

# Karndean LooseLay Installation Instructions



## Acclimation of Material

At least 48 hours prior to installation, **Karndean 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 65°F-85°F (18°C-29°C).

## Subfloor Preparation

Subfloor preparation must comply with ASTM-F710, AS/NZS 1884, BS 8203, DTU 53.2, DIN 18365 (Teil C) or other applicable National Standards and Building Codes for the installation of Resilient Flooring, and in strict accordance with the following installation guidelines.

The subfloor must be dry, smooth, level, clean and dust-free, and should be prepared as follows, depending on your subfloor type.

**NOTE:** Solvents and other abrasive chemicals used to clean or remove subfloor contaminants can damage the backing of **Karndean LooseLay** and affect the product's performance.

## Old Adhesive Residues

All residues from prior installations must be completely removed by mechanical means. Chemical strippers are not to be used under LooseLay installations.

## Damp Subfloors

LooseLay must only be installed on dry floors. The floor must have a moisture reading of less than 5lbs. Calcium Chloride or 95% RH. If any subfloor shows moisture readings above 5lbs. Calcium Chloride or 95% RH, then an acceptable damp proof membrane/moisture suppression system must be applied.

**NOTE:** A compliant pH level is also a requirement for concrete slabs in some countries' standards. See adhesive data sheet for limits.

**NOTE:** If installing Karndean LooseLay or Longboard with an RH over 90%, contact your Karndean representative for proper adhesive recommendation.

## Concrete Floors

Concrete Subfloors/Screeds: All cracks and joints should be filled using a cement-based patching compound, and the floor is to be level within 1/8" in 10'.

All gypsum-based floors must be sealed with an approved gypsum sealer, as directed by the sealer manufacturer, prior to the installation of LooseLay planks/tiles.

## Quarry Tiles/Mosaics/Terrazzo/Ceramics

Level any grout lines with a suitable leveling compound or embossed leveler, repairing any loose or missing materials, to make a solid, flat subfloor.

## Wood Subfloors

Must use Underlayment grade plywood or panels minimum 1/4" thick. Level any joints or fastener heads with a suitable leveling compound or embossed leveler, to make a solid, flat subfloor.

## Metal and Painted Floors

Remove any loose paint or other finishes.

## Linoleum/VCT/Solid, Non-Cushioned Vinyl

Make sure these floors are solid. Fix any loose tiles and remove any surface polish/sealer.

Prepare exposed floor, as per applicable standard.

## Other Floors

Consult your supplier.

## Underfloor Heating and Services

LooseLay is suitable over underfloor heating systems, as long as it is insulated from the heating system to ensure that the surface temperature does not rise above 80°F (27°C).

The system must be switched off 48 hours before installation begins, and remain off during installation and for the 48 hours following the installation's completion. Then, the temperature should be gradually increased (typically 5°F/hour) to the desired warmth.

Mesh wire systems must be bedded into a base coat of fiber reinforced smoothing compound. Refer to the manufacturer's guidelines for required depth. Follow **Karndean LooseLay** methods, as described in these guidelines.

LooseLay allows easy access to underfloor services, if installed over access panels, provided the resultant subfloor complies with the values stipulated in the relevant Building Codes and Standards.

## Installation

Before starting the installation, remove all debris or dust and clean the floor. Do not use any chemical stripper on the subfloor. Any removal must be done mechanically, so as to not leave any chemical residue behind.

**Karndean LooseLay** must be installed on any APA-approved underlayment or panels manufactured as underlayment for resilient floors.

### 1. Loose Lay

Prepare the subfloor according to the appropriate Building Codes and Standards. LooseLay needs to be installed “tight”; check that room edges are solid and all thresholds or openings are edged together with a minimum 4” strip of DrySet or K-Spray adhesive. The tiles/planks must be installed “tightly” to the wall. No expansion joint is necessary. If the floor area to be installed has walls longer than 13’ (4m), please treat installation as a Grid Stick installation – see option 2.

### 2. Grid Stick

In rooms with walls longer than 13’ (4m), the perimeter of the room requires a minimum 4” strip of DrySet or K-Spray adhesive to be applied to the subfloor and at 13’ distances parallel to the perimeter, covering the floor in a grid. The tiles/planks are then installed “tightly” across the room.

### 3. Heavy Traffic / High Temperature Areas

In areas of rooms with high traffic (e.g. high foot traffic entrances, high frequent wheeled traffic) or high temperature variations (e.g. panoramic windows/doors), we recommend installing tiles/planks with with DrySet or K-Spray adhesive.

**NOTE:** In areas that are subject to high water spillage or extreme temperature fluctuations (sun rooms/ conservatories), the use of a full-spread epoxy or Karndean 2-Part Epoxy is recommended.

### Routine Maintenance

**Karndean LooseLay** has a protective PU surface, which helps to protect the floor and eliminates the need to strip and seal after installation.

To keep clean, sweep all loose debris, then damp mop with the **Karndean Clean** solution.

Over time, high traffic may cause dulling to occur. To restore the appearance and durability of your floor, strip the floor using the **Karndean Remove** solution, rinse the floor with water and let it dry completely. Then seal using the **Karndean Refresh**.