

COMMERCIAL SHEET VINYL INSTALLATION GUIDELINE

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General conditions

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

The effective application of commercial sheet vinyl is dependent on suitable site conditions.

Commercial sheet vinyl **must not** be installed either externally or into unheated locations. It is possible to install commercial sheet vinyl 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 or underlayment 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 Commercial sheet vinyl 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.

Acclimatisation

Commercial sheet vinyl 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 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 after installation.

It is preferable to block cut and lay the vinyl in place 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.

Pre Installation

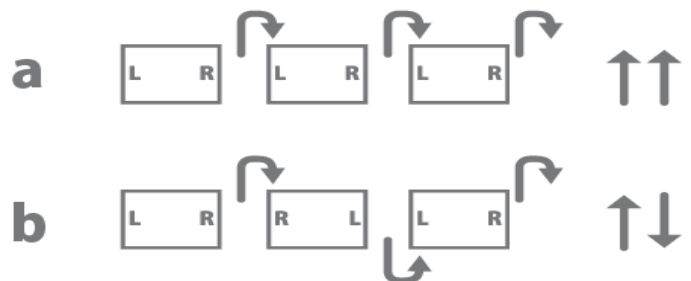
1 Check all roll labels to verify the product type, colour, thickness and quantity matches the order. Check all rolls in daylight to ensure that there is no visual damage, discrepancies in colour or sheen to the rolls and print layer

2. Unroll the floor covering, loosely trim it in, and allow it to acclimatise at a temperature between 15°C and 28°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.

3. If any problems are apparent do not proceed, please contact Signature Floors Customer Service.

4 The surface beneath the floor must be sufficiently prepared in advance to guarantee successful fitting of the floor covering.

5. When cutting to size please consider the nature of the design and pattern. In the case of wood designs and tile styles it is recommended that every sheet is installed in the same direction (a). In the case that the design is one all-over colour or design, it is recommended that every sheet is rotated through 180° (b). If there is doubt, we advise to check with Signature Floors prior to commencement.



Important

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

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Recommended Adhesives

Commercial sheet vinyl is recommended to be installed with solvent free hard set adhesive with a V1 trowel for normal installations.

For areas that will be subject to moisture ingress such as en-suites, kitchens, laundries or any other high-stress installation area, the use of Polyurethane adhesive is recommended.

A list of approved adhesives can be found on our website www.signaturefloors.com.au or by calling 1800 150 554.

Step by Step Fitting Instructions

1. Place the sheets in position, cut seams with the double-cut method and trim to size.
2. Fold back half of the sheet to reveal the subfloor ready for the application of the adhesive. Prior to using the adhesive read the supplier instructions. Spread the right amount of adhesive, with a notched trowel, equally over the subfloor. After applying the adhesive and in accordance with the instructions, allow the adhesive to partially dry (open time) until it reaches its initial bonding strength, before returning the floor covering in to place.
3. Install the floor covering sheet avoiding bubbles, compressions and tensions. Check that the seam junctions are closed tightly together. Do not try to compress seams that cause curling. This curling is an indication that the sheets are not placed together correctly.
4. To remove any bubbles, rubbing from the inside out should even out the floor. Use a rolling motion to level out the adhesive, this should be done before the adhesive has fully dried.
5. Repeat steps 1 to 4 with the second half of the sheet.
6. Check all seam junctions and repeat the rolling motion as described in step three (3).
7. Welding the seam together is recommended, but only after the drying process is complete. Generally, no less than 24 hours should be given before seam welding occurs.

Welding

There are two methods of welding that are recommended for heterogeneous vinyl sheet floorcoverings with a transparent wear layer/print construction.

Heat welding

Once the adhesive is cured, normally after 24 hours, the seam can be grooved out. This can be done either manually by using a hand groover or mechanically using a power grooving machine. The groove should not be deeper than 2/3rds thickness of the wear layer for the U groove, and 7/8ths thickness for the V groove.

- a. Remove all dust and debris prior to welding.
- b. Using an appropriate vinyl weld rod, test the weld fusion on a scrap piece of the material. Once you are happy with the heat settings and resultant weld, proceed to weld all the pre-grooved seams.
- c. On completion, and whilst the weld is still warm, carry out the first trim. This should be carried out using a cable guide and spatula knife.
- d. The final trim should be carried out once the weld has completely cooled and should be done using the spatula knife.

Cold Welding

Cold welding is suitable for domestic, commercial and industrial use where the application of heat welded seams is not permissible. Please read the manufacturer's instructions before applying

Using a metallic straight edge and a knife with a new blade cut through both layers of material in one pass., remembering that this type of welding should not be considered as gap filling, the seam can be cold welded.

- a. Cover the seam with masking tape or similar to prevent any excess welding liquid coming into contact with the vinyl surface.
- b. Using a utility knife cut through the tape at the seam with a sharp blade. Apply the welding liquid as per the manufacturer's instructions, ensuring both hands are controlling the tube. Keep fingers away from the needle applicator.
- c. After approximately 10 minutes and once the welding liquid has cured, the masking tape can then be removed.

Note: Any proud parts of the cured welding liquid can be left, as they will be removed with the effects of maintenance and traffic.

For any assistance 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