

The preparation/dryness of the subfloor and installation procedures should all be as BS 8203: 2001. i.e.: The relative humidity of a solid subfloor should be below 75%RH when tested with a Hygrometer as described in this British Standard.

Prior to selecting a smoothing compound, it will be necessary to investigate what type of traffic the floorcovering once installed will be subjected to. Latex smoothing compounds are not suitable for areas that will receive heavy traffic, especially heavy-wheeled traffic with narrow wheels. Never subject a newly installed floorcovering to heavy wheeled traffic at an early stage, as this will disperse trowelled applied adhesive from below the floorcovering which may result in future problems. Wheels should be + 30mm and preferably made of neoprene. If it is necessary to traffic the floorcovering at an early stage, protect the installation with hardboard or plywood.

For specific subfloor types and preparation, please refer to our Specifications Subfloor Types.

**Recent studies have shown that micro-organisms can colonise, under certain conditions, the area between the subfloor (wooden or cement) and the installed flooring. These micro-organisms can thrive in warm, damp conditions where there is sufficient 'food' available – for example, certain types of levelling compound used prior to the flooring installation. During their normal life-cycle, these micro-organisms produce a colorant, usually pink, purple, red or black (but can be other colours), which can 'bleed' through to the surface of the PVC flooring product over a period of several months or longer.**

**Advice should always be sought from the manufacturers of subfloor preparations and adhesives prior to installation, to ensure that their products are suitable for the environment in which the PVC flooring is to be laid – this advice may include using products that contain biocides or of specific resin types.**

**For wooden fabricated underlay e.g. plywood, care must be taken to store the material in an area where it will not become damp or contaminated.**

**The 'bleed' through of colorant created by micro-biological activity below PVC floorcovering products is not attributable to a product/manufacturing fault.**

Although Tarkett may on occasion list a choice of alternative adhesives, levelling compounds and surface damp proof membrane manufacturers and types, we do not however guarantee the products listed or suggest that the list of products or manufactures, are complete or current. Tarkett would not accept any liability for any of these products failing to perform in conjunction with any of their products. It is the responsibility of the adhesive, levelling compound and surface damp proof membrane manufacturer and flooring contractor to ensure the products being used are appropriate for use and applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

It is imperative that underfloor heating systems have been previously commissioned and found to be functioning correctly prior to the floor finish being installed. Ensure that the underfloor heating system is switched off 48 hours prior to the floorcovering installation commencing and remains off for at least 48 hours after the installation is complete. During the period of decommissioning of the underfloor heating system, an alternative heating source should be provided, if required, to ensure that the area of installation is kept at a constant temperature of 18°C - 27°C. Gradually increase the temperature over a number of days by only a few degrees per day until the desired room temperature is reached. The temperature should never exceed the floorcovering industry agreed maximum of 27°C at the underside of the floorcovering (the adhesive line). Failure to follow these guidelines can result in the floorcovering de-bonding, joints opening, and on some occasions discolouring, all which can occur within a long or short period of time.

### CONDITIONING - SHEET

It is important that the material roll/rolls are stored horizontally onto a flat, dry, clean surface. 24 hours prior to use, the material should be cut to the desired lengths and acclimatised within the area to be installed by laying flat on a prepared, clean subfloor at a temperature of 18° - 27°C or an alternative area prepared in the same manner and temperature. This temperature should be maintained throughout the duration of the installation. The minimum temperature of the subfloor should be 15°C. Care should be taken when handling all types of floorcoverings to ensure that safety procedures are followed and damage does not occur to the material.

### INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

For installations up to 12m<sup>2</sup> (excluding Texstar\*) the floorcovering can be loose laid.

For installations up to 25m<sup>2</sup> the floorcovering can be loose laid or semi-loose laid (perimeter stuck).

For installations above 25m<sup>2</sup> the product should be fully adhered, using a suitable recommended adhesive such as Tarkett Tarkospray, Embond 170 or a good quality acrylic/acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive.

For installations in areas of high temperature (conservatory's etc) the product should be fully adhered, using a suitable recommended high temperature adhesive such as F48, Uzin KE66 etc

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\* Texstar can be loose laid up to 50 m<sup>2</sup>.

