



installation guide

Gerflor ideal loose-lay

housing in progress

TEXTLINE | HQR | HOME COMFORT

Gerflor's patented Gerflor Fibre Technology (GFT) backed vinyl has been specifically engineered to be installed loose-lay. With its **unique compact balancing layer**, Gerflor Fibre Technology (GFT) provides an **ideal loose-lay solution** as it absorbs unevenness on existing subfloors (*under conditions*) and does not expand or contract with temperature changes. These features will help the installer to ensure Gerflor Fibre Technology (GFT) meets the users' expectations for the life of the product, whether **installed loose-laid or adhered**.

- SECTION 1
✓ Loose-lay installation
- SECTION 2
✓ Fully adhered / Glued down
- SECTION 3
✓ Seam sealing

Loose-lay installation

1A- Inspection and preparation

Gerflor's GFT backed vinyl can be loose-laid as a floating floor (up to 35m²) with minimal subfloor preparation in the following areas:

Directly over hardwood floors; concrete slabs; properly installed plywood or chipboard; well-adhered solid ceramic tiles; and well-adhered compact vinyl, rubber, linoleum, smooth or lightly embossed resilient floor coverings.

Any substrate should be flat, hard, smooth, clean and free from all contaminants.

Prior to installation, inspect the substrate and repair cracks, bumps, rough areas or any level differences that could show through the material, adversely affecting the performance and appearance of the finished floor. The subfloor must be smooth to allow GFT to 'float' freely despite any movement in timber buildings or subfloor.

Subfloors must be vacuumed before installation.

Note: On areas exceeding 35 sq metres Gerflor recommends that this product is fully adhered using an acrylic based adhesive (F44 or similar) and on solid subfloors the residual moisture content must be less than 75% RH.

1A.1- Timber Subfloors

Gerflor GFT backed vinyl can be installed 100% loose-lay with no adhesive direct to chipboard, plywood and tongue & groove floorboards.

Where height differences are greater than 1 mm or cracks, gaps or joints are greater than 3 mm, obtain a smooth surface by sanding and/or filling with an appropriate patching compound (ARDEX Feather Finish or similar). Sand any rough wood substrate, and if needed skim coat with a floor leveller to allow the textile backing to move freely.

1A.2- Ceramic Tiles

Gerflor GFT backed vinyl can be installed 100% loose-lay with no adhesive directly over well bonded ceramic tiles.

Where grout lines are wider than 3 mm or height difference or depth more than 1 mm use a patching compound (ARDEX Feather Finish or similar) to obtain a smooth surface prior to installing the vinyl.

1A.3- Resilient Flooring: Sheet or Tiles

There is no need to remove fully bonded existing resilient floorings, unless large irregularities exist. Sanding and levelling compounds are not needed for a loose-lay installation.

Remove loose or perimeter glued resilient sheet vinyl. Do not install on old resilient flooring with foam or expanded backing.

1A.4- Concrete Subfloors

Gerflor GFT backed vinyl can be installed 100% loose-lay with no adhesive direct to any concrete subfloor, self-levelling screed floor or sand cement screed floor. If the floor construction is in accordance with BS8204-1 you will not require a smoothing compound or levelling compound. The concrete slab must be constructed with good building practices and have an intact vapour barrier installed. Moisture content shall not exceed 90% relative humidity as determined by BSEN 8203-2004. Paint does not have to be removed, sanded or covered by a patching compound. Fill cracks, holes, saw cuts or imperfections that are larger and/or deeper than 3 mm with a patching compound (Ardex Feather Finish or similar).

1A.5- Heated Floors

Gerflor GFT backed vinyl can be installed directly over different types of heated floors that comply with local building codes. The floor temperature should never exceed 27°C. The heating system must be turned off for 48 hours before and only turned on gradually 48 hours after all work is completed.

1B- installation

1B.1- Prior to Installation

Check all roll labels to verify the product type, colour, thickness and quantity matches the order. Check the batch to avoid differences in shade from one roll to another. If the customer has retained a sample, check against the sample.

