

RUBBER FLOORING INSTALLATION GUIDELINE

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General conditions

A good preparation is essential for a smooth installation. Rubber flooring can be installed on concrete, timber, ceramic and many other sub-floors which have been suitably prepared.

The effective application of Rubber flooring is dependent on suitable site conditions.

Rubber flooring **must not** be installed either externally or into unheated locations. It is possible to install Rubber flooring over floors incorporating underground heating, but these must be insulated to ensure surface temperature does not exceed 27°C. It is recommended on a new concrete slab that the heating is operational for several days prior to installation to reduce moisture in slab. Three days prior to installation, lower to 18°C. 24 hours post installation, gradually increase in increments of 3°C per day until it reaches the maximum operating temperature of 28°C, before being turned back to its normal household temperature.

Substrate preparation

Careful sub-floor preparation as per AS 1884-2012 is vital for an excellent floor appearance and good installation. The sub-floor must be hard, flat, smooth, clean, dry, and free from defects, contaminants and fit for purpose.

A suitable levelling compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. However, the selection of suitable materials, including smoothing and levelling compounds and any ancillary products is dependent upon the end use of the completed flooring, and must be agreed by the supplier of the preparative materials and the flooring contractor.

Any proprietary materials used for floor preparation must be used in accordance with the manufacturers' recommended instructions.

In all cases, the sub-floor must be sufficiently dry and the relative humidity (RH) checked to ensure it is not greater than that of any proprietary materials that are being used when tested in accordance with AS 1884-2012 Appendix A.

Direct-to-earth concrete and stone sub-floors must have an effective damp proof membrane (DPM). Follow manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface DPM and the use of levelling compound.

All particle board substrates require an underlay or underlayment.

The finished appearance of a Rubber flooring floor will be as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed. Any irregularities in the sub-floor will show through the finished floor.

Important

Floor installation should not begin until the installer has assessed and approved the sub-floor and conditions.

Acclimatisation

Rubber flooring performs to its specifications when laid at room temperature between 18°C – 28°C. The product should be acclimatised within the room it is to be laid at for least 24 hours prior to installation. A constant temperature, fluctuating no more than 3°C per day and not below the required 18°C room temperature and 15°C floor temperature, should be maintained 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation.

It is preferable that the packs are stored lying flat, stacked squarely and away from vents and direct sunlight. It is recommended that you black out windows where direct sunlight streams in onto the floor to allow for continuity across the whole area to be laid.

Roll-type rubber flooring material requires time for stabilization. Stabilization time is especially important for roll-type rubber floor. Because roll-type rubber flooring is stored in rolls for a long time, it is important to unroll it and allow it time to recover its intended flat shape. To do this, unroll it and allow it to settle for 24-48 hours before installation.

Pre -Installation

Before fitting, we recommend strongly to unpack the floor and store it flat in the room for at least 24 hours, in order to acclimatise at a room temperature of min 18°C and max 28°C.

1. Before installation, check all panels or rolls in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour or shine.
2. Check the edges of the Rubber flooring for any damage and straightness.
3. For best results, dry lay all materials prior to cutting and the application of adhesive to ensure layout and colour uniformity. It is also preferable only to use material from the same batch in a single room.
4. The surface beneath the floor must be sufficiently prepared in advance to guarantee successful fitting of the floor covering.

In particular, it must be clean, dry, smooth, firm, level, free from defects and not contaminated with grease, oil or chemicals.

Recommended Adhesives

Rubber flooring is recommended to be installed with solvent free 'hard set' or 'polyurethane' adhesive for normal installations. Application and drying time of adhesive information should be sort from adhesive manufacturer. A list of approved adhesives can be found on our website www.signaturefloors.com.au or by calling 1800 150 554.

If you have any queries on selection of adhesives, please contact Signature Floors on 1800 150 554

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Installation

Installation of rubber sheet

1. Measure the area of the site and mark the centre with a chalk line. Check measure to ensure appropriate placement of seams, if required move the chalk line half width of the material.
2. Unfold the rubber flooring material along the centre line in the direction on the back of the flooring material.
3. Dry lay the entire floor area, check for colour and uniformity, scribe and cut the sheets into position prior to folding back for adhesive application.
4. Apply adhesives on the floor with an appropriate trowel recommended by adhesive manufacturer. Follow the open time and working time specified by the adhesive manufacturer.
5. After the open time, lay the rubber flooring material carefully then press it down. Rub the flooring material carefully with a cork bar to prevent it from rising-off and to remove any bubbles caused by the adhesive.
6. Press down on the rubber flooring material with a 45kg roller to ensure a solid grip to the floor. Rolling is required to remove bubbles and enhance adhesion. Because the adhesion is low at the beginning of installation, it is recommended to place heavy materials on any edges that may be sitting up for about 24 hours for complete hardening. A second rolling should be done after one hour.

Installation of rubber tiles

1. Dry lay the entire floor tile area. Check the tiles for possible imperfections or defects including trim, thickness and colour. Replace any defective material prior to adhesion.
2. Define the centre point of end walls and connect them by striking a chalk line down the middle of the room. On this line, strike a chalk line connecting the sidewalls which will divide the room into quarters.
3. A line indicating the space for fitting border tiles should be made. Measure the distance to each wall to provide a half tile or larger border for the completion of the installation. Adjust the centre line to accommodate this requirement.
4. Line up the first row of tiles with a string line or a straight edge. Lay a second row either ashlar (Brick pattern) or point to point aligning the studs, squares or ribs very carefully. Tiles may be butted to the corners, whether point to point or ashlar. It is important not to pressure fit the joints.

Note: claims will not be honoured for colour variations or surface blemishes once tiles have been cut and/or glued to the floor.

5. Immediately lay the pre-cut tiles into the adhesive. Do not pressure fit the joints. Rubber floor tiles have a natural expansion factor and do not have to be pressured-fitted. If more than normal installation foot traffic is necessary prior to 24 hours, cover the floor with plywood in traffic areas.

6. Using a 45kg. roller, roll the tiles diagonally in two directions. A second rolling should be done after one hour.

Caution: The curing time of the adhesive is very important to keep the durability of the floor. Movement of furniture, equipment or walking is prohibited until complete hardening is done. During the hardening period, it is required to maintain the temperature as previously described.

Remove excess adhesives from the surface of the rubber flooring material immediately. Alcohol may make this work easier, but solvents like acetone are prohibited because they may damage the surface of the rubber flooring material.

Protection

Rubber Flooring should be protected from heavy traffic for 48 hours after installation so that the tiles and adhesive can stabilise at consistent temperature between 18°C - 28°C. If foot traffic is necessary after 24 hours, cover the floor with plywood in traffic areas

First contact with water

Prevent the floor from coming into contact with water for the first 72 hours after installation. Hereafter the adhesive is sufficiently resistant to water so that the bonding strength will not be affected.

For any advice please contact Signature Floors on 1800 150 554.

Warranty

Warranty and cleaning and maintenance information is available in our Vinyl Care Guide & Warranty document from your place of purchase and Signature Floors website www.signaturefloors.com.au