



INSTALLATION METHODOLOGY FOR FLOTEX SHEETING

INTRODUCTION

The final appearance, performance and durability of the installed floor coverings will be determined to a large extent by the quality of the prepared subfloor and the conditions of the surface upon which it is laid. A little time and effort spent on the proper preparation of the sub-floor will often be repaid in terms of an installation of which all concerned can feel proud.

Flotex is primarily manufactured for internal use only, and its performance is not guaranteed when used in external environments. It cannot be installed over wood strip or woodblock flooring, textiles, cork or rubber.

The installation of Flotex Sheeting should be carried out following the national code of practice for the installation of resilient floor coverings if applicable. Flotex requires a fully enclosed, weather-tight, smooth, hard, clean, sound and level surface, not only for appearance but also for achieving a satisfactory adhesive bond and long-term durability. The sub-floor should 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 sub-floor must be thoroughly washed to remove any stripper or residue and then allowed to dry thoroughly. Areas to receive flooring should be adequately lit to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and the final inspection.

DESIGNATION OF SUBFLOOR 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 is level, sound and clean. If the substrate is not acceptable to the installer, one should not proceed with the installation until one has informed the contractor in writing and the conditions have been improved or one 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.

Addressing unacceptable subfloors can be achieved using a high-quality, reliable, cementitious self-levelling compound, for levelling and smoothing work on interior surfaces.

Note, that the product cannot be installed over wood strip or woodblock flooring, textiles, cork or rubber.

The flooring contractor shall ensure that the sub-floor is sufficiently dry before the installation of the flooring material by testing with a suitably approved Concrete Moisture Meter. (*Tramex CME 4, Caisson VI-D4 Pinless Concrete Moisture Meter, GE Protimeter Mini or a Hygrometer*).

Laying flooring onto a wet subfloor will not only affect the adhesive but will also cause the flooring to curl and lift.

(See **FloorworX Technical Bulletin No. 30: Moisture in Sub-Floors and Damp-Proof Membranes**).



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.

The laying area must be at an ambient temperature of 18°C, 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after installation. Where national codes of practice exist, they take precedence over these guidelines.

Flotex rolls and adhesive must be conditioned in the same environment for at least 48 hours before the installation to allow for acclimatisation, at a steady temperature of 18 °C to 27°C. This is particularly important if the rolls have been stored or delivered in conditions of extreme temperature below 10°C and/or humidity.

ADHESIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPLICATION

Flotex should be laid in FloorworX No. 62 acrylic adhesive which has been spread using a TKB A2 notch trowel at a rate of between 5.5m² and 6.5m² per litre (depending on the porosity of the floor).

Alternatively, FloorworX No 71 contact adhesive can be applied to both the sheeting and the previously

Prepared subfloor/area using a brush or paint roller at the rate of approximately 3.5m² per litre per single application.

Note the following:-

- Trowels will wear during use, so check the trowel both before and during use to ensure that the proper specified trowel notch is used and maintained.
- The use of any adhesive other than FloorworX No. 62 Acrylic Adhesive or FloorworX No. 71 for Flotex is done so entirely at your own risk as FloorworX cannot comment on the anticipated performance or suitability of adhesives produced by other manufacturers for Flotex.
- **Note:** The adhesive must be spread evenly over the entire floor area with particular attention to edges – this will ensure that the sheet is fully bonded at the perimeters
- Note that the open time of the adhesive will depend on site conditions and the porosity of the substrate. It is best practice to conduct an adhesive bond test before starting the installation, as this will assist in identifying both the working characteristics of the adhesive (waiting and working time) for the site conditions and also any potential bonding problems.

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. No claim will be accepted for incorrect colour, pattern or obvious damage if the material has been fitted.
- **Rolls must be stored standing up, as storing the rolls lying down will result in pile crush.**
- Only use material from the same batch/dye lot and install it in the roll number sequence. The use of different production batches will always result in visible shade differences. The batch number is marked on the material packaging and the reverse of the sheet and must be checked before the commencement of the installation.
- Besides, ensure that the rolls are used in ascending or descending sequential numerical order to warrant colour continuity.
- Flotex roll and tiles should not be mixed within the same area.



