Section eleven

RECOMMENDED FINISHES

The finishing details must be considered and agreed from the project outset to establish the individual areas of responsibility for all parties involved in the project.

11.1 INTRODUCTION

There are no short cuts to optimum performance with the installation of any flooring. An overview of each project right from the outset is essential to ensure finishing details are considered and agreed. This will also establish the individual areas of responsibility for all parties involved in the project.

There is no question that the final details contribute so much to an impressive finish for the floor. These include relatively minor details such as awkward corners, internal or external mitres, the junction where different floor coverings meet and finishing details around drains and other accessories. These make up only a small proportion of the total floor, yet they often make up most of an architect's snag list.

A Polyflor installation must focus on these important details and also take into account all aspects of the location. We believe that the floor must not only look good, but also perform well, so that it is impermeable, hygienic and safe.

11.2 DRAINAGE

The location of drains is important.

- As far as possible, they should be away from sources of vibration in order to reduce movement.
- To make leak detection easier locate away from beams, columns and walls.
- Drains should be close to the main spillage sources, when direct outlets from spillage sources are not possible.
- The floor gradient into the drain depends on the process, traffic volume and the surface texture of the floor covering.
- The drains used should be built to permit examination, cleaning and repair without these operations causing damage to the floor.

11.2.1 Shower Drains

Only drains which have been specifically designed for use with sheet vinyl floorings should be considered. Most of these drains have clamping rings, which ensure the watertight security which is essential where hygiene and safety are of primary importance.

These clamping rings ensure that the Polysafe floor covering is held securely in position and they prevent the ingress of water that could adversely affect the adhesion at this critical point.

Figure 11.1 Stainless steel drain prior to fitting vinyl clamping ring

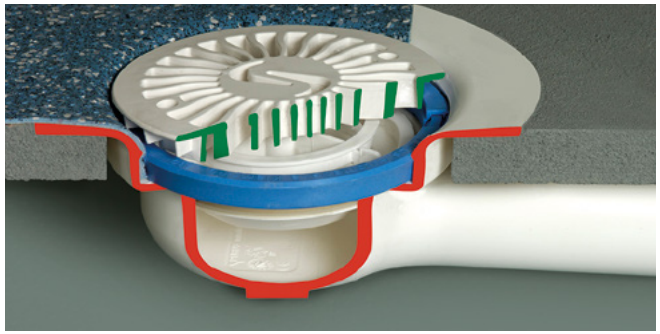

Figure 11.2 Drain with clamping ring in place

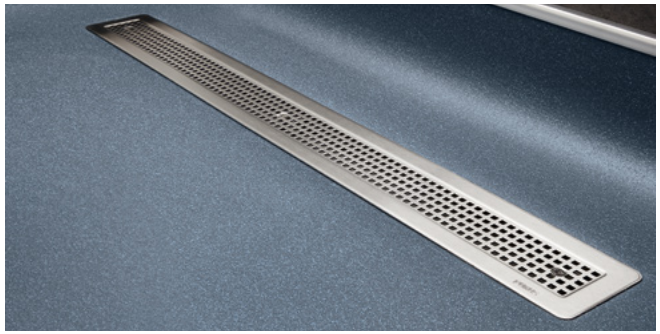

Figure 11.3 Linear Drain

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11.2.2 Drainage channels and gullies

Again, only drainage channels and gullies which incorporate vinyl clamping and locking systems into their design should be considered.

11.3 CONSTRUCTION JOINT COVERS

Correct treatment at expansion joints is also essential if the floor is going to last and perform in a safe and hygienic manner. We recommend that expansion joints are covered using either a PVC expansion joint cover, or a cover with a PVC insert, so that the flooring can be thermally welded to the cover (Figure 11.4).

KEY POINT

On no account must the Polyflor or Polysafe be taken straight over the expansion joint. This will lead to failure.