Unroll the floor covering, loosely trim it in, and allow it to acclimatise at a temperature between 15°C and 27°C (ideally 22°C) for a period of at least 24 hours. Some indentations caused during transport may be visible for longer than 24 hours. Whilst the sheet is rolled out inspect in a well-lit area for defects or differences in shading. If any problems are apparent do not proceed, please contact Gerflor customer service on 01926 622600.

1B.2- Layout

a) Allow the flooring to relax. If the substrate is wood, ensure the textile backing moves freely. Starting from the middle of the room, push the air pockets or waves towards the walls with a cork board or a 3 section 35 kg roller. When the flooring is well relaxed cut the material at the perimeter of the room, allowing a 1mm expansion gap. For a uniform gap and ease of installation a Gerflor Romus Hi-tech Trimmer is the perfect tool.

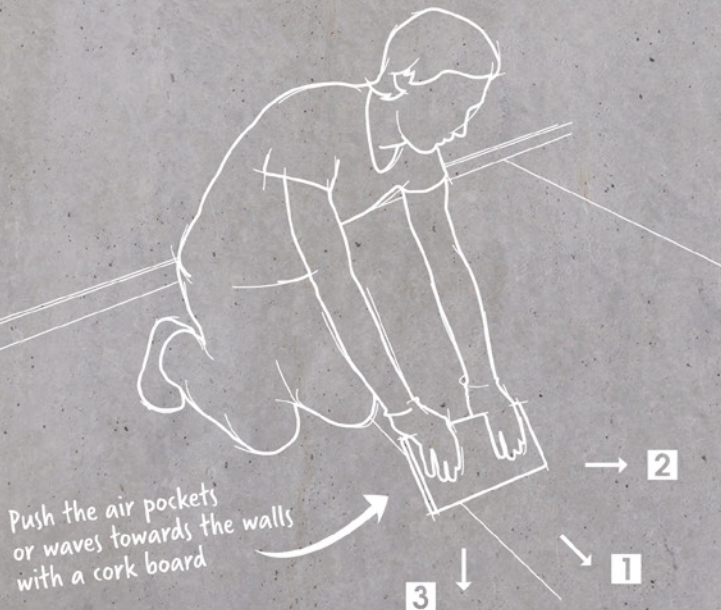
b) Inspect the flooring for undulations or any remaining apparent sub-floor defects and correct.

1B.3- Appliance/ Rolling Equipment Loads

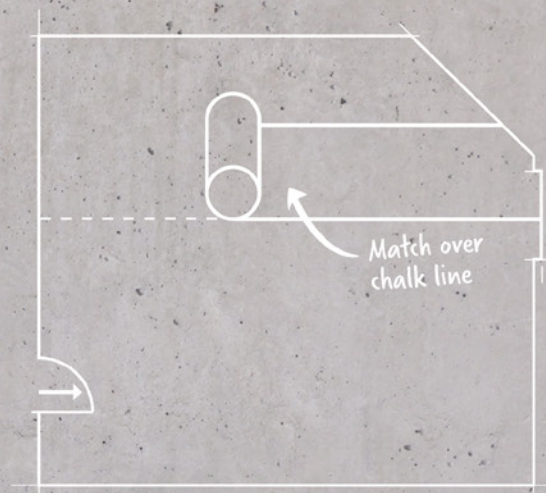
Secure the flooring using double sided adhesive tape 10 cm wide (Romus #98040, Gerflor Fix & Free 100 or similar) underneath the floor covering in front of all appliances, rolling equipment and doorways.

1B.4- Loose-lay Seam Preparation

a) When exceeding the roll width, carefully measure the floor and mark a chalk line where the seams of the flooring will fall. In the case of wood subfloors, make sure that the flooring seams will not fall directly on top of the substrate seams; **where possible, allow a minimum of 15 cm between flooring seams and subfloor seams.** Verify pattern line up and shading and determine if the sheet should be turned or reversed to obtain a better overall look. Remove excess material.

