

POLYFLOR LUXURY VINYL TILE TECHNICAL INFORMATION

PRODUCT CONDITIONING

INSTALLATION OF TILES

INSTALLATION OF PLANKS

INSTALLATION OF PERIMETER TILES/PLANKS

**INSTALLATION OF TILES/PLANKS
TO A LARGE AREA**

PRODUCT CONDITIONING

The majority of installation failures are not caused by poor fitting but by the failure to condition the vinyl tiles and planks prior to installation.

The tiles and planks plus any other products such as borders, feature strips, design strips, tozzettos and adhesives should be conditioned for at least 24 hours prior to installation. Boxes of tiles/planks must be stacked less than 5 boxes high and tiles removed 30 minutes before use. The room temperature should ideally be between 18 and 26°C but more importantly should be constant and not varying by more than 2°C.

As extremes of temperature can occur between the day and the night times, it is essential that these be avoided. South facing windows and all conservatory windows 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.

The temperatures need to be maintained prior to, during and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed.

Complaints arising from the failure to correctly condition the tiles and planks, which result in shrinkage or lipping, will not be accepted by Polyflor Ltd.



Critical product conditioning

INSTALLATION OF TILES

On receipt of tiles, check that colours correspond to those ordered, that quantities are correct and there is not damage. In particular, check that tiles are from one batch, if this was requested on the order.

For Design Floors, identify and check each element before work proceeds.

To achieve best results, site conditions should be prepared as described in BS 8203. A working temperature of between 18°C and 26°C should be maintained 24 hours prior to, during and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed.

Conditioning areas should be of similar temperature, to prevent thermally induced dimensional changes.

In installations where underfloor heating is used, this should be switched off from 48 hours prior to installation until 48 hours afterwards. It should be brought slowly back up to working temperature; a maximum of 27°C. Peak temperatures should be avoided for a further 7 days.

The decoration of tiles is randomly distributed and can be heavier on some tiles than others. To prevent "heavy" and "light" areas, the tiles should be unboxed and, if required, "shuffled". Alternating the direction of tiles may be required to avoid repeat patterns.

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

1 INSTALLING TILES TO BORDERS

1.1 Straight fitting

A

Dry tile to ensure cuts are acceptable and of the correct colour and adjust where necessary.

B

Apply adhesive as described earlier.

C

Starting on the start line, carefully lay the tiles working your way outwards to the border lines.

D

Tiles should finish at the borderline. If they overlap the borderline, transfer the chalk line over the tiles and carefully cut off the excess.

E

Fix borders to finished tiles.

F

Fit perimeter tiles as covered in Section 11.

1.2 Diagonal fitting

A

Set out for diagonal tiles as described earlier.

B

Dry tile to check for suitable cuts at edges.

C

Apply adhesive to the border lines.

D

Allow tiles to overlap the border line by approximately 50mm.

E

At the ends transfer the chalk line over the tiles and carefully cut off the excess.

F

Fix borders to finished tiles.

G

Fit perimeter tiles as described in Section 11.

Once the start point has been established, depending on the size of the area and type of adhesive to be used, it may be necessary to section off the area so that the adhesive can be applied to areas that can be laid within the open time. When sectioning off for adhesive application, parallel lines should be marked

and adhesive spread within them. This will ensure that only the amount of adhesive is applied that can be laid within the open time.

When a section has been laid, except for the perimeter, it should be thoroughly rolled in both directions with a 68kg articulated floor roller. Repeat for each section until the main field of tiles has been laid.

It is advantageous to leave the last full tile and the cut at the perimeter without adhesive until all tiles have been cut to size.

Spread the adhesive to the manufacturers recommendations. Trowels should be checked regularly to ensure the correct notch size is maintained throughout the installation. If the notch shows signs of wear it should be renewed immediately.



Loose lay tiles to check set out.



Installing border and perimeter tiles

INSTALLATION OF PLANKS

Pre-installation checks and conditioning as for tiles (see previous section), also installation with underfloor heating as for tiles.

When installing planks, the centre line must be determined and checked to ensure good size cuts will be fitted at the perimeter. Because it is not required that the planks are laid "in bond" in the length, it is possible to begin tiling from an end wall, ensuring, prior to laying the first plank, that all cuts are of an acceptable length (Min 150mm).

Planks must be staggered to obtain a random finish, but it is advisable to ensure that plank ends are not within 15cm of adjacent planks.

1 INSTALLING PLANKS TO BORDERS

1.1 Straight fitting

A

Dry tile to ensure cuts are acceptable and of the correct colour and adjust where necessary.

B

Apply adhesive as described earlier.

C

Starting on the start line, carefully lay planks working your way outwards to the border lines.