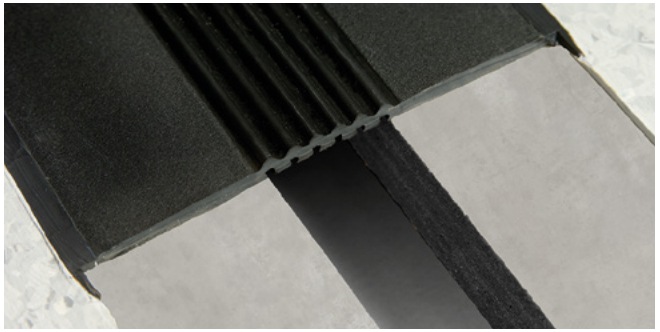

Figure 11.4 PVC expansion joint

11.4 EDGE TRIMS

In many of the areas where Polyflor is installed, other types of floor covering will also be used. The junction between the Polyflor flooring and these other types of floor covering is a potential weak point, if not treated properly. Correct installation minimises problems such as water leakage and trip hazard.

11.4.1 Polyflor or Polysafe with ceramic or quarry floor tiles

In installations where the edge of the vinyl comes into contact with ceramic or quarry tiles:

- Achieving a watertight joint at the junction is important.
- Aluminium edge trims with PVC inserts are ideal for this purpose. They facilitate installation and the PVC insert allows for a welded joint between the edge trim and the Polyflor floor covering.

11.5 POLYFLOR WITH CARPET

- Ensure the junction between Polyflor and carpet is clearly visible.
- Minimise any trip hazard by using edging strips.
- A variety of edging strips are available for this junction. The relevant manufacturers can supply further advice on installation and use of these types of trims.

11.5.1 Bevelled and diminishing strips

- Bevelled or diminishing strips should be used at all exposed edges of Polyflor vinyl floorings to minimise trip hazards.
- The bevelled strip should be butted tightly to the exposed edge of the Polyflor vinyl flooring. The bevelled strip should be fixed using a contact adhesive and the joint may be thermally welded.

11.6 ACCESS AND MANHOLE COVERS

The use of access covers is important to facilitate either the welding of the Polyflor vinyl flooring to the cover and frame or where the Polyflor vinyl flooring can be clamped into place. Both these solutions result in a watertight, hygienic and safe joint.

11.7 INSTALLATION OF ACCESSORIES

The Polyflor Ejecta ranges of flooring accessories are PVC extrusions designed for use with most vinyl floor coverings, especially the Polyflor and Polysafe ranges.

The Ejecta range includes:

- Set-in coved skirtings
- Sit-on coved skirtings
- Cove former
- Capping strip
- CT strip
- Weld rods

For more information on weld rods refer to Section nine.

11.8 RECEIPT & STORAGE

On arrival at site, the accessories should be checked, stored and conditioned, together with the adhesive, as described for vinyl flooring.

NOTE Inflammable adhesives require special storage conditions. Contact adhesive manufacturer or refer to current literature for details.

11.9 PREPARATION

- Ensure that all surfaces are firm, dry and free of dust, grease and oil.
- Fair faced brickwork or block work should have a latex skim coat applied, as this provides a smooth, firm surface of known porosity which will minimise adhesive usage and improve adhesion.
- Alternatively, 5.5mm thick plywood can be cut into appropriate width strips and then securely fixed to the block work to provide a smooth surface onto which the skirting can be fitted.
- All painted surfaces must be stripped back and wire brushed to remove all traces of paint.

NOTE Always read carefully and observe the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer. Paying particular attention to use of solvent-based adhesives, especially regarding ventilation and possible sources of ignition.

11.10 MARKING OUT

- Accurate marking out is essential to minimise adhesive usage and to prevent excess adhesive spoiling decorations.
- Marking out may be done by a variety of methods including scribers, height gauges and section templates.
- All fitting work must be carried out accurately prior to application of adhesive, as movement afterwards is restricted.
- Adjustments for length should always be made on straight joints – never on mitred sections – unless the length of the wall does not permit this.
- When using sit-on coved skirtings around external corners, a joint can be avoided by grooving out some of the material from the back using an Exacto cutter, and then warming the coving with a hot air gun. It should be noted that the toe will be curved rather than right angled when the coved skirting is installed.

11.11 ADHESIVE APPLICATION

KEY POINT
For use in well ventilated areas where there is no risk of ignition of the organic vapours.

This system is based upon a solution of polychloroprene rubber in organic solvents. The application is as follows:

- If the surface is slightly porous, apply a suitable primer and leave to dry.
- Apply adhesive equally to the section and to the surface to which it will be attached, using a suitable applicator. Leave until the adhesive is dry to the touch.
- As a guide, adhesive coverage should be approximately 5 litres per 100 metres on 100mm high Ejecta section, dependent upon the porosity of the surface and the thickness of applied coats.