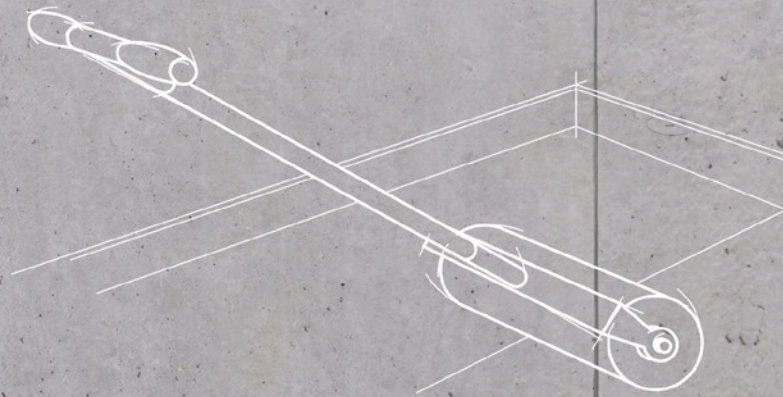


b) Cut seams before tape or glue is applied. Place 10 cm wide double sided tape (Romus #98040, Gerflor Fix & Free 100 or similar) centred along the chalk line. The bottom layer of release paper should remain, except for the 15 cm nearest the wall which can be fixed to the substrate. Remove the top release paper. It is not recommended to adhere the joint to the substrate as the flooring must be allowed to float freely.



c) Position flooring into place, fold over the first sheet on the double sided adhesive tape. Apply the second sheet to the side of the first sheet without leaving a gap. Once in place roll the seam using a hand roller for better adhesion. Repeat with the balance of the surface to be covered.

d) Trim when the product is well settled, leaving a minimum 1 mm gap around all fixtures.



e) After installation, roll the entire surface using a 3 section 35 kg roller.

f) Use caulking (Sikaflex or similar, not silicone) at the edge of the flooring to bath, shower stalls, toilets or pipes.

g) Trims or mouldings should not hinder movement of the floor covering. Do not nail into the floor covering.

h) Complete the cold welding of the seams as per Section 3 Seam Sealing.

Fully adhered / glued down



2A- Inspection and preparation

GFT products can be adhered using a full spread installation, directly over concrete substrate, approved plywood substrate, or well-adhered ceramic tiles.

All substrates should be flat, dry, hard, clean and free from all contaminants. Prior to installation, inspect the subfloor for any cracks, bumps, rough areas or any level differences that could show through the material. GFT products will not hide variations in height. When the substrate is porous, applying a coat of primer to improve adhesion is recommended. Remove skirtings or mouldings. Substrates must be vacuumed prior to installation.

2A.1- Timber Subfloors

For a full spread installation, do not use substrates such as chipboard, particleboard, hardwood planks or other types containing adhesives that can cause flooring discolouration. Overlay these substrates with a minimum 6 mm plywood underlay.

Inspect for defects. All seams, edges and nail heads should be flush, patched, and sanded. Seams and cracks should be filled with patching compound or a quality underlayment (ARDEX, Feather Finish or similar). Installing resilient flooring over wood substrates will not diminish or prevent possible protrusion of the wood joints through the resilient flooring.

If using a plywood subfloor, select first quality, BS EN 636-1:1993, approved structural plywood of at least 18 mm thick, and install according to manufacturer recommendations.

2A.2- Ceramic Tiles

Smooth surfaces with an approved floor leveller. Fill seams, grout and cracks with a patching compound (ARDEX, Feather Finish or similar).

