

Installation Guidance Note: Novilon Traffic



General advice

The appearance, performance and durability of the installed floor covering will be determined to a large extent by the quality of the prepared subfloor and the conditions in which they are laid.

Subfloor preparation should be carried out in accordance with the current Australian Standard AS 1884:2012 'Floor coverings - Resilient sheet and tiles - Installation practices'. Areas to receive flooring should be clean, free from other trades, fully enclosed and weather tight. Subfloors should be clean and free of contaminants, smooth, sound and permanently dry.

Always conduct moisture and alkaline tests on all substrates. All ground-based level floors should have an effective moisture barrier. Problems associated with plasticizer migration from PVC materials can lead to dimensional instability in vinyl. All subfloors of this type must be removed before installation.

Note: Floor slabs circa 1965 or earlier are unlikely to contain an effective integral damp-proof membrane. Old floor slabs without a DPM may provide a moisture reading below 75% if they have previously been uncovered or have been covered with a permeable floor covering such as VCT or carpet. Potential groundwater problems may not, therefore, come to light until the base is covered with an impermeable floor covering i.e. sheet vinyl or tight fitting LVT.

If any doubt exists a proprietary surface applied membrane or other appropriate moisture protection system should be used.

Areas to receive flooring shall be adequately lit to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and for the final inspection.

It is essential that the laying area is at a steady temperature of 18 to 27°C for 48 hours prior to, during, and for 24 hours after installation. The material and adhesive should be conditioned in the same environment for at least 24 hours prior to the installation. Where the floor coverings have been stored or transported immediately prior to delivery in temperatures below 10°C the acclimatisation period should be extended to 48 hours.

Prior to installation 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.

Use material from the same batch/dye lot and install in the roll number sequence. The use of different production batches will always result in visible shade differences. The batch number is clearly marked on the material packaging and must be checked before the commencement of installation.

Take care with the following:

Existing vinyl and cork flooring:

Should be taken up and any remaining adhesive cleaned off the floor. If the old adhesive residues cannot be completely removed or if the floor covering is to be fully adhered a 3 mm thickness of a suitable smoothing compound should then be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Thermoplastic tiles:

Should be taken up and all remaining adhesive cleaned off the floor.

Note: any remaining bitumastic adhesive residue may cause discolouration. Remaining adhesive residues should be isolated with a 3 mm application of a suitable smoothing compound.

If the floor covering is to be fully adhered a 3 mm thickness of smoothing compound should then be applied.

Asphalt floors:

Should be covered with a minimum 3 mm thickness of smoothing compound. It is recommended to seek the advice of smoothing compound manufacturer for a suitable product system recommendation.

Quarry tiles or ceramic tiles:

Must be checked for moisture and ensure that there are no loose or cracked tiles, thoroughly cleaned and degreased, primed and levelled with a 3 mm thickness of suitable smoothing compound to avoid ceramic tile grout lines showing through the vinyl.

Concrete:

It is important that it is clean of all contaminants, dry, alkaline free, smooth and free from loose gritty particles.

Wooden floors:

It is impossible to ensure that wood block floors are not loose or contain latent defects through aging.

It is therefore strongly recommended that these are removed and that the subfloor is correctly prepared.

Loose or uneven floorboards should be secured and covered with a hardboard or plywood underlay to provide an even surface.

All protruding nail heads should be hammered flush. Particle board subfloors must be overlaid with plywood or hardboard underlay.

Heated subfloors:

Novilon Traffic and Viva can be used in conjunction with under-floor heating systems. A separate guidance note "Installation of Forbo Floor Coverings on Underfloor Heating Systems" provides more information on the conditions for installation in such circumstances. In larger rooms with underfloor heating, heavier traffic or commercial areas the material should be fully adhered using Forbo F54 vinyl sheet adhesive. Allow 12-24 hours after installation before moving furniture back into place.

Tip: Move heavy furniture with the aid of a few sheets of flooring underlay laid on top of the vinyl then carefully place the furniture on top of the sheet and slide the furniture into place.

Installation/Fitting

The material must always be acclimatised and installed at normal room temperature (18-27°C). Where possible, unroll the material some hours before use. Avoid cutting in too tightly as this can lead to bubbling caused by changes in temperature.

Novilon products are recommended to be fully bonded to provide a secure fitment for all types of use and are able to be sealed using an anti-fungal acrylic sealant around all four edges (particularly suitable for kitchens, bathrooms etc.).

The recommended adhesive is Forbo F54 using a V1, 1.6 mm x 1.6 mm V notched trowel to apply the adhesive. The adhesive must be rolled with a minimum 45kg three wheeled roller in the length and the width of the vinyl.

Note: Trowels will wear during use, check the trowel both before and during use to ensure that the proper, specified trowel notch is used and maintained.

The open time of the adhesive will depend on site conditions and the porosity of the base. It is best practice to conduct an adhesive bond test before starting the installation. Bond testing 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.

If alternative adhesives are to be used consult with the adhesive supplier for usage information, guidance and warranty.

Loose lay installations of Novilon

Novilon Traffic loose lay

It is possible to install Novilon Traffic products in a loose laid format in areas up to 40 square metres, however, the product may only be secured around doorways and along two adjacent walls (in an 'L-shape') with plasticizer resistant adhesive tape or a suitable solvent-free, plasticizer resistant acrylic dispersion adhesive.

Loose lay installations should have a 1-1.5 mm expansion gap around all walls, fixtures and fittings to avoid bubbling caused by changes in room temperature. Never perimeter-stick around all 4 sides – this will cause bubbling.

Joining two pieces

Place a single-sided plasticizer resistant adhesive tape on the underside of the join. To keep out dirt etc. weld the seam with a cold chemical weld, such as Noviweld 671. On plainer designs and products, it is advisable to reverse-lay sheets because of across the roll shading.

Note: Fixed items of furniture such as kitchen units, built in wardrobes etc. should not be fitted on Novilon when loose laid.

Note: Never perimeter-stick or apply a water-resistant sealant around all 4 sides when choosing to loose-lay as this will cause bubbling within the product installation. When joining two pieces together, place a strip of single-sided plasticizer resistant adhesive tape the length and under the centre of the join, then seam seal.

Note: in a loose lay installation the join must be free floating and not bonded to the subfloor.

In rooms with underfloor heating, rooms with mobile furniture e.g. castor wheeled chairs or rooms subject to intensive or non-domestic use, the floor covering must be fully adhered using Forbo F54 vinyl sheet adhesive.

On completion of the installation

First impressions may have more impact on the client than hours of skilled fitting.

The completed installation should be cleared of scrap material and debris, the floor swept or vacuumed, and any traces of adhesive residues removed from the floor and skirting.

If the floor covering is to be protected from other trades or site traffic prior to project completion, a protection product should be chosen that is appropriate for the type and level of traffic likely to be experienced and the potential for impact, scratching or indentation damage. Note some protective coverings will stain vinyl.

In many cases, it is customary for the initial floor cleaning to be subcontracted to a professional cleaning and maintenance contractor who will have the staff and equipment to clean the floor thoroughly.

If the optimum performance of any new floor covering is to be achieved, it is important that the correct cleaning and maintenance procedures are used from day one.

Cleaning and maintenance guides for all Forbo Flooring products are available for download at www.forbo-flooring.com.au/installation

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.

If in any doubt contact us:

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