UNDERFLOOR HEATING

- Flotex Rolls may be installed over underfloor heated floors providing the maximum surface temperature of the substrate does not exceed 27°C under any condition of use.
- Check to see that the underfloor heating systems commissioned are found to be functioning correctly before the floor finish is installed.
- To enable a secure bond of the adhesive to the substrate, the underfloor heating system should be turned off or set to the lowest temperature, for a minimum of 48 hours before installation and remain off for at least 48 hours after the installation is complete.
- During the period of decommissioning, an alternative heating source should be provided, if required, to ensure that the area of installation is kept at a minimum of 18°C before, during, and for 72 hours after installation.
- The temperature of the substrate must not exceed 18 °C during the installation and on completion should be gradually increased over several days by only a few degrees per day until the desired room temperature is reached so the material can adapt to the temperature change together. A rapid temperature change could result in bonding problems.
- The temperature should never exceed the industry-agreed maximum of 27°C at the underside of the floor covering (the adhesive line). Failure to follow these guidelines can result in the floor covering delaminating, joints opening, and on some occasions discolouring, all of which can occur over time.

INSTALLATION – SHEETING (ROLLS)

The following instructions are intended to draw the fitter's attention to current "Best Practice", and must be followed for the relevant product guarantees to be valid. Installation must be carried out following the requirements of this guide along with local codes of practice where applicable.

Direction of laying

- Always pay particular attention to the direction and planning of the sheets to avoid cross seams that coincide with areas of heavy use or doorways.
- Install sheets in the same direction for seaming, with the arrows on the back of the sheet - which indicate the pile direction - all pointing in the same way. **Refer to Fig 1.**

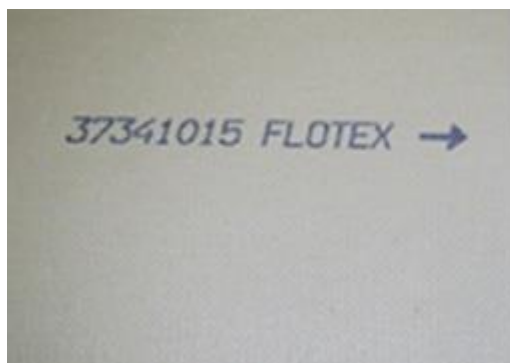


Fig 1.



Pile Direction

- To prevent potential problems of deviation of wheeled traffic travelling across the dense pile of Flotex; it is strongly recommended that Flotex sheeting is laid with the pile running lengthways in the main direction of traffic.
- When installing Flotex sheeting in corridors, always run arrows lengthwise. Where corridors intersect, it is recommended that a decorative border be used as a separator to avoid pattern crossmatch at the intersection.
- Lay the sheets from factory edge to factory edge, following the direction of the arrows, which should point towards the main light source, **NEVER AWAY**. Refer to Fig 2.
- Arrows on the back of the sheet indicate the pile direction. Refer to Fig 1.

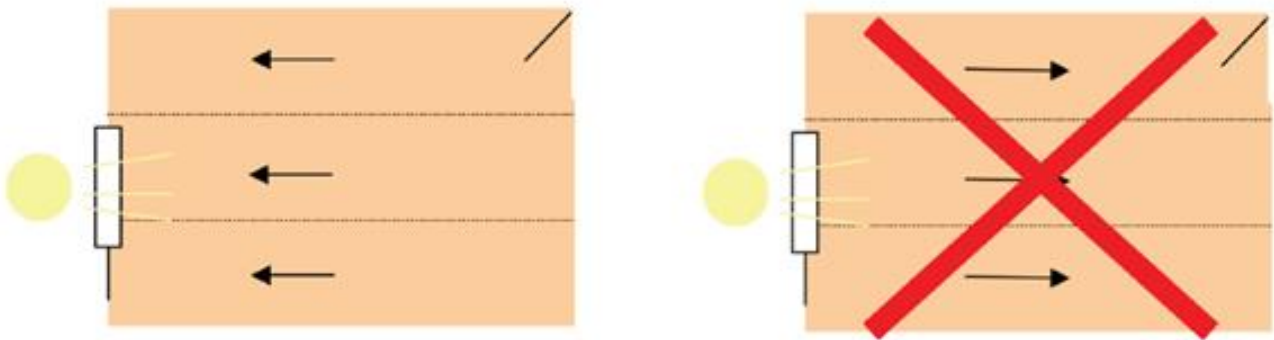


Fig 2.

Application

- Measure the area to be installed and determine the direction in which the material will be installed and seam placement. Seams must be a minimum of 15 cm away from any subfloor joints such as saw-cut joints, etc.
- Cut the rolls to the required lengths, remembering to allow for the pattern to repeat. Allow at least 5cm trim at ends.
- Dry lay the pieces, butting the factory edges for seaming. Make sure that the seam edges come together with a net fit with no fullness or gaps and check the pattern match.
- Trim off the surplus. Refer to Fig 3.