D

Planks should finish at the borderline in the width.

In the length, planks should be allowed to overlap the borderline by approximately 50mm.

E

At the ends, transfer the chalk line over the planks and carefully cut off excess.

F

Fix borders to finished planks.

G

Fit perimeter planks as described in Section 11.

1.2 Diagonal fitting

A

Set out for diagonal planks as described earlier.

B

Dry tile to check for suitable cuts at edges.

C

Apply adhesive to the border lines.

D

Allow planks to overlap border line by approximately 50mm.

E

At the ends transfer the chalk line over the planks and carefully cut off excess.

F

Fix borders to finished planks.

G

Fit perimeter planks as normal.

Once the start point has been established, depending on the size of the area and the type of adhesive to be used, it may be necessary to section off the area so that the adhesive can be applied to areas that can be laid within the open time. When sectioning off for adhesive application, parallel lines should be marked and adhesive spread within them. This will ensure that only the amount of adhesive is applied that can be laid within the open time.

When a section has been laid, except for the perimeter, it should be thoroughly rolled in both directions with a 68kg articulated floor roller. Repeat for each section until the main field of tiles has been laid.

It is advantageous to leave the last full plank and the cut at the perimeter without adhesive until all planks have been cut to size.

Spread the adhesive to the manufacturers recommendations. Trowels should be checked regularly to ensure the correct notch size is maintained throughout the installation. If the notch shows signs of wear it should be renewed immediately.

INSTALLATION OF PERIMETER TILES/PLANKS

1 CUTTING THE PERIMETER TILES/PLANKS (STRAIGHT CUT)

To avoid run out of the bond, cutting of perimeter tiles should start at the centre of the wall and work out towards corners.

The choice of technique used for cutting perimeter tiles is largely dependent upon the straightness of the wall.

1.1 Overlapping Method

Used when there is little or no run out of the abutting wall.

A
Place the tile to be cut exactly over the last tile laid, ensuring the colour is correct and the decoration runs the correct way.

B
Place another full tile on top of the tile to be cut with its "top edge" against the wall or set-in covered skirting (Figure 1).

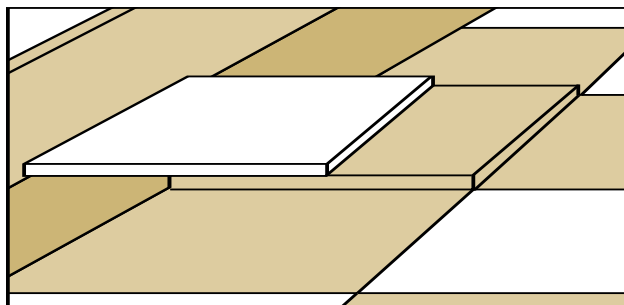


Figure 1 Measuring using an overlapping tile

C
Scribe a line onto the tile to be cut, using the "bottom edge" of the top tile as a guide.

D
Cut the tile to the scribed line, loose lay into position and check the fit. Repeat along the whole wall.

1.2 Scriber Method

Used when the wall run out is quite severe or when the wall profile cannot be picked up using a straight edge.

A
Place the tile to be cut exactly over the last tile laid, ensuring

the colour is correct and the decoration runs the correct way.

B
Set the bar scriber to the size of tile being laid.

C
Trace the profile of the wall onto the tile to be cut, ensuring the bar scriber is kept flat to the floor and square to the edge of the tile (Figure 2).

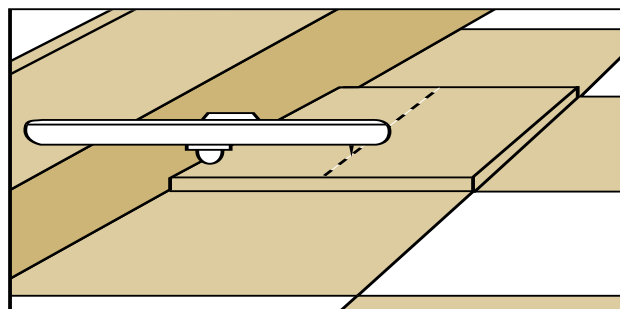


Figure 2 Scribing a line

D
Cut the tile to the scribed line, loose lay into position and check the fit. Repeat along the whole wall.

2 CUTTING THE PERIMETER TILES (DIAGONAL CUT)

2.1 Overlapping Method

A
Cut a template exactly to the size between the diagonal points, (e.g. 428mm for 305mm tiles).

B
Place the tile to be cut exactly over the last tile laid, ensuring the colour is correct and the decoration runs the correct way.

