

1. Sub-Floor Preparation

Wooden Subfloors

Plywood, hardboard or chipboard are the recommended wooden subfloors for use with our products. Particleboard, wafer board, strand board, tongue and groove floor boards, and fire retardant plywood are not recommended. The Rubber Flooring Company flooring should not be laid on wood subfloors that are directly in contact with concrete subfloors, except if an adequate damp-proof membrane has been installed.

Preparation

The surface of the wooden floor should be clean from paint, wax, varnish, oil or old adhesive. Nails should be punched down below the surface or removed. Loose boards should be nailed down or removed and patched and all gaps must be filled.

Concrete Subfloors

Many different types of concrete subfloors exist; the recommended concrete subfloor is heavy weight conventional concrete, installed according to manufacturer's specifications. The temperature of concrete subfloors must be $23^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$. The temperature is critical to the curing time of the adhesive. A temperature below 20°C will slow down the initial grab of the adhesive, making it necessary to re-roll the flooring at 90 minutes rather than the recommended 60 minutes. A temperature above 26°C will increase the initial grab of the adhesive, making it necessary to re-roll the flooring within 30-45 minutes rather than the recommended 60 minutes.

A moisture condition of 75% RH is the maximum. One BS approved moisture test should be performed for each 100 sq. m. If this has not been achieved, the use of a surface membrane will suppress residual moisture provided that a base damp-proof membrane has been incorporated.

A neutral pH is necessary for installation. If the pH is greater than 9, the floor must be neutralized prior to installation.

Steel trowelled or power floated concrete floors need to be properly roughened-up to ensure adhesion. If the subfloor surface is noticeably uneven or out of level, then it should be properly levelled by an experienced underlay contractor.

WARNING: Flooring should not be installed directly over building expansion joints. A building expansion joint cover should be used.

Preparation

Cracks and depressions should be thoroughly cleaned and filled using a levelling compound according to the manufacturer's specification. Concrete floors must be dry, clean, smooth, level, structurally sound and free of dust. If this is not the case, the use of a latex-cement screed will even the surface of the concrete before installation of the flooring. Concrete floors should also be free from old adhesive, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, asphalt and sealing compounds. An Adhesive Bond Test should be performed. Apply material cuttings every 15 metres using standard installation methods. Examine after 72 hours to see if the bond is solid and no moisture is present.

Existing Floor Subfloors

Terrazzo, Quarry Tile, Ceramic Tiles, Marble.

Preparation

All glazed or uneven ceramic tiles, quarry tile, terrazzo, marble, etc. should be sanded to a rough and level surface. All paint, wax, varnish and old adhesive, etc., should be cleaned or sanded off. An Adhesive Bond Test should be performed. Use the same procedure listed above under Concrete Subfloor Preparation. Level all grout joints and depressions with latex-cement screed.

Non-Permanent Floor Surfaces

Vinyl Asbestos Tile, Vinyl Composite Tile (VCT), Asphalt Tile and Vinyl Tile and Sheet Goods ARE NOT suitable subfloors. They are not permanent, and bonding is difficult. Any installation over these floors becomes the responsibility of the owner.

WARNING: Existing floor covering may contain asbestos (local disposal regulations must be followed).

2. Installation Recommendations

Equipment Checklist
Adhesive
Utility Knife with Straight Blade
Straight Edge
Tape Measure
50Kg Roller for large areas
Weights
Hand Seam Roller
2mm V-notch Adhesive Trowel

Installation of flooring (SHEET FLOORING)

Unroll the flooring and allow it to stabilize before cutting and fitting. Back rolling may be necessary to relax material. Layout the work so that the first roll to be installed is along the main wall, and parallel to the main source of light if practical. Take care in fitting to make sure there is a minimum of waste. Allow an overlap at the seam area, matching the pattern of the flooring from the centre of the room. There may be a pattern run-out of ± 7 mm over the length of a roll. Cut the remaining lengths and place them in position. When cutting the seams, bear in mind that they all must have a neat fit. If installation is over a plywood sub-floor, take care to prevent seams of the rubber flooring from coinciding with the joints of the plywood underneath.

Cutting of Seams

Cut all seams dry, before spreading adhesive. Although there are various ways to cut seams, double cutting has proven to be the most successful method, cutting through both layers of overlapping flooring in one pass.

When the seams are being cut, it is important that the material does not move. Weight the material so that no movement will occur. If the seams are not cut dry beforehand, peaked seams may occur from lack of adhesive due to removal of the adhesive with the piece removed. When double cutting the seam, use a straight edge as a guide and cut completely through both sheets with a utility knife and sharp razor blade. While making the cut, hold the knife as vertical as possible otherwise a clean, straight cut may not be achieved.

Adhering the Floor

Failure to use proper trowel with notches to spread adhesive on the subfloor can cause bubbling of the flooring after installation.

1. Fold back the material halfway lengthwise to allow spreading of the adhesive. When spreading the adhesive after the seams have been cut, it is vitally important that the material not move. Weight the material so that no movement will occur as you spread the adhesive. Using the proper notched trowel spread the adhesive on the subfloor where the flooring was folded back
2. After applying the adhesive, allow it to dry to a semi-wet condition, drying time will be approximately 10 minutes. Drying time will vary according to air temperature, subfloor temperature, concrete porosity, percent of humidity and air circulation. Do not leave the adhesive open more than 20 minutes prior to placing the floor covering into it. The adhesive must transfer to your finger to the touch. If the adhesive is dry to the touch, do not install the floor covering, remove and replace the adhesive
3. Carefully roll the flooring sheet into the adhesive making sure the seams are together without stress (do not press seams together)
4. Next, fold the un-adhered half back and repeat the procedure
5. Continue this way until all flooring is adhered
6. On large areas, roll slowly with a 50Kg. roller. Roll first from the centre out so air does not get trapped under the material, then roll lengthwise
7. Hand roll seam area gently with hand roller to smooth seam. Do not press too hard with hand roller.
8. After 60 minutes, re-roll large areas in both directions with a 50Kg. roller.
9. Remove fresh adhesive with water, dried adhesive with white spirit.