11.12 ADHERING THE ACCESSORIES

- When the adhesive is dry to the touch, press the section firmly against the other surface, placing it accurately first time.

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- The section should not be removed or subjected to lateral force if good adhesion is to be assured.
- Set-in coved skirtings are applied before the floor finish is laid and sit-on coved skirtings are applied after the floor finish is laid.

11.13 SKIRTINGS AND OTHER FINISHES

Polyflor supplies a wide range of PVC profiles which are ideal for use with the Polyflor range of products. In most installations, we would recommend that the Polyflor vinyl flooring is either site-coved up the wall, or a 'set in' coved skirting is used which can be welded to the Polyflor vinyl flooring.

11.13.1 Site coving

Polyflor Ejecta CT strip (Figure 11.4 and 11.5) provides the ideal solution for the junction between site-coved Polyflor vinyl flooring and ceramic wall tiles.

The flexible section is designed to accept ceramic wall tiles on one side and the various gauges of Polyflor on the other.

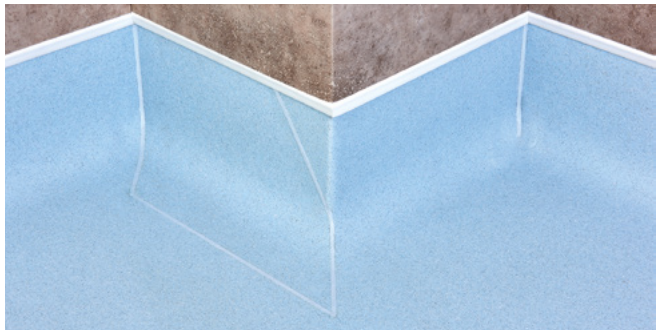

Figure 11.4 Polyflor Ejecta CT Strip

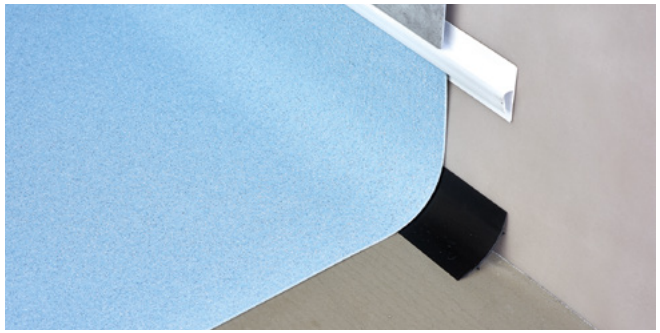

Figure 11.5 Polyflor Ejecta CT Strip

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11.13.2 Set-in coved skirtings

Where the use of the site-coved method of installation is impractical or is not cost effective, the Polyflor Ejecta set-in skirting (Figure 11.6) is a viable alternative.

Very similar to the sit-on type skirting in appearance, the set in skirting has a 50mm toe which is adhered to the subfloor and allows the main field of sheet vinyl to be welded to it.

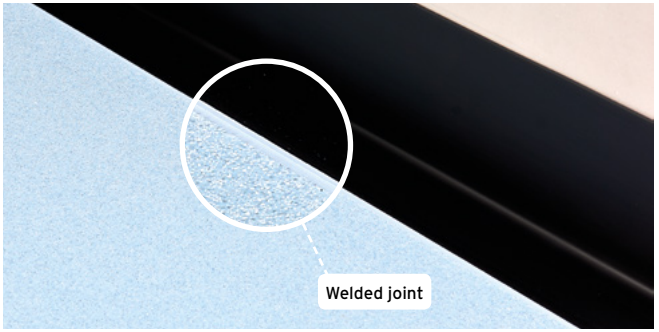

Figure 11.6 Set-in coved skirting

11.14 SIT-ON SKIRTINGS

Sit-on skirting (Figure 11.7) generally tend only to be used in conjunction with tiled floors to provide a finish around the perimeter of the room. The sit-on skirting is adhered to the walls and the toe of the skirting sits on top of the floor; it is not welded. If requested suitable mastic sealant can be used beneath the toe of the skirting.

Figure 11.7 Sit-on coved skirting

11.15 MASTIC SEALANT FINISH

When specified suitable silicone mastics can be used as a finish around the perimeter of a room. This is provided a water tight finish is not required and all parties are in agreement as to this type of finish.

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