

General Information

LooseLay is a versatile floor covering and is particularly suitable for use in temporary installations or where tiles may need to be removed to allow access to floor panels. It is recommended for use over correctly prepared concrete, wooden floors, raised access floors, metal and other suitable substrates. It is designed for interior use only.

A separate underlayment is not normally recommended.

Acclimatization of Material

At least 48 hours prior to installation, LooseLay must be removed from packaging (product may be stacked but must be rested flat) and allowed to acclimatize in the room where the installation is to take place. Room temperature should be kept between 64 °F – 85 °F (18 °C – 29 °C).

Subfloor Preparation

Subfloor preparation must comply with ASTM F710, AS/NZS 1884, BS 8203, or other applicable National Standards and Building Codes for the installation of Resilient Flooring and in strict accordance with these installation guidelines. The subfloor must be smooth, level without undulations, clean and dust-free. Note: solvents and corrosive chemicals should not be used to clean or remove subfloor contaminants as they can damage the backing of Karndean LooseLay and affect product performance.

- **Damp Subfloors:** LooseLay can be installed on subfloors with a moisture reading up to 95% RH. For any subfloor showing a moisture above 95% RH, then a suitable damp proof membrane / moisture suppression system must be used.

(If using the calcium chloride test procedure ASTM 1869-11 the reading must not be above 5 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. per 24hrs.)

Note: some National Standards require the pH of the concrete slab to be controlled.

- **Old Adhesive residues:** All adhesive residues from previous installations must be completely mechanically removed. (The use of chemical adhesive strippers is not permitted.)
- **Concrete Floors: Subfloors/Screeds:** All cracks and joints must be filled using a cement based patching compound and the floor needs to be level in accordance with the applicable Standard.
All Gypsum (anhydrite) based subfloors must be sealed with a compatible sealing compound.
- **Mosaic/Terrazzo/Ceramics/Quarry Tiles:** Ensure the floor is sound with no loose tiles. Then level any grout lines with a suitable smoothing compound.
- **Wood Subfloors:** These should be solid with minimal flexibility. All loose boards must be firmly fastened, gaps filled, and undulations removed. Where necessary, overlay floorboards with flooring grade plywood or similar.
- Best practice is to overlay (ASTM F14282) OSB (Oriented Strand Board) with a flooring grade

plywood because the quality, moisture content and smoothness of OSB can vary.

- **Solid Hardwood/Thermoplastic tiles:** Make sure these floors are solid; fix any loose tiles and remove any surface polish/sealer.

We recommend the removal of these products if installed directly to earth, bitumen/ cutback / ATA or pitch. Any wood flooring or wood underlayment attached directly to concrete must be removed. Then prepare floor to applicable Standard.

- **Resilient: - Linoleum/ sheet vinyl:** LooseLay can be installed over these products provided the surface is securely fixed and cleaned to remove all contamination including dressings.
- **Metal and Painted Floors:** Fully remove any loose paint or other finishes.
- **Raised Access Floors:** Ensure raised access panels are firm, level, smooth, clean and free from defects/contaminants. Gaps between panels should not exceed 1/16" (1.5 mm); the overall floor to be level within $\pm 1/16"$ (1.5 mm) over a 15 feet (5 m) radius; unstable, uneven or poor-quality panels should be suitably repaired prior to installation; tiles should be set out such that their edges do not fall on or close to the edge of the raised access panel. No responsibility will be accepted for any joint telegraphing through the tile either as a 'ridge' or a 'valley'.
- **Other Floors:** Consult your supplier.

Underfloor Heating and Services

LooseLay is suitable over underfloor heating systems, provided it is insulated such that the temperature between the underside of the tile and subfloor does not rise above 81°F (27°C).

- **Electrical underfloor heating:** please consult manufacturer to ensure that their system is compatible with this flooring. Mesh/wire systems must be embedded into a basecoat of reinforced smoothing compound to a minimum depth of 3/8" (10mm), installed to manufacturer's instructions. The room temperature must be between 65 - 85°F (18°C - 29°C) prior, to and during installation.

Note: The system must be switched off 48 hours before, during, and for 48 hours after the installation. Then the temperature should be gradually increased (typically 4 °F/day (2°C/day) to the desired temperature.

Important: - care must be taken to avoid damage to the floor caused by localised "hot spots/thermal blocks". In particular consideration must be given 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.

Installation

Before starting the installation remove all debris and/or dust, ensuring that the floor is clean.

Looselay must always be fitted tight to the wall and to each adjacent tile/plank, using one of the following three options:

1. Rooms smaller than 172 Sq. Ft. (16 m²)

Check that room edges are solid. Then all thresholds, openings, kick boards under kitchen units (i.e. areas where tight fitting is not possible) should be edged with a 4" (10cm) strip of the appropriate Karndean adhesive. Then install the tiles/planks.

2. Rooms larger than 172 Sq. Ft. (16 m²)

In rooms with any wall longer than 13 feet (4m) the perimeter of the room requires a 4" (10cm) strip of the appropriate Karndean adhesive applied to the subfloor, and at 13 feet (4m) distances parallel to each perimeter wall, covering the floor in a grid system. (Apply appropriate Karndean adhesive to edges of areas where tight fitting cannot be achieved-see 1. above)

Alternatively, a full spread application can be used. This is advised when installing 36 x36" (914.4 x 914.4 mm) tiles.

Where the subfloor is 75-95% RH the adhesive selected referred to above must be moisture tolerant.

3. Heavy Traffic Areas:

In areas of high traffic (e.g. high footfall- entrances, high frequency wheeled traffic) tiles/planks should be installed with the appropriate full spread Karndean adhesive

Exclusions:

High Spillage Wet Areas/Extreme temperature fluctuations (e.g. Sun Rooms/ Panoramic Windows):

Where RH < 75%: - a full spread Karndean Epoxy or other appropriate Karndean adhesive must be used.

Where RH is >95%: - LooseLay is not recommended, unless a full DPM (Damp Proof Membrane) is used together with a full spread Karndean Epoxy or other appropriate Karndean adhesive.

Taking Care of your floor

- Regularly sweep the floor to remove loose dirt or grit as these can cause fine scratches.
- For a thorough clean, a range of cleaning products is available (Clean, Remove and Refresh). Avoid the use of regular household cleaners and bleach-based detergents. These could make the floor slippery or cause discolouration.
- Always mop up spills as soon as possible, to reduce the risk of slipping and possible staining.
- Use entrance mats to protect against grit and moisture. Ensure they are of non-staining variety (not rubber-backed) to prevent any discolouration of the floor.
- Avoid sliding or dragging furniture or other objects across the floor - use floor protector pads to prevent scratching. Use castor cups to protect against indentation from heavy furniture.
- Maintain room temperature between 64 °F – 85 °F (18 °C – 29 °C) for optimum performance.
- Do not subject LooseLay to standing water as this will present a slip hazard.