2A.3- Concrete Subfloors

The concrete slab must be constructed using good building practices, have an intact vapour barrier installed, and a tolerance of 4 mm in a 2 m length at any point. Concrete should be dry to a maximum of 75% relative humidity when tested with the in-situ probe method. Some adhesives may be suited for use at higher relative humidity, check the manufacturer's recommendations. Repair any visible defects on the surface such as cracks, bumps, rough areas or variations in evenness. Clean any grease, oil, paint, marker, spills, dust or any contamination that may adversely affect the adhesion of the flooring or leach through the

flooring. Sanding the substrate will be mandatory in many cases, especially in areas where the substrate has been contaminated with foreign products. It may be necessary to scarify concrete surfaces to remove existing adhesives, paint or other surface applied materials.

2A.4- Heated Floors

Gerflor GFT backed vinyl can be installed directly over different types of heated floors that comply with local building codes. The floor temperature should never exceed 27°C. The heating system must be turned off for 48 hours before and only turned on gradually 48 hours after all work is completed.

2B- installation

2B.1- Adhesives

Depending on the substrate or end user requirements, use a tackifier type adhesive or acrylic type adhesive such as F44 (or similar). Follow the manufacturer's recommendations with regards to spread rate, open and set up time. Clean adhesive while wet with a clean cloth and water. If adhesive has dried on the surface wipe gently with a clean cloth and mineral turpentine.

2B.2- Prior to Installation

Check all roll labels to verify product type, colour, thickness and quantity matches to the order. Check the batch to avoid shading problems from one roll to another. If the customer has retained a sample, check against the sample.

Store the GFT product in the area in which it is to be laid at a room temperature between 15°C and 27°C for at least 24 hours. Unroll the flooring and inspect in a well-lit area to ensure that the surface and backing are free of manufacturing defects or apparent product flaws. Do not install product with defects.

2B.3- Layout

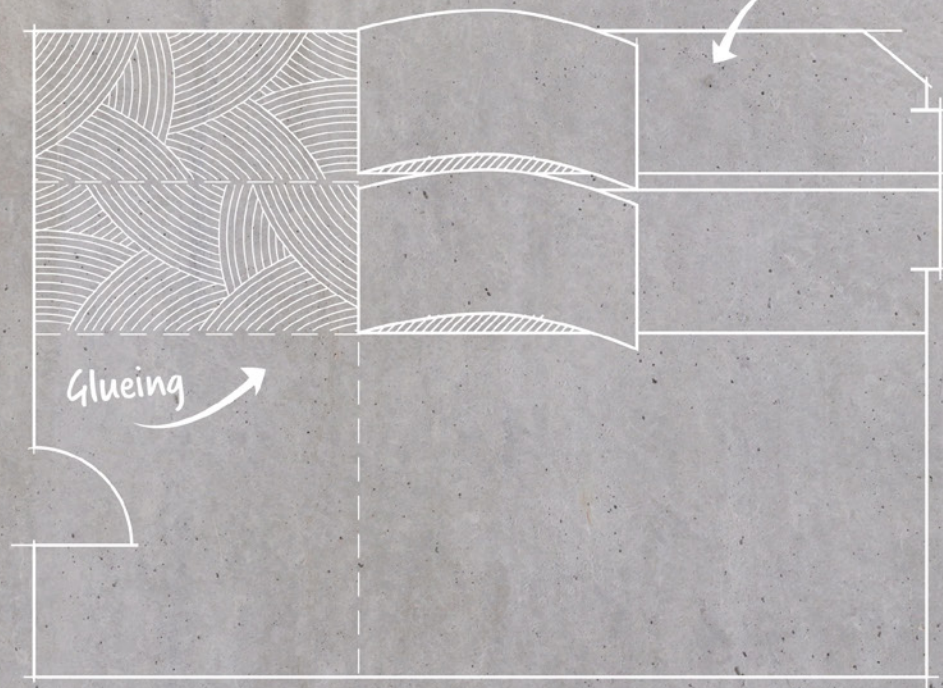
a) To avoid the appearance of air pockets or waves in the flooring after its installation, lightly lift and shake to loosen the material. Make sure the backing floats freely and slides on the substrate.

b) Starting from the middle of the room push the air pockets or waves towards the walls with a cork tool or a 3 section 35 kg roller. Loosely trim it in.

