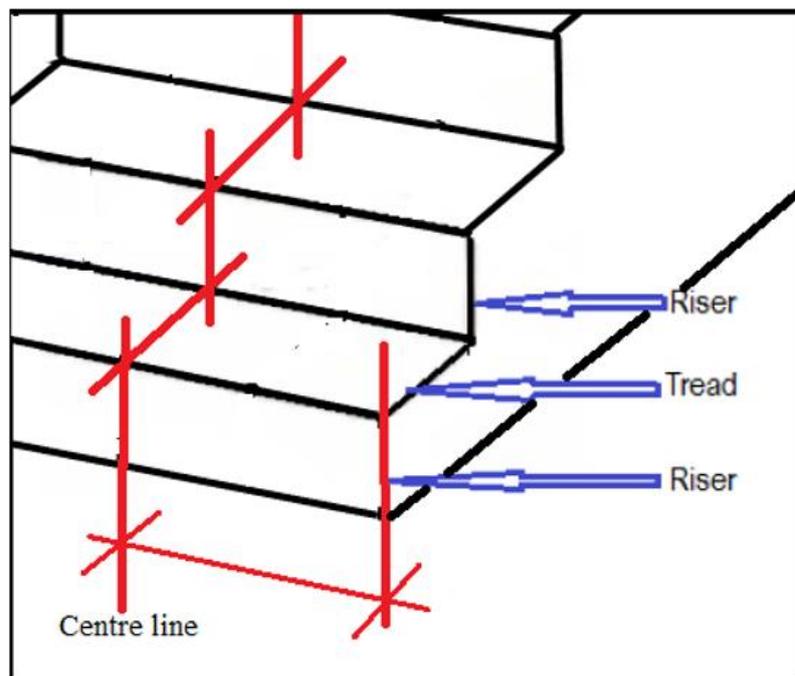


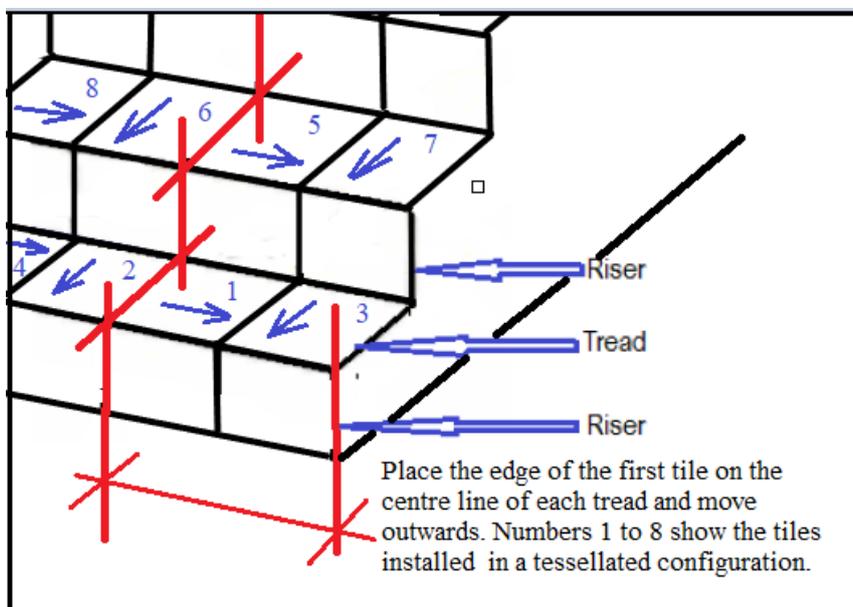
Illustration 1



- Adhesive application – Always read the instructions on the drum of the adhesive
  - In the case of FloorworX No 71 Contact – allow becoming touch dry before installation.
  - In the case of FloorworX No 62 Acrylic – allow sufficient flash off time before installation.

**Note:-**

- If the flooring is laid into the adhesive too early – **applicable to both the Contact and the Acrylic**, the volatiles which have not flashed off will be trapped. This will prevent the adhesive from curing and will result in a poor bond. The problem will manifest itself in the peaking or lifting of the flooring.
  - If the flooring is laid into the adhesive too late – **applicable to Acrylic only**, there will be little or no bond which will result in the flooring lifting. The trowel notch marks will show through the flooring once it has been trafficked.
- **Start on the stair tread** by installing the tiles on either side of the centre line, with the successive tiles moving towards the outer edges of the stairs (open staircase), or towards the bannister or wall sides in the case of closed staircases. **(Refer to Illustration 2)**
  - Lay each tile with the “grain” (marbling) at right angles (tessellated) to the adjacent tile (By default option, the tiles are generally tessellated, however, it is always advisable to check and verify with the specifier or client/customer as to their preferred choice of the pattern before installing the product. The material can be installed in either a **tessellated or monolithic** configuration).



