

LOOSE LAY INSTALLATION

1. Pre-Installation:

Installation procedures should comply with BS8203 (Code of Practice for the Installation of Resilient Floor Coverings), BS8204 (Code of practice for screeds, bases and in situ floorings) and in strict accordance with the following installation instructions.

All flooring materials must be allowed to condition to the room temperature for a minimum of 48 hours before starting the installation. Boxes of planks/tiles must be stacked less than five high, planks/tiles must be removed 30 minutes before use.

The room temperature should ideally be between 18 and 26°C for at least 48 hours before, during and after installation, the temperature should be constant and not varying by more than 2°C. In installations where underfloor heating is used, current standards must be followed. Heating must be switched off for 48 hours before, during and after the installation and heating should then be turned up to a maximum 27°.

As extremes of temperature can occur between the day and night times, it is essential that these be avoided. South facing windows and conservatories should be shaded to minimise daytime fluctuations. Heating systems, which are thermostatically controlled, should, when necessary, be left on during the night to achieve a constant temperature similar to that of the daytime. Prior to installation, ensure that the subfloor is clean, dry, even and smooth and free from cracks. Make sure the subfloor does not suffer from damp or hydrostatic pressure. The moisture content of the subfloor must be established, so that it conforms to the relevant national standards. The maximum moisture content should be 75% RH.

Adequate UV protection is recommended to be taken against products being installed in direct sunlight as fading may occur

Suitable installation substrates include permanently bonded vinyl, linoleum, parquet, stone, metals and laminate systems.

2. Installation:

Ensure the floorcovering corresponds to the order; quantities are correct and the product is from one batch. Do not mix batches in the same area.

Check backing to ensure there isn't any damage which may prevent the product from lying flat. Claims for visual defects can only be accepted prior to installation and cutting.

When installing, the centre line must be determined and checked to ensure good size cuts will be fitted to the perimeter.

Cut with a sharp knife from the face side, ensuring the cut is 90°, by scoring twice, the second score cuts the glass fibre reinforcement layer. Open up the cut by bending the tile, and then finish the cut from the back side.

A 2mm expansion gap must be left between the product and the wall and other fixed components such as doorframes, heating pipes etc. A 2mm thick tile can be used as a spacer. This area can then be finished with a suitable sit-on skirting, scotia, beading or mastic.

When installing at the entrance to a door, larger-scale heavy commercial environments or areas where heavy foot traffic or high rolling loads can be expected, a suitable double sided tape, such as Stokvis DS004 contact tape, should be used to avoid movement. The tape should be applied at all doorways and diagonally, running one way only, across the full area at 500mm centres. This will ensure that all tiles are secured to the substrate.

Areas larger than 10m x 10m, require the inclusion of a 5mm expansion joint. Expansion joints should be included for every subsequent 100²m. In Canada please contact Technical Assistance 1 905 364 3000.

3. Post-Installation & Maintenance:

After installation

- Sweep or suction clean to remove dust and grit.
- Damp mop with a neutral cleanser.

When damp mopping, ensure the minimum solution is used.

Daily

Damp mop, sweep or vacuum to remove loose dirt and dust. As required, spot clean with a neutral cleanser to remove stubborn marks.

Weekly / Monthly

As required, clean the floor using neutral cleanser and a microfibre mop. If a rotary machine is to be used there is the possibility that some of the product may be disturbed. The minimum amount of liquid should be used to prevent it penetrating into the seams and joints.

The maintenance regime requires the installation of an effective barrier matting system. Cleaners and polishes should be used as per the manufacturer's instructions. Always follow H&S guidance.

For further guidance in Canada please contact Technical Assistance 1 905 364 3000.