

RUBBER INSTALLATION GUIDLINE

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1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for ordering Signature 'Flexo' rubber flooring.

In order that we mutually achieve the best possible result for your client, it is important to note our installation procedures, adhesive requirement and initial cleaning process. Ignoring any of these may result in a less than satisfactory installation or in a worst case scenario void the product warranties.

We are unable to meet ANY CLAIM where important procedures are ignored.

Signature 'Flexo' rubber flooring installations should be carried out by an experienced rubber flooring contractor and should never be assigned to people unskilled in rubber flooring installation techniques.

Please take the time to fully confirm that your order;

- Has no transport damage to any of the cartons
- Is the correct style of product, matching your order
- Is the correct colour as per your order
- Is the correct pattern
- Is the correct size
- Are the dye lots correct - Do not mix dye lots

To report any concerns with the rubber, please contact Customer Service on 1800 150 554.

Our installation instructions are to be read in conjunction with the minimum guidelines set forth in the [AS/NZS 1984-1985](#) for resilient floor coverings installation practice.

2. PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Signature 'Flexo' rubber flooring must be stocked off ground in weather-proof enclosed areas. Pallets should not be stacked on one another and cartons should not be stocked in stacks over 20 high.

Flooring tiles are packed surface to surface and back to back. This is to prevent the mould release emulsion on tile surface transferring to the sanded back of the tile; as such emulsions will impede adhesion. This point must be taken into consideration in all handling activities during installations.

Signature 'Flexo' rubber flooring products must be unpacked and placed face to face and conditioned to an ambient temperature at the actual job site of not less (14°C) to not more than (29°C) for at least 48 hours. In severe climates an 8 day conditioning period may be necessary.

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3. SUBFLOOR EVALUATION AND PREPARATION

Signature 'Flexo' rubber flooring may be installed over existing hard ceramic, wood, parquet, marble, cement flooring however the following must be considered; The subfloor must be soundly constructed, clean, dry, level, hard, consistent and capable of retaining these properties over the service span of the flooring. In all cases they need to meet the requirement of **AS/NZS 1984-1985**.

Rubber flooring installations on uneven subfloors will result in irregular joints and misaligned studs on the rubber flooring. If the subfloor is not adequately level, hard or smooth, this issue must be rectified by utilising a self-levelling compound before the installation process.

The subfloor must be free of dust, paint, polish, wax, oil, grease, bitumen, previous adhesives or similar elements that can impair adhesion. Subfloors polluted with such substances, should be thoroughly cleaned before flooring is installed, failure to do so correctly will void all warranties.

Signature rubber flooring should never be installed directly on "glazed" surfaces like ceramic tiling. Such "glazed" flooring must first be surfaced by a self levelling screed compound prior to the installation of the rubber flooring.

Prior to the installation of Signature 'Flexo' rubber flooring, small cracks, structural joints, depressions, rough areas and uneven parts of the subfloor must be repaired utilising a suitable cement, epoxy or polyurethane based filler. Likewise, all irregularities of the subfloor must be levelled by grinding / sanding. The flatness of the subfloor must be checked and ensured to be within ± 1 to 1.5 mm per meter.

2.1.1 ACCEPTABLE SUBFLOOR MOISTURE LEVEL

The concrete subfloor shall not be considered sufficiently dry if the moisture content of the subfloor exceeds 5.5 percent as determined by the apparatus testing procedures to determine the subfloor moisture level should be carried out in accordance with Australian standard **AS/NZS 1984-1985**.

2.1.2 PREPERATION FOR CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

The recommended surface grain for cement screed or concrete subfloors should be similar to ones obtained when a wooden trowel is used to level and finish the screed. Steel trowel finished cement screed or concrete floors must be adequately roughened by sanding or sand blasting to ensure proper adhesion.

2.1.3 PREPERATION FOR WOODBASED SUBFLOORS

Signature 'Flexo' Rubber Flooring should never be installed on wood subfloors that are in direct contact with concrete or cement screed subfloors, if such subfloors are not absolutely safeguarded against damp penetration. Raised wooden subfloors must have adequate under-floor ventilation. Marine Plywood subfloors must not be less than 20 mm thick, smooth, firm and with well ventilated supporting structures.

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Rubber flooring installations on particle-board or chipboard subfloors are not endorsed as they might contain volatile substances. Such subfloors must be checked for adhesion and an intermediate surface layer must be placed between them and rubber flooring when necessary.

2.1.4 USE OF HARDWOOD UNDERLAYS

If deemed necessary, a wood based surfacing material such as hardboard or fibre cement underlay should be placed between the existing subfloor and signature Rubber Flooring as an intermediate layer. In such instances the following guidelines should be followed.

