

[301_{v2.1}] Installation instructions for Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Compact or Acoustic rolls

CONDITIONS

SUBSTRATES

ACCESSORIES

INSTALLATION

This installation guideline is dedicated to GBI subsidiary.
These instructions apply to the installation of:

HOMOGENEOUS VINYL SHEET FLOORING

HETEROGENEOUS VINYL SHEET FLOORING (including compact and acoustic products)

They are intended for use in commercial and public buildings and must be read alongside:

- BS 8203:2017 & BS8204-1:2003
- CFA Guide to Contract Flooring
- Gerflor product-specific technical datasheets
- Gerflor PMO 101 - Installation site conditions and subfloors
- Gerflor PMO 201 - Laying directions and installation guidelines

MATERIAL INSPECTION

- Rolls are clearly marked with batch numbers and the product should be checked for a match before installing
- Inspect all materials carefully to verify that the correct colours, Batch number, patterns, quality and quantities have been shipped as ordered. Do not install, cut, or fit any material that has visible defects
- A contractor who installs material that has visible defects or damage without the prior consent of Gerflor deems the product acceptable for installation and therefore accepts full responsibility

NOTE: For the laying direction, refer to instruction guidelines [201]. Lay the rolls out flat 24 hours prior to installation.

Depending on the design, it might be necessary to cut the roll edges (1,5 cm). In that case, make a double cut.

LAYING CONDITIONS

SUBSTRATE EVENNESS	Minimum SR2	At least SR2 (max 5mm deviation over 2m). Recommended SR1 (max 3mm deviation over 2m) where higher finishing tolerances are required by the end user. Must comply with BS 8203 Section 6.
STORAGE	On dry substrate in closed and ventilated room	Avoid stacking that may cause deformation.
LAYING TEMPERATURE	10°C < T° substrate < 27°C 18°C < T° room < 27°C	The laying area should be at a steady temperature between 18°C & 27°C for at least 48 hours prior to, during and for at least 24 hours after completion. The minimum subfloor temperature should be 10°C.
FIRST USE	Allow 24 hours before light foot traffic. Before moving or installing furniture, allow 72 hours.	

USAGE CONDITIONS

USAGE TEMPERATURE	10°C < T < 30°C	
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For more detail on installation & site conditions, including suitable substrates and recommended preparation, please read document 101 Installation Site Conditions & Subfloors, available on the Gerflor.co.uk website. This document can be read alongside BS8203, BS8204 and the CFA Guide to contract flooring.

SUBSTRATE

CONDITIONS

For installing this floor covering

SUBSTRATE		CONDITIONS
Cementitious floor, levelling compound, cement based screed, anhydrite (calcium sulphate)-based screed	✓	On a new concrete subfloor, which has an integral and effective damp-proof membrane the relative humidity of the subfloor for concrete floor and anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds should be below 75%RH (tested in accordance with BS8203 Annex A). In most cases, a liquid DPM, compliant to BS8203, can be used to control moisture readings above 75%RH. On older ground bearing concrete floors which do not have a base damp proof membrane a moisture mitigation system must be used prior to installing. Mechanical preparation may be required to remove surface laitance, curing compounds, sealers or old adhesive before applying a suitable smoothing underlayment. All existing movement joints must be continued through the floor finish and must not be bridged. A suitable expansion trim can be installed to bridge the gap.
Wood plank flooring on battens, ventilated underneath	✓	Keep ventilation underneath. After treatment of any possible defects on the substrate (unevenness, open joints between strips or overlay with flooring grade plywood of a minimum 5.5mm thickness. Plywood to confirm to BS EN 636 and Annex A of the BS8203:2017), apply a primer and a fiber-reinforced levelling compound.
Wood-based substrates and panels on joists or battens ventilated underneath	✓	Apply a suitable flexible smoothing compound or overlay with flooring grade plywood of a minimum 5.5mm thickness. Plywood to confirm to BS EN 636 and Annex A of the BS8203:2017.
OSB must be overlaid with 5.5mm flooring grade plywood	✓	
Laminate flooring, floating parquet or Wood blocks	✗	Remove and prepare the underlying substrate as required.
Glued PVC tiles		
Glued compact PVC / rubber / linoleum floorings	✓	Remove and prepare the underlying substrate as required
Floor painting or resins		
Vinyl Asbestos Tiles	✓	Safely remove following local safety guidelines and prepare the underlying substrate as required.
Ceramic tiles	✓	After application of a smoothing compound. Ensure tiles are fully bonded and repair any loose tiles first. If more than 10% of the area is loose, fully remove and prepare the underlying substrate as required.
Acoustic underlayers		Contact Gerflor technical support for guidance ?
Textile floor covering (carpet)		
Textile-backing PVC floorings (loose lay)		
Glued foam backed PVC floorings, Glued foam backed Linoleum floorings	✗	Remove and prepare the underlying substrate as required.
Rubber on foam		
Any non-adhesive or partially adherent flooring		
Underfloor heating with circulating water, max 27°C substrate surface temperature	✓	Ensure the system is fully commissioned before installation. Shut down 48h before laying then gradual heating 48h after installation. Over internally heated subfloors providing they are dry, ie 75% RH or less.
Radiant electric underfloor heating	✓	Maximum 27°C at the glue line. Encapsulated under a smoothing compound.
Raised Access Flooring	!	Consult Gerflor technical for advice, as additional substrate preparation may be required.

