

# Loose Lay

## Installation Guidelines

Loose lay floors should be installed in accordance with these instructions as well as the applicable national standards and building codes for the installation of resilient flooring at the time of installation, to ensure a quality fit. These floors are not suitable for installation outdoors or in rooms that will be continually wet. They are suitable for use in traditional residential bathrooms, kitchens, laundry / utility rooms.

Failure to observe and follow these installation guidelines and / or current national standards and building codes at time of installation may result in any potential warranty claim being void.

### National standards and building codes

European Union: DTU 53.2, DIN 18365 (Teil C)

United Kingdom: BS 8203

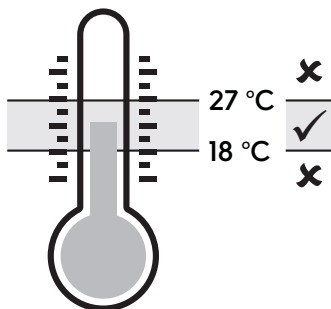
### Pre-installation

It is the responsibility of the installer to visually inspect all materials in optimal lighting to confirm it is the correct design, colour, batch, quality, free from defects and quantity as ordered. If the material or batching is incorrect or where defects are apparent, the store of purchase must be contacted before the material is installed. Complaints and claims regarding clearly identifiable defects will not be accepted after installation. Preparation and installation should not begin until all other trades have completed their work.

### Acclimatisation of material

Flooring materials should be removed from packaging at least 48 hours prior to installation and allowed to condition in the room where installation is to take place (tiles / planks may be stacked but must be rested flat). Exposure to direct sunlight should be avoided during the acclimatisation and installation process by means of window coverings or temporary measures.

For optimum performance, room temperature should always be maintained between 18-27°C.



### Subfloors

Subfloor preparation must comply with applicable national standards and building codes for the installation of resilient flooring at time of installation and in strict accordance with these installation guidelines.

The subfloor must be firm, hard, flat, level, smooth, dry, clean and dust-free and should be prepared dependent on your subfloor type. See section "Types of Subfloor" for details.

### Moisture in subfloors

Moisture of the base subfloor (e.g. concrete) must be measured according to the relevant local standard:

- Hygrometer test = less than 95% RH.
- Calcium carbide test = no more than 3% for cementitious screed / no more than 1.4% for calcium sulphate screed.

If any subfloor shows moisture readings above these values, an appropriate damp proof membrane (DPM) or moisture suppression system must be used.

**NOTE:** Some national standards require the pH of the concrete slab to be controlled.

The 95% RH value is applicable when loose lay is used without adhesive. If adhesive is used, consult with adhesive manufacturer for compatibility with the humidity levels of your subfloor.

### Arranging the planks / tiles

The design on this product is randomly distributed and can be heavier on some tiles / planks than others. To prevent heavy and light color shading areas, the tiles / planks should be unboxed and shuffled.

### Installation procedure

Loose lay can be installed using one of the following methods, led by the environmental conditions of the interior space where the floor is to be installed.

Separate underlay is normally only recommended for subfloor floor rectification and / or acoustic purposes.

Please consult with supplier for approved underlay systems.

Loose lay must **NOT** be installed over cushioned vinyl or non-approved underlay; these must be removed and the subfloor treated and prepared to the applicable standard.

## 1. Grid stick method using tackifier

### Light foot traffic, non-commercial

Check that all room edges are solid. Apply a 10 cm strip of tackifier to all perimeter walls and door thresholds with an appropriate application method and spread rate (e.g. notched trowel, roller). Add further 10 cm strips of tackifier at intervals of 4 m parallel to each perimeter wall, creating a grid pattern.

Ensure tackifier is allowed to fully tack off before installation.

Tiles / planks must be fitted tight to the wall, and to each other, across the whole room.

This method is not suitable for the installation of 1 m x 1 m tiles.

## 2. Full coverage using tackifier

### General foot traffic, commercial

Check that all room edges are solid. Apply tackifier to all floor areas with an appropriate application method and spread rate (e.g. notched trowel, roller). Tackifier must be allowed to fully tack off before installation.

Tiles / planks must be fitted tight to the wall, and to each other, across the whole room.

Exclusions: High spillage wet areas, sunrooms, conservatories, panoramic windows.

Full spread of high temperature, water resistant adhesive is recommended for areas that are likely to be subject to high water spillage or extreme temperature fluctuations.