The intermediate surfacing material must be at least 8 mm in thickness and placed smooth side up. The nails or screws utilised to secure the surfacing material must be at least 30 mm in length and used with metal rings. They should be closely spaced to obtain a rigid surface and must be fixed slightly below the surface.

Care should be taken to space the sheets at least 0.5 mm apart to create expansion joints. When such intermediate sheeting are placed on subfloors contaminated with adhesives, paint, mineral oils, grease, polish etc., which might emit fumes harmful to adhesion, an impervious sheeting such as polyethylene must be placed between them and the existing subfloor.

Installation of hardboard and fibre cement sheeting must be in accordance with underlay manufacturers recommendations.

2.1.5 UTILISING SELF LEVELING COMPOUNDS

In areas of normal pedestrian traffic, self-levelling screeds can be used in thickness' ranging from 5 to 30 millimeters. The appropriate type of the compound must be selected for the specific thickness. In all cases the manufacturer and supplier of the self-levelling compound, and their instructions for the safe and effective use of the product, must be followed implicitly.

A coat of primer must be applied to concrete or cement screed surfaces, prior to the utilisation of self-levelling compound.

In areas where forklifts and carts are to be operated, special grades of self-levelling screeds must be utilised.

Before applying the self levelling screed compound, care should be taken to roughen or remove the glazing of the ceramic tiles, as glazing will diminish the bonding strength of the self-levelling compound.

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2.1.6 DRY LAYING OF TILES

Sufficient light is essential. Lighting conditions must be bright enough to observe colour consistency, registration and seaming quality during dry fit inspection.

Dry fitting rubber tile is required. Dry fit an entire floor by sections, positioning the tiles point to point. Tile will display arrows on the back of each tile, lay the tile with the arrows going in the same direction.

Line up the first row of Signature Rubber tiles with a chalk line. Lay a second row again point to point. Do not pressure-fit the joints in order to prevent peaking of seams.

When the tiles have been dry-fitted, check the flooring for possible imperfections or defects including trim, thickness or colour.

Replace any such tiles prior to adhesion. Any defects in the tile, including colour variation, registration, squareness etc. must be reported before the tile is adhered or the installer will be liable for replacement labour.

Care must be taken installing SIGNATURE RUBBER FLOORING in areas of direct sunlight. These areas sunlight must be blacked out during the installation of the Floorcoverings and for a period of 48 hours thereafter.

Climatic conditions will affect the longevity of the product and may affect adhesion of the Signature Rubber Flooring. Windows or areas where direct sunlight can be exposed to the Floorcoverings must be protected with treatments such as, but not limited to tints, curtains, blinds, shades, shutters, etc.

All installation guidelines and instructions on subfloors given under their respective headings should be diligently followed and disregarding them will result with incorrectly installed flooring or separation from the subfloor. We are unable to meet ANY CLAIM where important procedures are ignored.

3. INSTALLATION PROCESS FOR SIGNATURE RUBBER FLOORING

3.1 RECOMMENDED ADHESIVE

Signature Floors recommend two specific adhesives for the installation of 'Flexo' sheet and tile products. These products are readily available and we believe are competitively priced. These products are; **Signature Acrylic Rubber Flooring Adhesive** for lower traffic, not suitable for areas in direct sunlight, and areas prone to moisture. Indoor only **Signature 2 Part Rubber Flooring Adhesive** for high traffic, heavy and extra heavy duty areas. Indoor only.

Failure to use the recommended adhesive will prevent consideration of claims relating to the performance of 'Flexo' Rubber Flooring.

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The use of the correct trowel, spread rate and curing times as designated by the adhesive manufacture should be noted and in all cases strictly observed.

Some specific installations over existing flooring surfaces may require specialist consideration regarding adhesive. The selection is wholly dependent on the subfloor type and the projected service conditions or cleaning routines for the flooring. Signature 'Flexo' Rubber Flooring can be installed, utilising either one of our recommended adhesives. Specified and approved adhesives used in the installation of rubber flooring must never be thinned, modified or applied to wet surfaces. Bitumen or plastic based adhesives should never be used in Signature Rubber 'Flexo' Flooring installations. Only installations where the recommended adhesives have been used are eligible for warranty claims. If Signature 'Flexo' Rubber Flooring is to be subjected to excessive forces during service conditions or excessive moisture (wet areas) during their utilisation and cleaning, they must be installed using **Signature 2 Part Rubber Flooring Adhesive**. The use of Epoxy based adhesives over wood based subfloors such as chipboard or hardboard are not recommended, as the ingredients of such subfloors might interact with the epoxy adhesive and impair adhesion.

The subfloor must be checked for elements that might reject the adhesive. Their absence must be confirmed by an adhesion test and some test samples must be installed on different locations of the subfloor. The adhesion strength of these test samples must be checked after a period of 48 - 72 hours.