For any substrates that are not mentioned, please contact Gerflor technical services for advice. Substrates should comply with the information found in BS8203:2017. For any information on product properties and usages, please refer to its technical datasheet: www.gerflor.co.uk

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INSTALLATION ACCESSORIES

Welding rod 4mm - CR 40 - ref. 0585XXXX
Cove formers - ref. 4011 (20×20) ; 4012 (32×32) ; 4014 (38×38)

FINISHES

Semi-rigid vynaflex skirtings - Ref. 0483 (60 mm height); 0477 (100 mm height)

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INSTALLING AND POSITIONING THE FLOOR COVERING

ACCLIMATISATION :

- Sweep and vacuum the surface thoroughly.
 - Unroll and lay the rolls flat in the room where they will be installed. It is recommended that all rolls must be back rolled after being cut to length to remove tension out of the product.
 - Check that the edge of the roll is straight: align the edge of the roll with the center axis of the room so that you have a reference point.
 - Leave 1 cm between each length to allow the material to acclimatise to the room in its length and width. If there is not enough space you can lay out two rolls, one on top of the other.
 - **Allow the unrolled material to relax for a minimum 24 hours along with adhesive, weld rods and any other accessories.**
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INSTALLATION TIPS :

- Where possible, joints between lengths should be positioned in areas where there will not be too much heavy traffic. Avoid cross joints where possible.
 - You should always try to orientate the lengths towards the main light source where practical.
 - In corridors, the lengths will be positioned in the direction of the main traffic unless otherwise specified.
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FLOOR COVERING POSITIONING :

- Mark the installation's reference axis on the floor (using a pencil or chalk).
 - Position the first roll along the reference axis and position the other rolls edge to edge. Leave a gap of 0.5 to 1 mm between each length. If both edges are not straight, due to substrate unevenness, or damaged during transport, edges should be overlapped by 20mm and cut to form a tight joint.
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ADHESIVE

- Follow guidelines from your chosen adhesive manufacturer regarding suitability of their adhesive with the selected Gerflor product and the location it is to be installed. Most manufacturers have a recommended adhesive guide. Generally, an acrylic dispersion adhesive (wet bond or pressure-sensitive) is recommended, however in some instances more specialised adhesive is required. These include use in wet areas, heavy duty locations or where solar gain (direct sunlight) is present. Ensure compatibility with the substrate.
 - The use of an A2 notch trowel is recommended, unless specific guidance is given by the adhesive manufacturer. Ensure to follow the coverage rate.
 - Strictly follow the manufacturers guidance on priming, open time and application method.
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ADHESIVE APPLICATION

- Fold back the lengths back in half without putting pressure on the fold.
 - Apply adhesive evenly using the recommended notched trowel. If using a pressure-sensitive adhesive in a semi-wet or dry application, use a pre-wetted short pile synthetic roller to smooth out the trowel notches.
 - Observe the correct open time & working time.
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LAYING INTO ADHESIVE

- Lay the sheet into adhesive carefully to avoid trapping air.
- Use a cork smoothing board to expel air by pushing from the centre outwards (side to side).
- Roll with a 68kg roller from end-to-end and side-to-side.
- Repeat for second half. Do not overlap 2 films of glue when applying the adhesive.
- Roll the entire floor again.

