INSTALLATION GUIDE FOR SHEET FLOORING HOMOGENEOUS AND MULTILAYERED

This guide outlines recommended procedures for installing commercial sheet vinyl flooring in accordance with current Australian Standard (AS 1884 Floor coverings - Resilient sheet and tiles - Installation practices). Following these steps will promote a high-quality and durable installation. It is recommended that subfloor preparation and resilient flooring installations be completed by a competent and professional installer.

This product is for internal use only - it is not suitable for outdoor use or areas subjected to continually wet conditions.

1. PRE INSTALLATION & MATERIAL PREPARATION

- Confirm the product is the correct type, colour, batch number and quantity as ordered.
- Inspect the materials in a well-lit area, checking for any obvious manufacturing or visual defects. Do not install material that has visible defects or damage. A contractor who installs material with visible defects or damages assumes full responsibility for that material.
- The product must be acclimatised and conditioned to the installation and expected service conditions for a period of no less than 24 hours.
- The installation area temperature should be stable and maintained between 15°C and 28°C for a minimum of 24 hours prior to, during and a minimum of 24 hours post-installation (or as per adhesive manufacturers recommendations).
- Never install the material if the temperature in the room is less than 15°C as per current AS 1884. HVAC systems where available should be operational during the acclimatisation, installation and post-installation periods.
- The substrate, products and installation area must not be exposed to direct sunlight during the acclimatisation, installation and post-installation periods.

2. SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS & PREPARATION

Subfloors must be prepared in accordance with the recommendations outlined in the current AS 1884. The condition of the subfloor is a critical factor that significantly influences both the final aesthetic and the long-term serviceability of the floor covering.
The subfloor must be flat, smooth, clean, dry and structurally sound. It should be free from any contaminants like oils, wax, grease, dust, paints and old adhesive. Contaminants may affect the adhesive from bonding to the subfloor and can cause discolouration in the vinyl.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Concrete subfloors must be fully cured and completely dry.
- A moisture test should always be conducted in accordance with current AS 1884 before installation. The relative humidity (RH) or Moisture Vapour Emission Rate (MVE) of the concrete slab must not exceed the prescribed limitations set under the current AS 1884, or as specified by the underlayment and adhesive manufacturers.
- Where the RH or MVE results exceed the prescribed limitations set in current AS 1884, or in the underlayment or adhesive manufacturers recommendations, a suitable moisture mitigation system must be included and applied to the subfloor as part of the complete flooring system. The selected moisture mitigation system must be installed to the manufacturers installation guides and work method statement(s).
- The concrete surface must be level, smooth and solid, with no abrupt deviations. When a 2000mm straightedge is placed in any position, resting on any two points, no part of the surface should be more than 4mm below the straightedge.
- Any contaminants that may affect the bond between the flooring system and the substrate must be completely removed by mechanical methods (such as diamond grinding or shot blasting) before any floor preparation or installation begins.
- If the surface is not suitable, it must be repaired / prepared by application of a cementitious underlayment system according to the underlayment manufacturer's instructions.
- Note: Sand cement screeds can be difficult to identify and can be mistaken for more traditional cement-based products. Sand cement subfloors are not considered an acceptable subfloor for installation of resilient floor coverings as stipulated in current AS 1884. These forms of subfloors do not possess the required tensile and compressive strength for resilient floor covering installation. Existing sand cement subfloors should be removed to base; the exposed subfloor must then be assessed and prepared in accordance with current AS 1884.

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HEATED SUBFLOORS

- When installing flooring systems over heated subfloors, ensure the surface temperature does not exceed 28°C, as higher temperatures may cause discolouration or damage to the flooring materials.
- Always confirm that all components of the flooring system including but not limited to the underlayment, adhesive and preparation products are compatible with underfloor heating systems.
- The underfloor heating system must be commissioned and fully operational for at least seven (7) days before installation begins.
- Switch the heating system off 48 hours prior to installation to allow the subfloor to return to ambient temperature.
- The heating must remain off during installation and for a minimum of 48 hours afterward, or longer if required by the adhesive manufacturer.
- When recommissioning the heating system, increase the temperature gradually, no more than 2°C per day, until reaching the desired operating level, not exceeding 28°C. Do not allow the heating system to reach maximum operating conditions within the first Seven (7) days after installation.