Fig 3.



- Roll the sheets back onto themselves to approximately half their length. Take care that the sheets do not shift during handling.
- Mark the position of the outside edge of the first sheet in pencil on the floor.
- Apply the adhesive to the line marking the edge of the first sheet. **Refer to Fig 4.**



Fig 4.

- Lay the sheet length/s into the adhesive after the required waiting time and within the open time applicable. Using a 68 kg articulated roller or rubbing board or glider, press the Flotex firmly into the adhesive from the centre, towards the edges, to eliminate air bubbles and ensure good adhesion to the subfloor. Areas that cannot be rolled with the large roller e.g. abutments such as door frames or skirting boards should be rolled with a hand roller or pressed into the adhesive with a rubbing board.
- It is important to only spread sufficient adhesive that can be covered and rolled/pressed within the open time of the adhesive. **Refer to Fig 5.**



Fig 5

- Trim off the excess floor covering along the walls and skirting boards. If necessary, roll or press the flooring into the adhesive after trimming. **Refer to Fig 6.**



Fig 6.

- Always clean away excess adhesive with a damp cloth before it is allowed to dry.
- Do **NOT** use bleaching agents or strong solvents as they can be harmful to both people and your floor.

Follow the above procedure to lay the opposite half of the first sheet and continue to lay the remaining sheets in the same way, factory edge to factory edge with close, joints. Finish off with a rubbing board or glider over the entire floor.

As with all newly installed floor coverings Flotex sheeting should be protected from heavy traffic, particularly high point load wheeled traffic, for 24 hours and must not be washed for 48 hours after installation.

Installing Flotex to a Staircase

Flotex sheet is suitable for use on stairs, however, it is imperative that Nosing is always used.

- A separate piece of Flotex must be used for each tread and riser.
- Use FloorworX No 71 Contact adhesive only for the risers.
- On the tread, the pile should lay (arrows) towards the nose of the step.
- For the riser, the pile should lay (arrows) downwards towards the tread.

Borders

Edging a room with Artline Borders

This method is recommended and may be followed when Flotex Artline is being used to border the edge of a room. It can also be used to disguise changes at junctions and as a design feature in corridors over 2 metres wide.

- Before laying the Flotex sheet (field) mark a line around the perimeter of the room where the border material will be fitted. (Allow for a 1 to 2cm trim of the width of the Artline border in case the walls are not perfectly straight).
- Install the Flotex sheeting using the method described above, allowing a 1 to 2-cm overlap of the line marking the perimeter of the field. Spread the adhesive to the same overlap of the line marking the perimeter of the field material.



- Roll with a 68 kg articulated roller or press with a rubbing board or glider within the open time of the adhesive.
- Trim the perimeter of the field material with a straight edge and utility knife parallel to the wall to the previously marked line, and remove the trimmed edge.
- Spread the adhesive to the border of the room and lay the border material into the adhesive after the required waiting time and within the open time applicable. Roll with a 68 kg articulated roller or hand roller, or press with a rubbing board or glider within the open time of the adhesive to eliminate air bubbles and ensure good adhesion to the subfloor.
- Trim off the excess floor covering along the walls and skirting boards. Roll or press the flooring into the adhesive after trimming paying particular attention to the seams where the field material and border meet. **Refer to Fig 7.**



Fig 7.

Inlaying (Artline) Borders

- Install the Flotex sheeting using the method described above.
- Measure out the locations for the (Artline) border strips and mark them with white chalk.
- Place the cutting guide in position and cut out the required flooring, cutting from both sides. Remove the cut piece of material. **Refer to Fig 8.**



Fig 8.



- Apply a fresh layer of acrylic adhesive. Insert the (Artline) border into the adhesive after the required waiting time and within the open time applicable.
- Using a rubbing board press the border firmly into the adhesive **Refer to Fig 9.**



Fig 9.

On completion of the installation

- The completed installation should be cleared of scrap material and debris, the floor vacuumed and any traces of adhesive residues removed from the floor and skirtings'.

Maintenance

- If the optimum performance of any new floor covering is to be achieved, the correct cleaning and maintenance procedures must be used from day one. (**Note:** Upright vacuum cleaners with an electrically powered brush should be used on Flotex sheeting)
- **Cleaning and maintenance guides should be passed onto the main contractor, client or end-user as appropriate on completion of the installation, and before any handover cleaning is started.**
- Cleaning and maintenance guides are available from the Floorworx Technical Department or on our website: www.floorworx.co.za

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