### INSTALLATION – LOOSE LAY OR PERIMETER STUCK

1. The material must be checked before installing and the supplier must be informed in the unlikely event of an apparent visual fault.
2. Prepare the subfloor as necessary and remove all trace of debris.
3. Ensure that material with identical batch numbers are allocated within each separate area to be installed. Whenever possible, consecutive roll numbers should be installed in sequence.
4. Plan the sheet direction of the area to be installed to ensure whenever possible that joins do not coincide with doorways or main traffic lanes. Identify the approximate location of each sheet.
5. Cut off the lengths of the material 10cm longer than the net size measured.
6. Scribe the first sheet down the length of the room with the two ends lapped up the wall. Cut down the scribe mark using utility knives with straight and hook blades removing the scrap material and place into position.
7. Place the sheet tightly against the wall and draw a pencil line down the edge of the Floor covering on the

- subfloor lengthways opposite the scribed wall.
8. When in position draw a pencil line at 90° to the edge of the sheet from the Floor covering onto the subfloor using a ruler. This cross mark should be approximately 20cm away from one of the ends still lapped up the wall.
  9. Slide back the sheet along the first pencil line until the end of the sheet lies flat on the subfloor and slightly short of the wall. The two cross lines will now have moved apart.
  10. Set the long scribes to the distance between the two lines and scribe this size from the wall onto the floor covering at the same time keeping the scribes parallel with the sheet edge. Cut and remove the surplus as before.
  11. Slide the Floor covering back into its previous position with the material now fitted to the long wall and end wall. Repeat the last procedure for the end still lapped up the opposite wall.
  12. When the surface to be covered needs several lengths please note the following recommendations:
    - For patterned or decorated floor coverings**
      - lay the lengths in the direction they naturally unroll
      - overlap the lengths to join up the pattern or decoration and cut through both layers using a straight-edge and straight blade knife.
    - for single coloured or non-patterned floor coverings**
      - lay the lengths alternately head to tail and overlapping
      - use a straight-edge and a straight knife to create a clean join.
  13. Repeat points 1 to 11 for each consecutive sheet.
  14. If the floor is to be perimeter stuck, adhere the vinyl to the subfloor with Tarkett Tarkospray or a suitable double sided non-migrating vinyl adhesive tape at the edges of the sheet to prevent movement.

In certain cases the installer will have to decide on the most attractive positioning of the lengths and cutting of the seams to provide the best visual appearance, before cutting. To ensure the joins remain clean over time, it is preferable to cold-weld them using a suitable liquid seal such as Tarkett Cold Weld or similar.

### **INSTALLATION - FULLY ADHERED**

1. As with Loose lay follow points 1 to 12.
2. Carefully pull the sheets back half their length and re-sweep the back of the floor covering and the subfloor to ensure that no debris is present that may visually impair the installation and cause premature wear.
3. If the vinyl is to be installed in an area prone to extremes of heat e.g. a conservatory, then the flooring should be adhered using a high temperature adhesive, polyurethane adhesive or an epoxy adhesive, however care must be taken when applying this.
4. Apply Tarkett Tarkospray or a good quality acrylic/acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive such as the Tarkett Embond 170 adhesive to manufacturer's installation recommendations.

## Tarkett Ltd Installation And Maintenance Residential Products

March-2017

5. If acrylic/acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive is used this should be applied using the appropriate 'V' notched trowel for the chosen adhesive. It is important that the notches on the trowel remain the correct size throughout the duration of the installation.
6. Embond 170 Pressure sensitive adhesive should be applied using a euro A2 or 1.5mm x 5mm "V" notched trowel and then immediately rolled with a lambs wool roller (removes the risk of a trowel applied adhesive mirroring), which should be continually re-saturated in adhesive directly from the adhesive tub to prevent the original trowel applied adhesive from being poorly dispersed over the subfloor. Allow the adhesive to become opaque and tacky, prior to placing the material into the adhesive
7. To provide good adhesion apply sufficient pressure to the surface of the vinyl to expel air from below the floorcovering, this will ensure the material is bonded securely to the substrate.
8. In regard to Tarkett Tarkospray being used to install the flooring carefully follow the instructions on the can.
9. Repeat procedure for second half of the sheets as soon as the first half has been adhered.
10. Allow a sufficient time for the adhesive to begin to set correctly before light trafficking of the surface of the vinyl. Allow a minimum of 24 hours before allowing furniture to be placed upon the floor and heavy trafficking of the vinyl surface.

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**Acrylic style emulsion adhesives are sensitive to frost, application of adhesive can only be undertaken in a warm atmosphere.**