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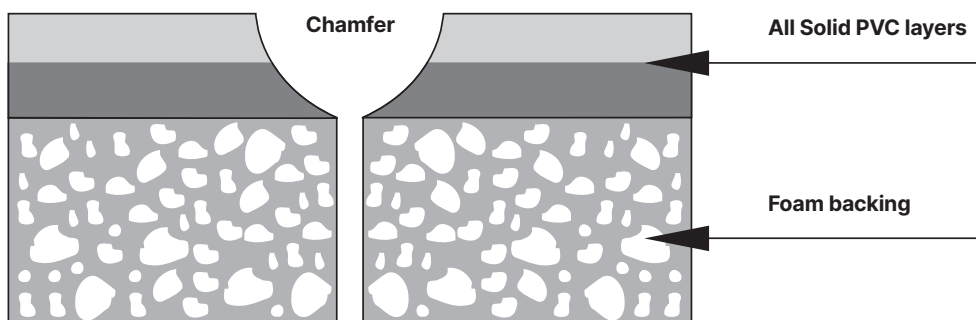
INSTALLATION

GROOVING & HOT WELDING (24-hours after gluing the rolls)

- Full details and instructions can be found in the installation document PMO 501 (tiles and rolls welding) which can be found on the Gerflor website.
- Groove the joint of the product to the correct depth as below. This can be achieved with a manual or mechanical grooving tool.

FOR ISOPHONIC AND / OR FOAMBACKING PRODUCTS

Groove all the Solid PVC layer until the fibreglass



FOR HOMOGENEOUS AND COMPACT PRODUCTS

Groove 2/3 of ALL the compact Solid PVC layers



- Ensure the correct nozzle, temperature and speed are followed. Gerflor recommend that a test weld is conducted to ensure a satisfactory weld.
- Trim the excess weld in 2 stages, using a sledge or guide.

For Contract and Sport flooring, leave a gap of a badge or credit card (0.5 to 1mm) between the strips, to allow the chamfering tool to be guided.

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FINISHES AND SINGULAR POINTS

Door thresholds can be covered :

- with threshold bars being laid over the floor covering,
- by hot welding with the floor covering next to it, if it is the same thickness and a PVC product.

Edge trimming is to be conducted leaving a micro gap left between the flooring and perimeter. This should be sealed with an MS Polymer finishing sealant or PU sealant. The application of mastics must be performed by a suitably trained and competent installer. Unless specifically agreed, this should not be assumed to be within the flooring contractor's scope of work. If necessary (wet room), edges can be caulked with MS Polymer finishing sealant or PU sealant. Wet room with wood-based substrates, anhydrite (calcium sulphate) based screed or old compact linoleum flooring needs to be treated with coving system. Ensure all other fixtures and fittings, including door frames, pipes and toilet pans are also finished in the same way.

Self-coving systems can be done following usual rules and techniques. Gradus cove former, capping and Clean Corner Systems can be used. Standard 20 mm, 32 mm and 38 mm Gerflor cove formers can be used. Follow the manufacturers installation guidelines and adhesive recommendations.

If necessary, refer to Installation Guidelines [502] – COVING SYSTEM.

PUTTING INTO SERVICE – ALLOWING TRAFFIC

After installation:

- For light pedestrian traffic, allow 24 hours
- Before moving or installing furniture, allow 72 hours
- Protect the floor covering with suitable protection, such as Correx, which will not stain the floor covering. Plywood board should be used to protect new floor coverings if heavy equipment or machinery is to be used.



For under-floor heating, do not turn on the heating for 48 hours after installing the flooring.

FURNITURE

- Ensure that the ends of chair and table legs, casters etc. are suitable for flexible flooring (PVC). We recommend the use of pads, caps or pads where necessary to limit scratching and indentation of the floor covering.
- We recommend using flat, patternless tips, with a full surface contact on the coating (avoid the use of conical tips)
- Do not use rubber end caps, rubber mats or any other rubber product directly onto a PVC floor covering. Failure to prevent this can cause plasticiser migration between the products causing irreversible yellowing of the PVC floor covering. Claims of this nature will not be accepted under the products manufacturers warranty.
- Ensure that office chairs are equipped with type H casters, in accordance with EN 12529



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CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Please ensure that the relevant Cleaning & Maintenance guideline (found on the product page of the Gerflor website) is handed to the end user. Gerflor have a variety of surface treatments applied to our flooring products during manufacturing and the correct cleaning and maintenance should be followed, ensuring the cleaning equipment, chemicals and method is respected. Failure to follow these guidelines can result in damage or staining of the floor covering which will not be covered under the products manufacturers warranty.

Prior to handover, an initial clean should be carried out (see relevant Cleaning & maintenance guide). All traces of adhesive should be removed using the method recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.

PROTECTION

Once the floor covering has been fully installed, the adhesive must be given adequate time to cure - typically a minimum of 24 hours. After this period, all leftover materials and waste should be cleared away, and the surface thoroughly cleaned by sweeping or vacuuming.

If the area needs to be used before formal handover, all sections subject to traffic should be protected with an appropriate covering. The selected protective material should be suitable for the expected level of use and should also guard against potential damage such as impact, scratching, or indentation. Where a proprietary covering with printed markings is used, it must be laid with the printed side facing upward, away from the visible surface of the floor covering.