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The preparation/dryness of the subfloor and installation procedures should all be as BS 8203: 2001. i.e.: The relative humidity of a solid subfloor should be below 75%RH when tested with a Hygrometer as described in this British Standard.

Prior to selecting a smoothing compound, it will be necessary to investigate what type of traffic the floorcovering once installed will be subjected to. Latex smoothing compounds are not suitable for areas that will receive heavy traffic, especially heavy-wheeled traffic with narrow wheels. Never subject a newly installed floorcovering to heavy wheeled traffic at an early stage, as this will disperse trowelled applied adhesive from below the floorcovering which may result in future problems. Wheels should be + 30mm and preferably made of neoprene. If it is necessary to traffic the floorcovering at an early stage, protect the installation with hardboard or plywood.

Recent studies have shown that micro-organisms can colonise, under certain conditions, the area between the subfloor (wooden or cement) and the installed flooring. These micro-organisms can thrive in warm, damp conditions where there is sufficient 'food' available – for example, certain types of levelling compound used prior to the flooring installation. During their normal life-cycle, these micro-organisms produce a colorant, usually pink, purple, red or black (but can be other colours), which can 'bleed' through to the surface of the PVC flooring product over a period of several months or longer.

Advice should always be sought from the manufacturers of subfloor preparations and adhesives prior to installation, to ensure that their products are suitable for the environment in which the PVC flooring is to be laid – this advice may include using products that contain biocides or of specific resin types.

For wooden fabricated underlay e.g. plywood, care must be taken to store the material in an area where it will not become damp or contaminated.

The 'bleed' through of colorant created by micro-biological activity below PVC floorcovering products is not attributable to a product/manufacturing fault.

For specific subfloor types and preparation, please refer to our Specifications Subfloor Types.

Although Tarkett may on occasion list a choice of adhesive, levelling compound and surface damp proof membrane manufacturers and types, we do not however guarantee the products listed (except for Tarkett wood adhesives) or suggest that the list of products or manufactures, are complete or current. Tarkett would not accept any liability (except for Tarkett wood adhesives) for any of these products failing to perform in conjunction with any of their products. It is the responsibility of the adhesive, levelling compound and surface damp proof membrane manufacturer and flooring contractor to ensure the products being used are appropriate for use and applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

It is imperative that under floor heating systems have been previously commissioned and found to be functioning correctly prior to the floor finish being installed. Ensure that the under floor heating system is switched off 48 hours prior to the floorcovering installation commencing and remains off for at least 48 hours after the installation is complete. During the period of decommissioning of the under floor heating system, an alternative heating source should be provided, if required, to ensure that the area of installation is kept at a constant temperature of 18°C - 27°C. Gradually increase the temperature over a number of days by only a few degrees per day until the desired room temperature is reached. The temperature should never exceed the floorcovering industry agreed maximum of 27°C at the underside of the floorcovering (the adhesive line). Failure to follow these guidelines can result in the floorcovering de-bonding, joints opening, and on some occasions discolouring, all which can occur within a long or short period of time.

CONDITIONING

It is important that the material (rolls) is stored in an upright position. 24 hours prior to use, the material should be acclimatised within the area to be installed by laying it flat on a prepared, clean subfloor at a temperature of 18° - 27°C. This temperature should be maintained throughout the duration of the installation. The minimum temperature of the subfloor should be 15°C. Care should be taken when handling all types of floorcoverings to ensure that safety procedures are followed and damage does not occur to the material.

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INSTALLATION

1. Prepare the subfloor as necessary and remove all traces of debris.
2. Ensure that material with the same batch number is allocated to each area to be installed.
3. Plan the area to be installed to ensure whenever possible that small cuts of tiles / borders / strips are not used, especially near doorways.
4. Choose the longest wall in the area to be installed.
5. Measure out from this wall at either end, across to the other side of the room.
6. If there is a significant difference in both these sizes choose the larger of the sizes.
7. Again measure out from the same wall at both ends. This time measure only half the size previously chosen. Mark this size on the subfloor in pencil.
8. Strike a chalk line between both pencil marks. This chalk line indicates the centre of the width of the room.
9. Repeat procedures 2 - 6 on the shortest wall. This now indicates the centre of the length of the room.
10. Although the centre point of the area to be installed has now been identified, this procedure does not calculate the size of the part tiles / borders / strips that will have to be inserted at the edge of the walls. They may be too small to be acceptable. (- 10cm for tiles & - 4.00 & - 7.55cm for borders / strips)
11. To adjust the size of the perimeter tiles / borders / strips, move the centre chalk-line half the size of the tile or strip. By doing this, the tile / border / strip sizes at the perimeter of the walls will increase or decrease in size whilst still achieving a balance tile / strip size on either side of the area being installed.
12. When the chalk-lines are in their final position, butt a straightedge up against them and draw a pencil down the edge of the straightedge onto the subfloor. Apply the adhesive up to the edge of the pencil mark, which represents the chalk-line.
13. Apply Tarkett Embond 170, pressure sensitive acrylic adhesive. By following the enclosed recommendation of application, this will prevent any possibility of an adhesive spread mirroring through to the surface of the tiles / borders / strips, as can occasionally happen with any floorcovering if not correctly applied, placed and rolled.
14. The adhesive should be applied using a euro A2 or 1.5mm x 5mm 'V' notched trowel. It is important that the notches on this trowel remain this size throughout the duration of the installation. Pressure sensitive adhesives require to be trowel applied and the trowel applied adhesive rolled whilst still wet with a lambs wool roller which should be continually saturated in the tub of pressure sensitive adhesive prior to rolling over the trowel applied adhesive. Allow the adhesive to dry to a clear but tacky film prior to placing the tiles and strips.
15. For smaller installation Tarkett Tarkospray adhesive can be used following the instructions on the can carefully
16. Apply Embond 401 epoxy adhesive with a euro A2 or 1.5mm x 5mm 'V' notched trowel to bond the floorcovering in areas that will be exposed to direct sunlight and extremes of high and low temperatures, i.e.: conservatories etc.

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17. Ensure that tiles or plank strips are shuffled between boxes e.g. 3 boxes of plank strips shuffled together to ensure that the overall installed effect is random and all tessellated or all broadloom, arrows on reverse indicate direction. Borders and plank strips should be placed into the adhesive close butted together, staggering each row of plank strips by approximately 30cm from the previous row installed to ensure that strip end joints do not coincide with the previous row installed. All should be completed whilst the adhesive is still active (within the stated open time).
18. Roll with a 68Kg roller in both directions as the installation progresses and do not wait until the installation is complete. Carefully remove clear masking tape if present on borders or design details, ensuring the design elements are not displaced and re-roll with a 68Kg roller immediately.