Signature Floorcoverings will not accept any claims in relation to adhesive failure

3.2 INSTALLATION OF SIGNATURE RUBBER FLOORING

After applying the adhesive to the subfloor, the tiles must be laid immediately, again taking care to align joints, patterns or studs.

When placing the tiles on the subfloor, the adhesive must not allowed to skim over the tiles and joints.

The tiles must be placed on the subfloor with a perpendicular action without sliding and care must be taken not to apply excessive horizontal pressure at the tile joints as that might result in undesired elevations at the seams.

After each segment of the flooring is installed, flooring must be rolled using a 50 kg roller within 30 to 45 minutes of installation.

The installed flooring must also be rolled diagonally to the seams in both directions. A hand roller must be used in areas that cannot be accessed with the large roller.

Excessive or smeared adhesive remnants must be removed without delay, utilising Xylene or a similar chemical and must not be allowed to dry on the rubber flooring. Dry adhesive can only be removed by mechanical action, which will damage the rubber flooring.

The installed flooring must not be subjected to foot traffic for at least 24 hours and not cleaned before 72 hours.

Signature 'Flexo' Rubber Flooring should not be installed over expansion joints of buildings. Suitable fitting elements must be used at such locations or the flooring must be trimmed to suit the joint.

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4. CHECKLIST FOLLOWING INSTALLATION

- Check adhesive bonding over entire installed floor.
- Permit no foot traffic for during installation and a period of 24 hours thereafter.
- Permit no equipment or vehicular traffic during installation and for 72 hours thereafter
- Protect laid surfaces after installation from climatic conditions, trade activity during installation and for 48 hours thereafter
- Avoid initial cleaning of finished floor for 72 hours to allow adhesive to fully cure.

5. INITIAL CLEANING

You must allow at least 72 hours for complete adhesive cure prior to initial wet cleaning of Signature 'Flexo' Rubber Flooring.

- Sweep the floor clean.
- Prepare a neutral floor cleaning solution (pH of 7-8). Signature recommends the use of a combination cleaner and maintainer during the break-in period using a recommended detergent mixed in warm water. For light to moderate soil, the dilution ratio is usually 4 liquid mls per litre of warm water (see Recommended Cleaning Detergents).
- Apply the solution with a deck brush or with a nylon or rayon mop. Allow the solution to stand for five minutes.
- Scrub after 5 minutes.
Small installations – Use a deck brush.
Large installations – Use a single or double brush floor scrubbing machine. Use a 22 gauge flagged nylon bristle brush or microfiber cleaning pad fit for the scrubbing machine (see Recommended Brushes and Pads). Scrubbing RPM should not exceed 350.
- Wet vacuum or mop up the solution.
- Rinse with cold water and then remove all water.
- For added lustre, dry brush after the flooring is thoroughly dries (at least 2-3 hours).
- During the Signature Break-In Period (the 30 days immediately following its installation) Signature Rubber undergoes a maturing process whereby the natural, emerging waxes have not yet reached the surface. Special care should be taken to not "over clean" or use harsh detergents (high pH) which may reduce the emergence of the natural waxes. Signature 'Flexo' Rubber Flooring may not look bright, nor be easy to maintain or it may tend to "track" during this period. To help utilize the built in waxes and provide a bright appearance,
- Signature recommends the use of a cleaner such as Diversey View Quick during this break-in period. After the Signature rubber floor has been thoroughly cleaned and dried using Diversey View Quick, a one to one solution of combination cleaner and maintainer Diversey View Quick is applied to the Signature 'Flexo' Rubber Floor which will enhance the appearance and make subsequent cleanings easier. Apply with standard mopping equipment.

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6. FINAL FINISH / SEALING RUBBER FLOORING

Once the floor has been cleaned and properly rinsed, one of the two following systems should be used to further enhance the appearance of the floor.

6.1 MATTE FINISH

Dry buff with white pads using floor scrubbing machine. No sealer is required with this process. Please note that the appearance retention of signature rubber flooring may be inferior to a gloss finish sealed floor.

6.2 GLOSS or OTHER FINISHES FOR SEALED FLOORS

There are a number of finishes available for rubber flooring including gloss, in varying grade, and slip resistance. The required level of gloss should be the decision of the specifier and/ or end user client taking into account the use and maintenance available to the area. Often high traffic areas using high gloss finishes may require an increased amount of maintenance.

Signature Floorconcepts have tested and approve the Diversey ranges of floor sealers, polishes and maintainers. They also have a broad customer base of professional maintenance contractors who can provide relevant advice for the desired level of finish and maintenance to Signature 'Flexo' Rubber flooring. We recommend these professionals be consulted to achieve your required visual finish.

For technical support from Signature Floors call (03) 9401 0888, between 8:00am and 6:00pm.

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