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INSTALLATION OF MARINE PLYWOOD OR STANDARD PLYWOOD OVER ACCESS FLOORING WHERE PERMISSIBLE

The final appearance and durability of any flooring installation depends largely on the condition of the surface upon which it is laid. All 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. 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 with respect to levelness, smoothness, soundness and cleanness.

The below is a suggested methodology that can be considered in cases where the access flooring **CANNOT** be removed and the area needs to be prepared with marine or standard plywood, for the acceptance of a vinyl, rubber, linoleum or luxury vinyl product. It must also be qualified that overlaying, in general, is deemed as bad flooring practice, as it will always present a risk. (Note that this procedure will be permanent thereby rendering any further access to the areas below the panels inaccessible).

The best option in all cases is to remove the access flooring, and where permissible throw a new concrete substrate, finished off with a reliable self-levelled screed.

It is further recommended that this scope of work only be carried out by contractors who are experienced and qualified in this field and capable of delivering the required finish.

It is important to note that the entire success of this approach is dependent on the soundness of the installed access floor. If the existing access floor support structure is in any way insecure or unbalanced thereby affecting the stability of the floor, then pursuing this approach may impact negatively on the outcome of the overall finish, and potentially compromise the FloorworX product warranty.

Note the following:-

- It is critical there is no movement of the wooden boards once in place and secured.

Methodology

- The existing floor should be properly checked for soundness and stability before commencing the installation. (In the event of any uncertainty surrounding the status of the floor, then it is highly recommended that the supplier of the access floor be consulted).
- The existing floor should be swept, or preferably vacuumed, to remove all dust and dirt before the application of any boards.
- It is recommended that a minimum of 12 mm (Marine Ply) be used.
- Boards should be cut into a nominal size of 1.2 x 2.4 m size.
- It is preferable that the undersides of the boards be coated with a primer to protect the boards, but this is certainly not a prerequisite relative to the area of installation.
- Boards need to be strictly installed in a brick bond pattern.



- The sheets must be screwed at 150mm centres around the border and across the centre of the sheet in both directions.
- All screws should be **self-tapper** screws with flat heads and of appropriate length to ensure that the boards will be properly fastened to the surface upon which they are secured. (The screws should be secured into the framework).
- All screws must be countersunk and filled with wood filler or hard silicon and allowed to set.
- Any small holes/imperfections and butt joints must be filled with wood filler or hard silicone and allowed to set.
- Any unevenness on completion of the installation needs to be sanded to provide the desired finish to accept a floor covering.

DISCLAIMER

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