TIMBER SUBFLOORS

- Subfloor moisture testing should always be conducted before installation, as stipulated in the current AS 1884. Where the moisture results exceed the limitations of AS 1884 or manufacturer's instructions. Further investigation and corrective actions to resolve the moisture should be taken prior to installation of the flooring system.
- New Timber Subfloors: Ensure new timber subfloors are rigid, structurally sound and made from seasoned timber that is free from excessive cupping and warping.
- Old Timber Subfloors: Any loose boards must be re-nailed, and badly worn or damaged boards should be replaced.
- Surface Preparation: All timber floors must be sanded or planed to a smooth level finish without undulations.
- All timber subfloors must provide a minimum clearance of 400mm and include adequate ventilation openings to ensure effective cross ventilation beneath the structure, in accordance with current AS, the NCC and relevant state or territory legislation.
- Underlayment Installation: Timber subfloors should be treated with an appropriate underlayment system as defined in the current AS 1884. Underlayment systems must be installed to the requirement set out in the current AS 1884 and the underlayment manufacturers system specifications, installation instructions and work method statements.
- Note: Installation of underlayment systems, underlayment sheet joins may show through the finished floor covering under certain lighting conditions, this is NOT a manufacturing fault or defect.

OTHER SUBFLOORS

- Existing Floor Coverings: Existing floor coverings including adhesives and underlayment's should be removed before installation of new floor coverings and or systems. The exposed subfloor must then be assessed and prepared in accordance with current AS 1884.
- Other Subfloors: For installation of resilient floor coverings over other or specialised subfloors including but not limited to Steel, Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC), Ceramic Tiles, High-density Polyurethane Composite, Structural Fibre Cement Sheet or Structural Plywood, please consult with the underlayment and adhesive manufacturers for compatibility, system specifications and work method statements.
- Acoustic or Specialty Underlayments: For installations using acoustic underlayment or other specialty underlayment methods, please contact the underlayment or adhesive supplier directly for system specifications, compatibility, installation guides and work method statements for use with resilient floor coverings.

3. INSTALLATION

Once the product has acclimatised and conditioned to the installation environment, and the subfloor has been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined above, as well as those of the underlay/underlayment manufacturers and current AS 1884 standards, the floor covering installation may proceed.

SET OUT

- All Gerflor vinyl sheets must be installed in the same laying direction, except for the Taralay Impression, Taralay Emotion and Tarasafe Super, which is installed in reverse direction; however, within the Taralay Impression and Taralay Emotion ranges, wood and tile designs must still be laid in the same direction. Installers should lay the sheets side by side, step back to review the overall appearance, and adjust if necessary.

SET OUT (CONTINUED)

- Vinyl sheet directions and seams/join positions should always be approved by the client before installation.
- Seams and cross joins should be kept away from areas of heavy traffic or heavy load.
- Within rooms, sheets should run towards the main light source and/or the length of the room.
- Within corridors, sheets should be laid in the direction of the pedestrian traffic unless otherwise stated in specifications.
- Mark a longitudinal axis with chalk line for reference to place sheets.
- Cut the sheet to length and lay them out. Leave an extra 30mm at the edges for trimming. The first sheet will be laid along the longitudinal axis.
- Leave a gap of 1cm between every sheet to allow full acclimation. Let material relax for 24 hours to fully release tension of the material.

4. ADHESIVE SELECTION, APPLICATION AND FITTING

Once the product has acclimatised and conditioned to the installation environment, and the subfloor has been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined above, as well as those of the underlay/underlayment manufacturers and current AS 1884 standards, the floor covering installation may proceed. Selecting the correct adhesive is crucial to ensuring the long-term performance and durability of the floor covering. The installation area should be assessed for environmental and climatic conditions that the flooring will encounter. For standard installation environments a Hard Set adhesive should be used. In locations subject to, but not limited to, direct sunlight, significant temperature fluctuations, or high levels of topical moisture, a specialty adhesive with heat- and moisture-resistant properties must be used.

Gerflor accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage, or claims arising from the use of an incorrect installation method, adhesive system, or if the adhesive manufacturer's instructions are not fully adhered to.

Please refer to Gerflor's Recommended Adhesives Guide for general area adhesives and specialty area adhesives that have been tested and confirmed as compatible for use with Gerflor products.

Always carefully read and follow the selected adhesive manufacturer's instructions for areas of use, application rates, coverage and installation. The adhesive manufacturer's instructions supersede Gerflor's recommendations.