2B.4- Fully Adhered / Glued Down

a) When exceeding roll width, verify pattern line up and if the sheet needs to be reversed or not. Carefully measure the floor and mark out with a chalk line where the seams of the flooring will eventually fall. In the case of wood substrate, make sure that the flooring seams won't fall directly on top of the substrate seams. Allow a minimum of 15 cm between flooring and substrate seams.

Ensure the vinyl is cut to the required size and completely installed as per a loose-lay installation. Once you are happy with the layout and finish of the vinyl, please proceed with the fully adhered installation, section b.



b) Fold back a workable section of the material and expose the substrate and the chalk line. Apply adhesive according to manufacturer recommendations.

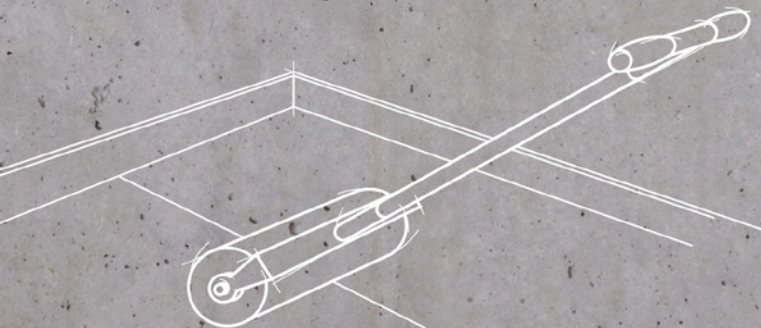
c) When the adhesive has set, fold over the first sheet into the adhesive. Apply the second sheet to the side of the first sheet without leaving a gap. Once in place, roll the seam using a hand roller for better adhesion. Repeat with the other section. Proceed with the final trimming.

d) Immediately roll the entire surface crossways with a 3 section 35 kg roller. Minimise foot traffic for at least 48 hours.

e) Use caulking at the edge of the flooring to baths, shower stalls, toilets or pipes.

f) Clean any remaining adhesive traces with mineral spirits and avoid walking directly on the seam.

g) Complete the cold welding of the seams as per **Section 3 Seam Sealing**.