**Illustration 2**

- When installing the riser tiles, ensure that the factory edge is placed on top of the stair tread tile. [This effect looks more aesthetically pleasing due to the clean-cut factory edge that is generally visible]. **(Refer to Illustrations 3 & 4)**

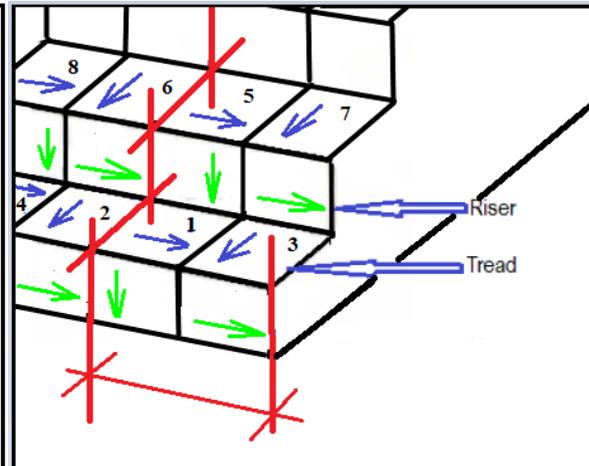
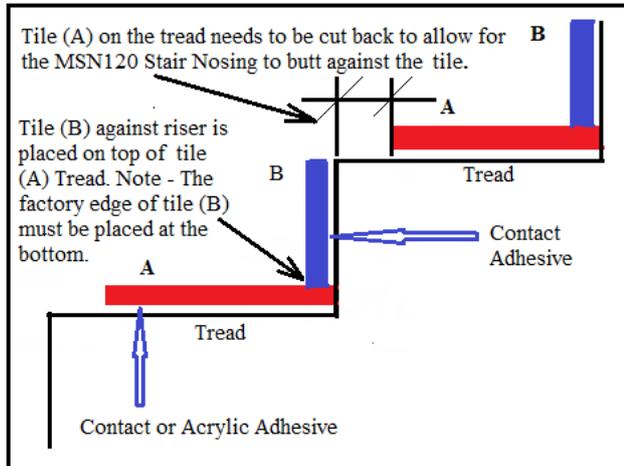


Illustration 3

Illustration 4

- Trim excess riser material slightly lower or flush with the next stair tread level.
- Cut back the tiles on the stair tread to accommodate the width of the MSN 120 Stair Nose section. [Refer to Installation Method of Installing MSN 120 Stair Nosing for further detail].
- The installed material must be rolled in both directions with a metal hand roller, **within the working time of the adhesive especially if an acrylic adhesive is used on the tread.**
- Ensure that any excess adhesive is removed using a clean damp rag before it is allowed to dry.
- The stairs should then be completed with the specified Stair Nosing of choice.

## Installation of Sheeting

All above information under Application, Preparation and Adhesives remains the same.

### Material

- Before installation, the Rolls should be checked to ensure that the correct colour, batch number, and quantity have been received and that the material is in good condition.
- Only use material from the same batch/dye lot. (The use of different production batches will always result in visible shade differences. The batch numbers are marked on the box and must be checked before the commencement of the installation).
- **Rolls must be stored standing up, as storing the rolls laying down will result in distortion and potential damage.**
- Unroll the sheeting 24 hrs before the installation to eliminate any roll stress and allow it to acclimatise.
- Any uncertainty surrounding quality-related matters must be clarified with the *FloorworX* Technical Department, as **claims will only be considered if less than 100 sqm are laid before the complaint has been reported.**

### Installation

- The stairs should be swept or preferably vacuumed, to remove all dust and dirt.



- **NB** – Sheeting is generally installed as a “**tread and riser**” **all in one**, so a central start point is not necessary. The option does exist to cut the material into separate tread and riser pieces, and then follow the same installation procedures as with tiles, however, it is not the preferred approach.
- The Sheeting, therefore, needs to be stripped down into appropriate width and lengths to allow sufficient material to cover the stair tread area and then dress over a cove former and up the riser.
- A cove former of a specified size - being either MCF22 / 35 or 54, needs to be installed with a Contact adhesive where the base of each stair tread meets the perpendicular of the riser. This then forms a radius curve for the sheeting to dress over and smoothly transition from the stair tread up the riser.
- Adhesive application – same as stated above under tiles.
- The installation of the sheeting starts on one side and is flattened out across the stair tread, then cautiously dressed over the cover former and up the riser.
- The “grain” (or marbling) will all run in a **monolithic** configuration.
- Trim excess riser material slightly lower or flush with the next stair tread level.
- Cut back the sheeting on the stair tread to accommodate the width of the MSN 120 Stair Nose section. [Refer to Installation Method of Installing MSN 120 Stair Nosing for further detail].
- The installed material must be rolled in both directions with a metal hand roller, **within the working time of the adhesive especially if an acrylic adhesive is used on the tread.**
- The stairs should then be completed with the specified Stair Nosing of choice.

**Maintenance.** The completed staircase should not be washed or cleaned for 48 hours after completion of the installation, to allow sufficient time for the adhesive to cure properly. Avoid excessive use of water at all times as this will have a detrimental effect on the adhesion of the tiles and could cause them to peak at the joints. It is recommended that the product is coated with an acrylic emulsion (FloorworX Sealer) for further protection and a proper maintenance regime implemented. It may be advisable to appoint a company specialising in floor care to carry out the respective maintenance procedures.

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