- Hard-set adhesive is to be applied with a V1 notched trowel or as prescribed by the adhesive manufacturer.
- Ensure the substrate is clean and free from contaminants or debris that may compromise the adhesive bond.
- Apply the adhesive using the appropriate applicator and coverage rate as prescribed by the adhesive manufacturer. Observe the adhesive's open time and working time.
- Allow the adhesive to develop initial tack. The waiting time will vary depending on site conditions and subfloor type. Installing too early may cause bubbling, slipping or excessive adhesive oozing, while installing too late may result in poor adhesive transfer and a weak bond.
- Carefully lay and position the vinyl sheet into the adhesive, avoid dropping or sliding the products into the adhesive.
- Do not apply more adhesive than can be covered within the adhesive's working time. Divide the installation area into manageable sections.
- Once a section has been laid, immediately roll the installed vinyl sheet in both directions using a minimum 45 kg roller. For perimeters or confined spaces, a hand roller may be used.
- Periodically lift the vinyl sheet from the installed area to check adhesive transfer and ensure trowel lines are fully depressed. This also confirms that the installation is occurring within the adhesive's open and working times.
- Re-roll the entire installed area approximately 90 minutes after fitting the vinyl sheet into the wet adhesive film.
- Remove any adhesive from the surface in accordance with the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations.
- If the sheets are to be hot welded, leave an approximate 0.5 mm gap between sheets to allow proper guidance of the grooving tool.
- Peripheral trimming: Using a sharp knife, cut the vinyl sheet precisely along the walls and fixtures for a clean, tight fit.

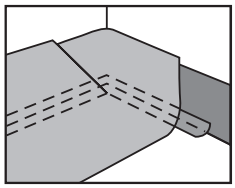
For adhesive recommendations, please scan this QR code to view our Recommended Adhesives Guide.

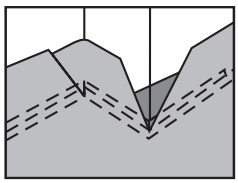
5. COVING

In areas exposed to running water, coving shall extend up the wall to a minimum height of 150 mm.

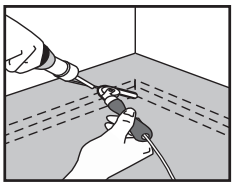
The coving is adhered with water-based contact adhesive or high-strength double sided-tape designed for covings (in accordance with the adhesive manufacturer). We do not recommend solvent-based contact adhesive.

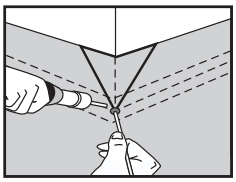
- Mark a horizontal reference line on the wall at the specified height. The line should be positioned 15 or 20 mm above the finished floor level, depending on the type of cove fillet used.
- Apply the appropriate adhesive or double-sided tape along the marked line on the wall.
- Install the cove fillet and apply adhesive or double-sided tape to the cove fillet surface as required.
- Bond and secure the flooring material onto the cove fillet and up the wall to the specified height. To ensure proper adhesion, particularly on the cove fillet and in corner areas, it is recommended to gently heat the material using a heat gun.
- For internal angles, the product should be cut at 45°.





- For external corners, create a 45° butterfly cut. Fold the material tightly around each side of the corner and install an infill piece to fully wrap and finish the corner.
- Open and groove the joint using a triangular groover, following the instructions outlined in Section 7 – Welding.
- Weld all angles using a speed welding nozzle. Finish the corners using either a pressure ball or an angle-finishing nozzle.





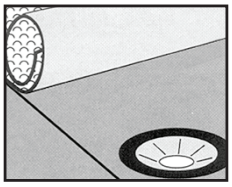
- Once the welding rod has fully cooled, trim it in two stages using the Mozart trimming tool to achieve a clean, smooth finish.

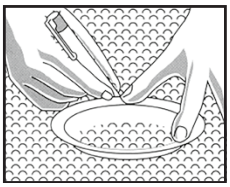
6. FLOOR WASTE

Push-in vinyl sheet floor waste shall be fitted when installing in showers or wet-areas. The floor waste is supplied and fitted by the plumber at finished concrete slab level.

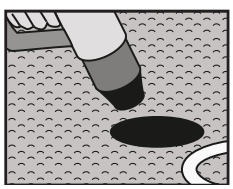
Welds shall be positioned at a minimum of 300mm distance from the waste. Contact adhesive shall be used around the waste.

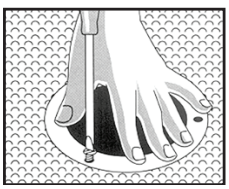
- Remove the grate and clamp ring. Set both components aside for reinstallation.
- Roll and glue the vinyl into place in the room.
- Smooth it flat over the waste area and find the centre of the waste by pressing your fingers.





- Make a small X-shaped cut at the centre of the waste opening. Slowly trim outward, working carefully around the waste (The inner circle of the clamp ring may be used as a cutting template).
- Carefully heat the material and position into place.
- Reinstall the clamp ring and fasten it securely with the screws.





7. HOT WELDING

Hot welding shall only be carried out at least 24 hours after gluing.