Installation of flooring (TILE FLOORING)

Unpack the flooring and allow it to stabilize before cutting and fitting. Layout the work so that the first row of tiles to be installed is along the centre of the room, and parallel to the main wall. Take care to lay the first tile correctly, as its position will determine the position of all the other tiles in the room. Use a batten nailed to the floor if necessary to give a straight edge to guide the positioning of the tiles.

Loose-lay all tiles with the arrows on the back surface all pointing in the same direction to check colour/pattern uniformity before installation.

Take care in fitting to make sure there is a minimum of waste. If installation is over a plywood sub-floor, take care to prevent joints of the rubber flooring from coinciding with the joints of the plywood underneath.

Adhering the Floor

Failure to use proper trowel with notches to spread adhesive on the subfloor can cause bubbling of the flooring after installation.

1. Remove the first row of tiles to allow spreading of the adhesive. Using the proper notched trowel spread the adhesive on the subfloor where the tiles have been removed, allowing about 25mm extra at the edges
2. After applying the adhesive, allow it to dry to a semi-wet condition, drying time will be approximately 10 minutes. Drying time will vary according to air temperature, subfloor temperature, concrete porosity, percent of humidity and air circulation. Do not leave the adhesive open more than 20 minutes prior to placing the floor covering into it. The adhesive must transfer to your finger to the touch. If the adhesive is dry to the touch, do not install the floor covering, remove and replace the adhesive
3. Carefully place the tiles into the adhesive making sure the joints are together without stress (do not press joints together)
4. Continue this way until all the flooring is adhered
5. On large areas, roll slowly with a 50Kg roller. Roll first from the centre out so air does not get trapped under the material
6. Hand roll joint areas gently with hand roller. Do not press too hard with hand roller
7. After 60 minutes, re-roll large areas in both directions with a 50Kg roller
8. Remove fresh adhesive with water, dried adhesive with white spirit.

Final Follow Up

Check adhesive bond over entire floor. Weight the perimeter, seam, and all other areas where necessary. Permit no foot traffic for 6-12 hours. Permit no heavy foot traffic for 24 hours. Protect laid surface during and after installation from sun, moisture, and other construction trades by covering with dust sheets. Maintain recommended temperature (23° C ± 3° C) during adhesive curing time. Remove fresh adhesive with water, and dried adhesive with white spirit.

3. Maintenance Recommendations

Initial/Annual Cleaning

After the flooring has been installed it should be swept clean. Any excess adhesive should be removed by the flooring contractor. No wet cleaning should take place within 72 hours of the installation of the flooring to allow the adhesive to fully cure, as per the installation guidelines. After initial cleaning, regular maintenance can be performed. As with all quality flooring never use any bleach based products, or clean in direct sunlight.

Equipment and Chemicals

Mop
Soft nylon brush
Applicator
PREPARE polish stripper
PROTECT emulsion polish

Procedure

1. PREPARE polish stripper diluted 1:10 with warm water (5 capfuls of product in 1 litre of water) should be applied sparingly to the surface of the flooring with a mop to remove the existing polish
Do not allow the solution to dry out.
2. After five-minutes contact time scrub with a soft nylon brush.
3. Remove slurry with a mop or wet vacuum.
4. Damp mop twice with water and allow flooring to dry thoroughly.
Do not allow any foot-traffic across the flooring at this point.
5. Once flooring has completely dried, 2 coats of PROTECT emulsion polish may be applied neat with an applicator. Apply in one direction only and allow flooring to dry thoroughly (approx 30 minutes)
6. Apply a second coat at right angles to the first coat, and allow flooring to dry thoroughly.

7. Rinse the applicator well and allow to dry naturally.

For larger areas, use the same procedure with an automatic scrubbing machine or a standard speed machine fitted with the appropriate disc.

Maintenance

The flooring should always be swept clean prior to the following procedures, and spot stains should be removed using undiluted PROLONG floor maintainer

Equipment and Chemicals

Mop

Applicator

PROLONG floor maintainer

Procedure – Damp Mop

1. PROLONG floor maintainer diluted 1:25 with warm water (2 capfuls of product in 1 litre of water) should be applied to the surface of the flooring with a mop
2. Damp mop with water and allow flooring to dry thoroughly.

Procedure – Spray Cleaning

1. PROLONG floor maintainer diluted 1:25 with warm water (2 capfuls of product in 1 litre of water) should be sprayed as a fine mist over a manageable area of 2-3 sq. m.
2. Buff the floor with a suitable high speed machine fitted with a buffing pad until the flooring is dry.

Certain flooring profiles may require the use of a cylindrical brush-scrubbing machine.

Maintenance of Stair Edgings

All stair edgings and floor trims should be cleaned at least once a week with PROLONG floor maintainer and a soft cloth to maintain their appearance and prevent the build up of dirt or grease which could prove hazardous.

Purchase of Equipment

All adhesives, trowels, chemicals and applicators can be purchased direct from The Rubber Flooring Company. Please contact us on FREEPHONE 0800 849 6386 for more information.

Every endeavour has been made to ensure the information given herein is true and reliable. It is given only for the guidance of our customers and for use with our recommended tools, adhesives and chemicals. The Rubber Flooring Company cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage that may result from the use of this information, due to the possibility of variations of processing or working conditions and/or workmanship beyond our control. Users are advised to confirm the suitability of any products by their own tests before any work is carried out.