

Installation Recommendations

In order for you to enjoy the very best possible performance from your IVC floor, we recommend that you adhere to the following guidelines for planning, installation and maintenance.

In order to comply with the current code of practice for installation the guidelines must be adhered to.

IVC Group manufactures a large portfolio of floor coverings with varied specifications and so it is recommended that the floor covering is chosen in accordance with the 'Area of Use' classification shown on supporting literature and/or labels. If you are unsure of the most suitable floor covering for your project's requirements please contact your salespoint.

IVC floors can be used with underfloor heating systems, but there are clear guidelines that must be followed during installation. To start, the underfloor heating system must be switched off and the surface temperature of the floor must not exceed 27 degrees centigrade (60OF). IVC Group will not accept responsibility for claims arising from expansion or shrinkage caused by changes of temperature, especially during the period of the adhesive achieving full bond strength.

1. Subfloors

Subfloors must be adequately prepared to ensure that the floor covering can be successfully installed.

In particular, the subfloor must be clean, dry, smooth, sound, level, without cracks and not contaminated with fat, oil, grease or chemicals.

If you are unsure of the quality of your subfloor please contact your sales representative or the technical support department, which will be able to recommend a smoothing compound and adhesive supplier.

We advise that IVC floors are installed and bonded to the subfloor using bright acrylic adhesives.

2. Installing

2.1. Colour Equality

During the manufacture of IVC floors, some slight variations in colour may occur. You can minimise any visible differences by carefully planning the installation process.

If you are installing more than one roll in a room ensure that any other rolls used are supplied from the same batch. This should keep any colour variation to a minimum. An effective way to minimise colour variation on-site is to order rolls at the same time adhere to individual roll numbers in sequence.

In the case of designs that are a single colour, IVC recommends that every second sheet is rotated through 180° and then installed in the usual method.

Some minor differences of colour are unavoidable, but IVC ensures that every roll undergoes a thorough inspection by trained quality control staff. However, it is still recommended that each roll be inspected before installation. Complaints to colour equality received after the floor has been installed will not be recognised.

2.2. Indoor Climate Recommendations

When installing IVC floors it is recommended that the room temperature should be approximately 18°C and that the subfloor temperature should be a minimum of 15°C. Humidity within the room must be between 55 and 65%.

2.3. Cutting and Adhering – Step by Step Guide

- a) Prepare the subfloor according to the Code of Practice and the Guidelines set out by the supplier of the smoothing compounds and adhesives. It will be necessary to install an absorbent self-levelling underlay substrate.
- b) For two-metre width floor coverings, IVC recommends cutting takes place 24 hours before installation. The sheets should then be rolled loosely and stored in an upright position for acclimatisation. Four-metre width sheets should be cut to size and laid flat to acclimatise.
- c) When cutting to size please consider the nature of design and pattern. In the case of styles that are one colour or design, IVC recommends that every sheet is rotated through 180°.
- d) Place the sheets in position, cut seams with the double-cut method and trim to size.
- e) Fold back half of the sheet to reveal the subfloor ready for the application of adhesive. We recommend the use of a bright acrylic adhesive. Prior to using the adhesive read the supplier instructions. Adhesive should be evenly spread with a suitable notched trowel. Use a linear motion to avoid over-application. After applying the adhesive and in accordance with the instructions, allow the adhesive to partially dry before returning the floor covering in-to place. Loose lay installation only up to 12m² *.
- f) Install the floor covering sheet avoiding bubbles, compressions and tensions. Check that the seam junctions are closed tightly together. Do not try to compress seams that cause curling. This curling is an indication that the sheets are not placed together correctly.
- g) To remove any bubbles, the floor should be evened out by rubbing from the inside outwards. Use a rolling motion to level out the adhesive and this should be done before the adhesive has fully dried.
- h) Repeat steps e) to g) with the second half of the sheet.
- i) Check all seam junctions and repeat the rolling motion as described in g)
- j) Welding the seam together is recommended, but only after the drying process is complete. Generally, no less than 24 hours should be given before seam welding occurs. (see section 2.6)
- k) During the drying time, the floor coverings should not be subjected to any foot or vehicular traffic.

* In rooms with heavy traffic, IVC recommends that the vinyl is fitted "stuck all over".

2.4. Adhesives

Please read and follow the guidelines and instructions of the adhesive manufacturer at all times. IVC recommends the following manufacturers: Ardex GmbH, Bostik Findley GmbH, F. Ball & Co Ltd, Forbo ADHESIVES Erfurt GmbH, Henkel Bautechnik GmbH, Thomsit Kiesel Bauchemie GmbH & Co KG, Mapei GmbH, Schönox GmbH, Uzin Utz AG and Wakol-Chemie GmbH. These manufacturer's products have been thoroughly tested on IVC floor coverings and have been deemed suitable for use.

2.5. Alternative Installing with Release Bonding Systems

If you are installing IVC floors on a release bonding system, please read sections 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4

2.6. Welding

Welding is the only option for ensuring closed and tight seams. For ITEC floor coverings used in commercial locations, IVC recommends a hot welding procedure. IVC offers a large range of matching and suitable welding rods and does not recommend the use of products from other manufacturers. Cold welding, using fluid, is suitable for domestic, commercial and industrial use. IVC recommends cold welding fluids from Werner Müller Kaltschweißtechnik GmbH Frankenthal. Please read the manufacturer's instructions before applying.

3. Special Notes

Products that may cause bleaching or discolouration should be removed immediately. Chairs should be equipped with castors (Type 'W' in accordance with EN 1259).

The publication of these recommendations and guidelines does not impact upon the ruling standards of the Code of Practice. These recommendations should be considered supplemental to supporting literature. If any points raised within this document need clarification, please contact your sales representative or the technical support department. IVC will not accept responsibility for any claims arising from installation and maintenance not in accordance with these guidelines and recommendations.

A complete list of recommended manufacturers is available from IVC on request. IVC Group reserves the right to make changes or recommendations that do not adversely affect performance or quality.

Avelgem, September 2011