GROOVING/CHAMFERING

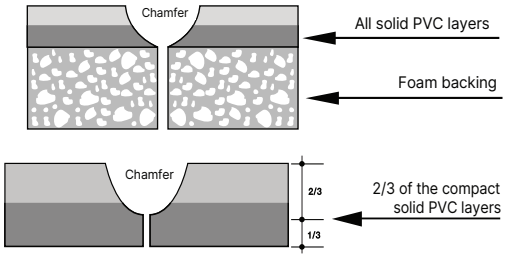
- A maximum gap of 0.5 mm should be left between sheets prior to the grooving process.

Triangular Scraper

Linéa

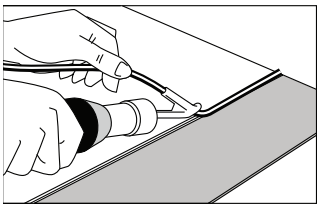
Master Turbo

- Using a grooving tool or machine, groove about 2/3 of the thickness of the material.
- Comfort products (foam backing) are grooved to the foam.



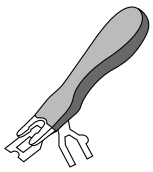
WELDING

- Using a hot air welding gun and a speed welding nozzle, heat the rod and feed it into the grooved seam, ensuring it melts and fuses with both edges of the vinyl.
- The temperature and speed must be controlled to prevent burning the vinyl.
- Note: Always practice on a left-over piece of material first to assure proper temperature and speed.



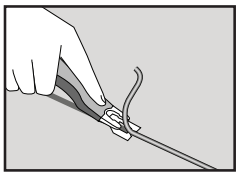
TRIMMING

- Using a trimming tool sharp in the middle, such as Mozart, is recommended.
- A hot weld shall be flush, even and impervious, free from burns, scalping and crazing.
- Trimming must be done in two stages:

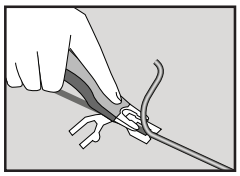


Mozart, Ref. 95310 by ROMUS
Spare blade Ref. 95129

- First step: First trim must be done with the thickness guide.



- Second step: Must be done when the weld rod is cold. Second trim must be done with the trimmer only (without thickness guide).



8. POST INSTALLATION

- Maintain the environmental conditions described in the Pre Installation and Preparation section of this document for a minimum 24hrs post installation (or as required by the adhesive manufacturer).
- Remove all waste and offcuts and sweep the floor with a soft bristle broom. The floor surface can be cleaned with a damp mop and a pH Neutral vinyl floor cleaning solution in the first 48 hrs.

8. POST INSTALLATION (CONTINUED)

- Always protect the floor with thick paper, heavy duty cardboard or similar during the construction period.
- Restrict general pedestrian traffic for 24 hours after installation.
- Do not allow rolling loads and or moving of heavy items of furniture over the floor for 72 hours after installation.
- Ensure that the furniture legs are suitable for vinyl flooring. where required fit felt floor protectors to furniture legs, do not use rubber end caps as rubber can cause discolouration to the floor.

9. GERNERAL INFORMATION & MAINTENANCE

The ongoing maintenance and protection of the floor covering post installation is the first line of defence to maintain the aesthetic and the long-term serviceability of the floor covering.

- Gerflor recommends the use of entrance mats to help reduce and minimise dirt, grit, sand, other abrasive contaminants and moisture being tracked onto the floor surface. Avoid mats with rubber backing, as they may cause staining.
- Keep floors free from dirt, grit, sand and other abrasive materials that may be tracked onto the surface. Regular sweeping or vacuuming is recommended to remove loose contaminants, as these can cause surface scratching.
- Adopt periodic cleaning methods and schedules appropriate to the environment and the level of use the floor covering experiences. High-traffic areas may require more thorough and frequent cleaning than low-traffic areas.
- Do not use general household cleaners unless they are specifically designed for vinyl floors. Avoid strong alkaline, ammonia or chlorine-based detergents, as well as any form of bleach, as these may cause discolouration or make the floor slippery.
- Do not use abrasive pads or cleaners, as these may result in surface scratching.
- Do not use steam or heat mops when cleaning the floor. High temperatures and moisture can damage the surface, weaken the adhesive bond and potentially affect the subfloor.
- Clean up spills as soon as possible to reduce the risk of slipping and staining.
- Avoid sliding or dragging furniture or other objects across the floor. Use floor protector pads to prevent scratching.
- Use large castor cups or other protective measures to prevent indentation from heavy furniture.
- Gerflor does not warrant against fading caused by exposure to UV light. Areas exposed to direct sunlight should be protected with curtains, blinds or window tinting to reduce the effects of ultraviolet light.