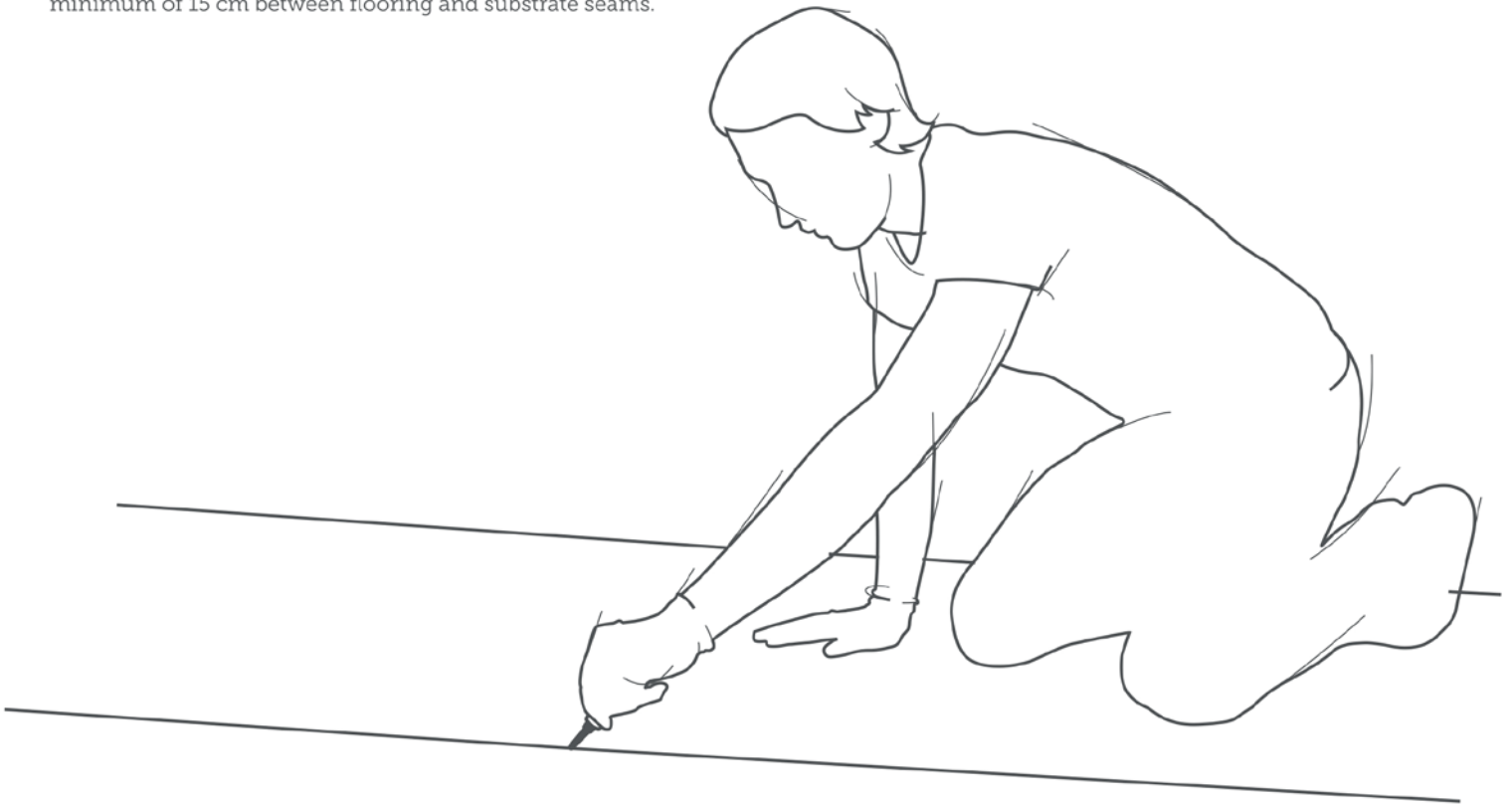


3A- preparation

The Romus #95650 (Gerflor SG 916 or similar) cold welding liquid seaming technique is designed for Gerflor GFT backed products. With proper use, this cold seaming technique will completely fuse the flooring together throughout the full thickness leaving a uniform and solid look. Romus #95650 (Gerflor SG 916 or similar) is a clear liquid seam sealer that can be used with any colour. It will take one hour to harden completely. Wait 24 hours before washing the seam.

3A.1- Pattern Match

Ensure the pattern lines up and if the sheet needs to be reversed or not. Carefully measure the floor and mark out with a chalk line where the seams of the flooring will eventually fall. In the case of wood substrate, make sure that the flooring seams won't fall directly on top of the substrate seams. Where possible allow a minimum of 15 cm between flooring and substrate seams.

