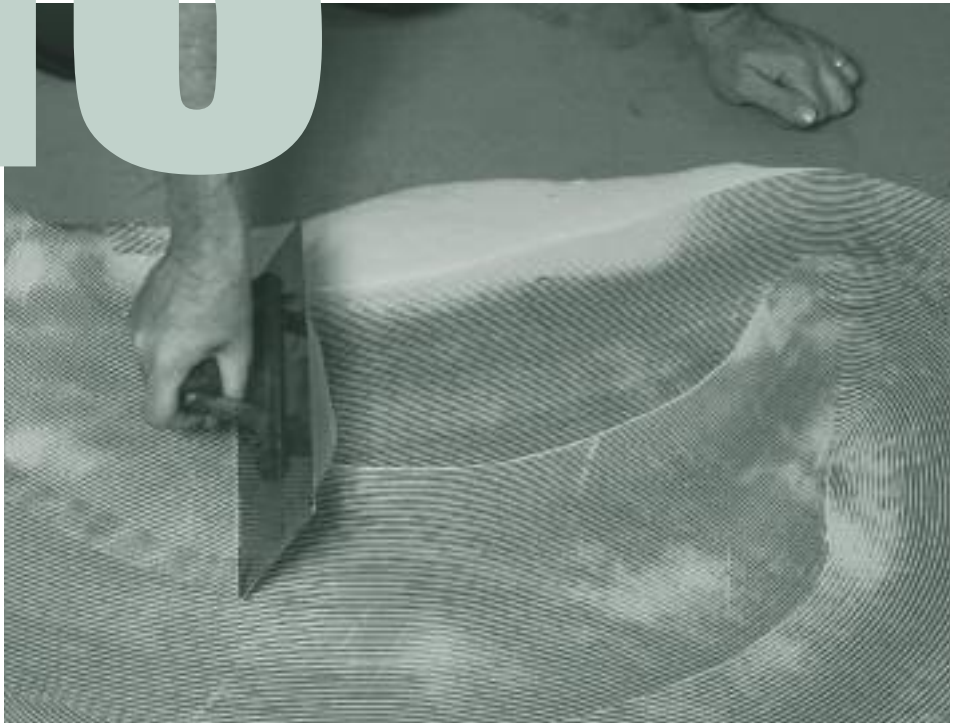
13 Adhesives



The following information is provided for guidance. The recommendations and instructions of the adhesive manufacturer must, in all cases, be followed. Only adhesives recommended by the Polyflor Technical Department and are approved as suitable, should be used. Polyflor does not make any warranties regarding the approved adhesives, or assume that other manufacturers' adhesives would not prove satisfactory. Correct handling of adhesives is recommended at all times. The Health And Safety At Work Act 1974 should be observed and, if applicable, The Highly Flammable Liquid And Liquefied Petroleum Gases Regulations. Any hazards indicated by the adhesive manufacturer should be assessed and precautions taken as directed in the Control Of Substances Hazardous To Health legislation.

13.1 INITIAL PREPARATION

Prior to the application of the floorcovering, it should be ensured that the substrate is sound, dry and free from dust. The relative humidity of solid, cementicious subfloors should be at a maximum of 75% relative humidity when measured over at least a 72 hour period, as described in BS 8203.

Smooth, dense surfaces such as power floated concrete should be mechanically treated to provide sufficient porosity. Existing floorcoverings should be completely removed, together with the majority of the adhesive, and the resulting surface should be free from dust, grease, paint, plaster or any other contamination that may hinder adhesion. In most instances, it is beneficial to apply a smoothing underlayment, at least 3mm thick, to smooth out any local irregularities, nullify the effects of any adhesive residue and provide a surface of known porosity.

To achieve a sound bond between the floorcovering material and the substrate, it is essential that these recommendations are followed.

13.2 PRIMING THE SUBFLOOR

On porous sand/cement, concrete and all timber subfloors, it is essential that a primer be used. The use of a primer ensures an even porosity, minimises the amount of adhesive used and provides a longer open time of the adhesive. The primer used should be compatible with the subfloor and the adhesive, and be as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.

13.3 APPLICATION OF ADHESIVE

It is strongly recommended that all adhesives are conditioned at a minimum temperature of 18ºC for at least 24 hours prior to, and then during, the laying period. The adhesive must be applied using a notched trowel of the correct size notch, which must be maintained during the adhesive application stage. The adhesive manufacturer provides details of the notch size to suit the adhesive and the application.

Acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesives should be rolled with a previously wetted, short pile adhesive roller immediately after spreading. This will remove any adhesive ridges prior to the adhesive setting, whilst maintaining the correct adhesive spread rate on the substrate.

Polyflor does not recommend any method of adhesive application, such as spraying, which cannot guarantee the spread rate.

13.4 OPEN TIME OF ADHESIVES

Open times, as recommended by the relevant manufacturer must be observed at all times.

Do not spread more adhesive than can be laid into during the open time of the adhesive.

Unlike wet set adhesives, pressure-sensitive adhesives must have all the moisture evaporated from them prior to the application of the floorcovering. The colour changes from opaque to translucent, which provides a positive indication of when the adhesive is ready to be laid into. Good ventilation and air flow will help speed up the drying time on these adhesives. It may be necessary to use an electric fan(s) to speed up the drying time.

13.5 REMOVING EXCESS ADHESIVE

As good working practice, excess adhesive should be removed as work progresses. Wet, water-based adhesives are easily removed with a clean, damp cloth. Dried water-based adhesives and solvent-based adhesives should be removed with a minimum amount of solvent cleanser, as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Excessive use of these cleansers can cause discolouration and softening of the vinyl surface.

13.6 ROLLING THE FLOOR

Once the floorcovering has been laid, the material should be rolled immediately with a 68kg articulated floor roller, working initially in the widthways direction, if it is sheet material. This rolling ensures good contact between the substrate, adhesive and floorcovering, expels any trapped air, and flattens the adhesive ridges to prevent shadow through once the floor becomes trafficked.

The floorcovering should be rolled again, one to four hours later, to ensure the contact between the materials is maintained.

13.7 PROTECTION FROM RADIATED HEAT SOURCES

The Polysafe range of floorcoverings is often used in situations where excessive heat causes problems with the floorcovering and the adhesive. It is impractical to give specific details, as equipment such as ovens and kilns vary in design and height above the flooring material.

Where the conditions may cause a problem, we would recommend the use of metal oven trays that deflect the heat away from the floor, and an adhesive suitable for these conditions, such as an epoxy or polyurethane. If you are unsure, we recommend that you discuss the application with our Customer Technical Services team.

13.8 APPROVED ADHESIVES

There are many different types of adhesive available in the marketplace, and the suitability for use with the range of Polyflor products depends upon a number of factors.
The formulation of the adhesive, the formulation of the floorcovering, the site conditions and the in-use conditions all affect the selection.

The Technical Department of Polyflor checks the compatibility between the adhesive and the floorcoverings. The current list of approved adhesives for the full range of Polyflor products is available, on request, from the Customer Technical Services Department of Polyflor, their distributors or approved agents.