C
Place the template tile on top of the tile to be cut with its "top edge" against the wall or set-in covered skirting (Figure 3).

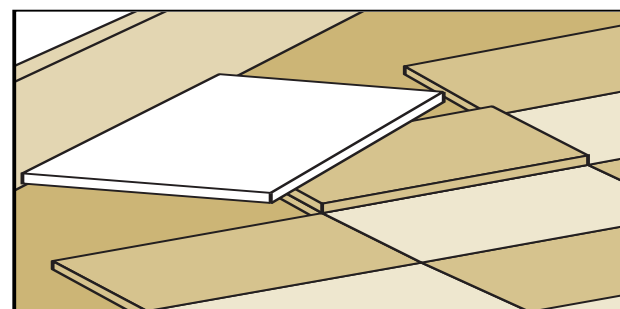


Figure 3 Measuring using an overlapping template on diagonal laid tiles

D

Scribe a line onto the tile to be cut, using the “bottom edge” of the top tile as a guide.

E

Cut the tile to the scribed line, loose lay into position and check the fit. Repeat along the whole wall.

2.2 Scriber Method

Used when the wall run out is quite severe or when the wall profile cannot be picked up using a straight edge.

A

Place the tile to be cut exactly over the last tile laid, ensuring the colour is correct and the decoration runs the correct way.

B

Set the bar scriber to the size between the diagonal points of tile being laid.

C

Trace the profile of the wall onto the tile to be cut, ensuring the bar scriber is kept flat to the floor and square to the edge of the tile.

D

Cut the tile to the scribed line, loose lay into position and check the fit. Repeat along the whole wall.

3 ADHERING THE PERIMETER TILES

A

Once a wall edge has been fitted and loose laid, turn all the tiles inward so as not to lose their position.

B

Spread the adhesive right up to the edges. When the adhesive is ready, lay the perimeter tiles.

C

Wipe up excess adhesive as work progresses.

D

Roll well with a 68kg articulated roller. Use a small hand roller in areas that are inaccessible.

E

Repeat the process for all four walls.

F

Finally, the whole floor should be given a second rolling, approximately one to four hours later.

INSTALLATION OF TILES/ PLANKS TO A LARGE AREA

Maintaining a clearly defined straight line over long distances can be difficult and often leads to inaccuracies. To eliminate this problem, an alternative technique is used when laying tiles in large areas.

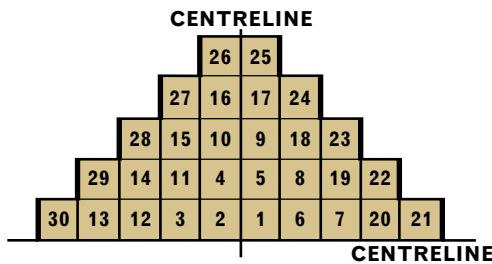


Figure 1 Pyramid layout

A

Establish the central starting point as described previously, minimising small cuts on perimeter tiles.

B

Lay the first pyramid of tiles from the centre lines, using the sequence shown. Ensure a close bond is maintained at all times.

C

Repeat this sequence on the opposite side of the centre line.

D

Continue working in larger and larger pyramids until only the perimeter tiles require fitting.

E

Fit perimeter tiles as described earlier.

Construction of a pyramid should always start at the centre of the baseline, working in the same sequence as shown above (Figure 1).

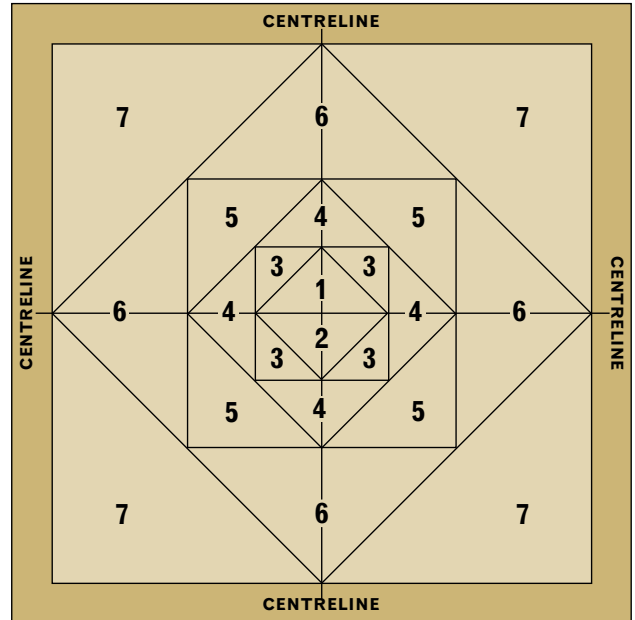


Figure 2 Floor layout