

General Information

Gluedown floors should be installed in accordance with: - the requirements of ASTM F710, AS/NZS 1884 standards or other applicable National Standards and Building Codes for the installation of Resilient Flooring, and instructions below to ensure a quality fit. These floors are not suitable for installation outdoors nor in rooms that will be continually wet.

Before installation, all materials must be checked to ensure that batches are identical and free from defects. Complaints regarding clearly identifiable defects cannot be accepted after installation. Preparation and installation should not begin until all other trades have completed their work.

Acclimation of Material

At least 24 hours prior to installation, flooring materials must be removed from packaging (tiles and planks may be stacked but must be rested flat) and allowed to condition in the room where the installation is to take place. Room temperature should be kept between 64 - 81°F (18-27°C). If tiles and adhesive have been stored outside this temperature range, then it is recommended that time for acclimation be increased to 48 hours.

Subfloors

Good preparation of the subfloor is essential to the final overall floor appearance. The subfloor should be hard smooth, clean, dry and free from defects; irregularities in the subfloor will show through the finished floor. Subfloor surface regularity should meet 3/16" in 10' (2.5 mm) ref ASTM E1486.

Moisture testing in Subfloors

This must be performed on all concrete subfloors, as measured by an anhydrous calcium chloride test kit per ASTM F-1869 test method or using an in-situ probe test for relative humidity (RH) per ASTM F-2170. Three tests must be performed for the first 1000 sq. ft. (100 m²), and one for every 1000 sq. ft. (100m²) thereafter. Results must be recorded and an appropriate adhesive with the proper moisture limits should be chosen or a DPM must be used.

1. Solid Subfloors

- **Concrete/Sand Cement Screeds:** These subfloors should comply with the requirements of ASTM F710/AS/NZS 1884 country specific standard.
- **New and Old:** For all concrete floors, mechanically abrade the floor to remove contamination (laitance, paint, drywall mud, plaster, adhesive etc.) then prepare the floor to ASTM F710/AS/NZS 1884 standards.
- **Power Floated Concrete:** Power floated floors require abrasion to remove surface laitance and prepared to ASTM F710/AS/NZS 1884 standards.

- **'Anhydrite' (Calcium Sulphate-Gypsum):** Anhydrite screeds can be difficult to identify and can be mistaken for more traditional cement based products. In the case of the floor screed not being sufficiently dry, consult the manufacturer and ensure that the correct smoothing compound is selected. Gypsum floors must be sealed with a product designed to seal gypsum. All gypsum floors must be at a minimum of 2000 psi on a wood substrate and 3000 psi on a concrete substrate.
- **Painted Floors:** Mechanically remove all paint back to the original base and prepare surface to meet ASTM F710/AS/NZS 1884 standards.

2. Wood Subfloors

Approved underlayment grade plywood or underlayment panels must be installed as per manufacturer's instructions over all OSB, MDF, Chipboard, or Particle Board subfloors. Underlayment panels are used to correct deficiencies in wood subfloors and to provide a smooth, even firmly-attached surface on which to attach Karndean Designflooring products. Suitable underlayments include American Plywood Association (APA)* underlayment-grade plywood or products engineered by the manufacturer to be used as resilient floor underlayment's. Responsibility for the performance of the underlayment rests with the manufacturer of that product. Plywood joints and fastener heads must be smoothed over using a cement-based skim coat or a full coat of a cement-based patch or levelling compound per manufacturer's instructions to a minimum flatness of 3/16" in 10'.

- **Wood Mosaic Panel, Woodblock:** Remove these products and treat the subfloor appropriately.
- **Laminate, Floating or non-attached floors:** These floor coverings must be removed together with any underlay and flooring accessories. The subfloor should be treated appropriately.

3. Other Existing Subfloors:

- **Resilient floor coverings (e.g. linoleum, PVC, thermoplastic, Carpet, cork):** Best practice is to remove existing floor covering and all traces of adhesive residues. Then treat the subfloor appropriately.
- **Porcelain/Quarry Tile/Mosaic/Terrazzo/ Ceramics:** Test floor for evidence of damp. If after testing, dampness is detected consult your supplier. Check floor area for unstable, loose or broken tiles, waxes and sealers. Remove loose pieces and fill deep holes with rapid drying mortar. Degrease, rinse and abrade the surface of the floor. Apply a Portland cement-based floor patch or embossed leveller as per manufacturer's instructions to standards of ASTM F710/AS/NZS 1884.

* All plywood must conform to American Plywood Association (APA).

- **Metal Floors:** The metal surface should be cleaned, degreased and then mechanically abraded to remove contamination/rust and provide a surface key. Where this gives a level surface, the floor covering should then be adhered with epoxy adhesive; otherwise it must first be primed and levelled with the recommended smoothing compound. Refer to supplier.
- **Miscellaneous Floors:** Magnesite, granwood, etc. - Consult your supplier.
- **Asbestos:** Some older resilient tiles and adhesives can contain asbestos. In case of doubt contact the relevant authority for advice on testing, removal and disposal.
- **Conservatories / Rooms with direct sun through glazing / Unheated rooms, Sunrooms, Atriums:** Where excessive temperatures of 122°F (50°C) or above is possible the floor must be installed with Epoxy adhesive. It is necessary to keep the temperature in conservatories at 64-81°F (18-27 °C) for 24 hours prior to, during, and 24 hours after installation. Shade windows prior to and at least 48 hours after installation.
- **Underfloor heating/Radiant heated floors:** Planks/tiles may be installed over underfloor heating systems, but these must be constructed so that the temperature at the adhesive interface does not exceed 64°F (27 °C) ensuring the correct adhesive is used. The underfloor heating must be commissioned before installation commences. It should then be switched off 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after installation. An alternate heat system may be needed to maintain an acceptable subfloor surface temperature during installation. 48 hours after installation the temperature can be gradually increased to 64F (27 °C) (at no more than 5°F (3°C) per day)

For Electrical Underfloor Heating please consult the manufacturer to make sure their system is compatible with our flooring. Mesh/Wire systems must be embedded into the recommended basecoat of a reinforced smoothing compound to a minimum depth of 3/8" (10 mm), installed to the manufacturer's instructions. The room temperature must be between 64-81°F (18-27°C) prior and during installation. This is applicable for both concrete and timber subfloors. For underfloor heating pipes set into concrete, prepare surface to meet ASTM F710/AS/NZS 1884 standards.

Important: care must be taken to avoid damage to the floor caused by localised 'hot spots/thermal blocks. Care must also be taken in placing rugs, and items of furniture which do not allow hot air circulation. No responsibility for damage to floor tiles can be accepted under these circumstances.

Notes

For raised access flooring, our Looselay product is recommended.

Only our adhesives are recommended and must be applied as instructed on the bucket.

Cleaning

Please refer to our Floor Care Guide supplied with our cleaning products.