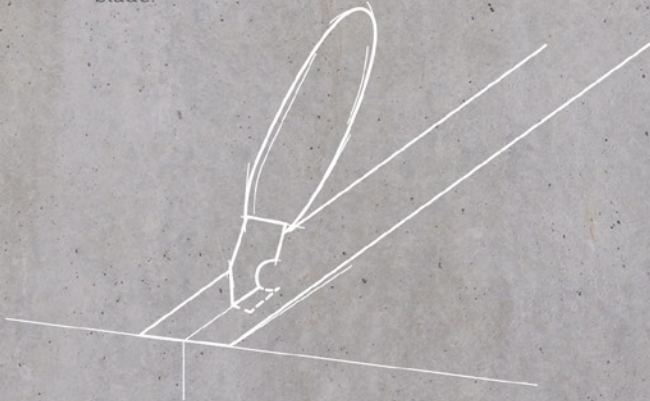


3B- installation

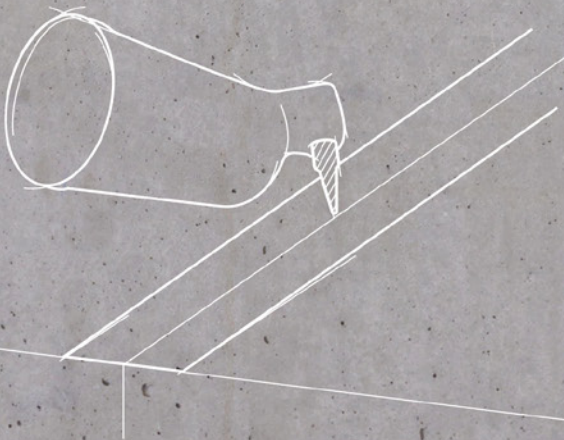
3B.1- Cover seam with a high quality (blue) masking tape.



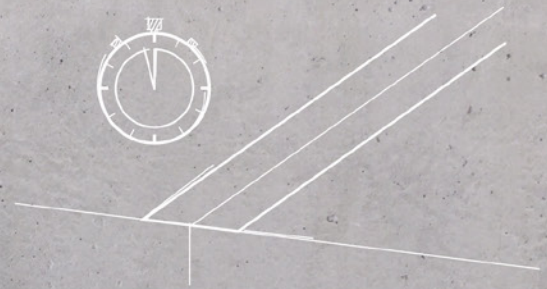
3B.2- Cut masking tape at the seam using a knife with a new blade.



3B.3- Insert the needle into the seam pulling towards you and slowly apply the liquid until it penetrates the seam and beads up onto the masking tape.



3B.4- Allow the sealer to set and dry for no more than 5 minutes.



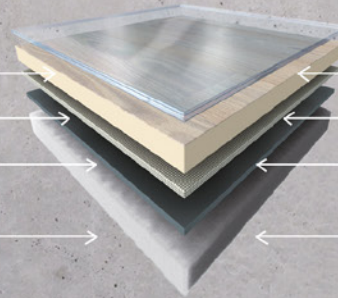
3B.5- Remove the masking tape which will also remove the excess seam sealer.



- Please remove any excess material, and leave the job clean and tidy.
- Leave a copy of the Product Maintenance Guide for the end user.

Features

- wearlayer & protective varnish / pureclean finish patterned foam
- fibreglass interlayer
- compact stability layer & anti-mould bonding layer
- technical fibre backing made of **over 95% recycled fibres**



Benefits

- ← toughness durability / stain resistance
- ← print quality / diversity / realism
- ← product strength
- ← even flooring despite unevenness of the floor / watertight
- ← acoustic comfort / can be loose-laid

Important:

- › Always refer to the BS8203 – 2004 code of practice in the installation of all resilient floor coverings.
- › Although Gerflor has designed the products to be installed loose-lay with no sub floor preparation, the product will not cover excess imperfections in the subfloor surface. Contractors should inspect any given subfloor to ensure its suitability for the installation of GFT backed vinyl.
- › GFT products should be installed for domestic use only.
- › Allow the GFT product to acclimatise at a temperature between 15 and 28°C in the installation area for at least 24 hours before installation. Product to be loose laid should be unrolled for this period.
- › Before installation inspect the sheet in a well-lit area for any defects, damage, or differences in shading. If problems are apparent do not proceed and contact Gerflor customer service. Gerflor will not be responsible for installation cost claims where flooring was installed with obvious defects.
- › The subfloor should be flat, hard, dry, clean and free from all contaminates.
- › Metal or timber frames and timber subfloors may move following construction or expand and contract due to changes in climatic conditions.
- › For a loose-lay installation over a rough wood substrate sand and, if needed, skim coat the entire area with a floor leveller to ensure the textile backing moves freely.
- › A full spread / direct stick installation may be more appropriate for certain site or building conditions (such as wide temperature variations) or customer usage.
- › Leave a GFT Product Maintenance Guide for the end user.