Please refer to separate LVT gluedown installation guidelines for subfloor requirements, preparation and installation procedure using the QR code below.



## Use of adhesives

**NOTE:** the company will not be liable for any loss, damage or complaint if the incorrect installation method or adhesive system is adopted for the installation, and / or the adhesive manufacturer's instructions are not strictly followed.

## Types of subfloor

### NOTE:

- Any primer, levelling compound or other underlayment should be installed in accordance with instructions from that manufacturer.
- No responsibility will be accepted for any subfloor or joint show through to the installed product, either as a "ridge" or a "valley".

- Warning: solvents and other abrasive chemicals used to clean or remove subfloor contaminants can damage the backing of loose lay and affect the product's performance.

## Old adhesive residues

All adhesive residues from previous installations must be mechanically removed. No chemical adhesive removers are allowed on a concrete substrate.

**NOTE:** Any contaminants left on the surface of the subfloor may adversely affect future adhesion or cause discoloration.

## Concrete floors

Subfloors / screeds: All cracks and joints must be filled using a suitable repair system and the floor needs to be level in accordance with the applicable standard.

Any gypsum (anhydrite) based floors must be sealed with a compatible sealing compound.

## Mosaic / terrazzo / ceramics / quarry tiles

Ensure surface is firm, dry and free of wax, oil, dust and loose tile particles. Apply an appropriate primer and levelling compound, ensuring that all grout lines are filled and levelled.

## Timber, particle floors and OSB (Oriented Strand Board)

These should be solid with minimal flexibility. All loose boards must be firmly fastened, gaps filled and undulations removed. Overlay floorboards, particle board and OSB with flooring grade plywood or similar.

## Thermoplastic / woodblock / parquet

Make sure these floors are solid, sound and in good condition. Remove or repair loose, broken or damaged areas and remove any surface polish / sealer.

These products should be removed if installed directly to earth, or over bitumen / cutback / ATA or pitch. Wood in direct contact with concrete must be removed before installation of floor covering.

Then prepare exposed subfloor to the applicable standard.

## Laminate / hybrid / EPC / SPC / engineered timber or other floating floor

These are to be removed including any underlays. Then assess and prepare the exposed subfloor to the applicable standard.

## Linoleum / sheet vinyl

Loose lay can be installed over these products, as long as they are sufficiently resistant to indentation (cushioned vinyl for example will not be acceptable). Only tackifier should be used, provided the surface is securely fixed and cleaned to remove all contamination including polishes and dressings.

If floor is soft and / or prone to indentation, or there are any doubts, removal of the floor including any underlay is recommended. Then assess and prepare the exposed subfloor to applicable standard.

## Metal and painted floors

Fully remove any loose paint or other finishes.

## Raised access floors

Ensure raised access panels are firm, level, smooth, clean and free from defects and contaminants. Raised access panels should be in accordance with local building standards: gaps between panels should not exceed 1 mm; the overall floor to be level within 1.5 mm over a 5 m radius; unstable, uneven or poor-quality panels should be suitably repaired prior to installation; tiles should be set out such that their edges do not fall on or close to the edge of the raised access panel.

## Other floors

Please consult your supplier.

## Underfloor heating

Loose lay flooring is suitable for use over underfloor heating systems, but these must be controlled to keep the interface between the subfloor surface and the backing at no more than 27°C.

The system must be switched off 48 hours before, during, and for 48 hours after the installation, then temperature gradually increased by no more than 2°C per day to desired warmth.

The room temperature must be between 18-27°C prior to and during installation.

Electrical underfloor heating: please consult manufacturer to ensure their system is compatible with this flooring.

Mesh / wire systems: must be installed according to manufacturer instructions, embedded into a base coat of appropriately reinforced smoothing in consultation with the selected underfloor heating manufacturer.

**IMPORTANT:** Care must be taken to avoid damage to the floor caused by localised hot spots. Particular consideration must be given in placing rugs and items of furniture which do not allow hot air circulation. No responsibility for damage to floor tiles / planks can be accepted under these circumstances.

## Maintenance

- Use entrance mats to protect against grit and moisture.
- Ensure mats and rugs are not rubber-backed (of a non-staining variety) to prevent any discoloration of the floor.
- Avoid sliding or dragging furniture or other objects across the floor - use floor protector pads to prevent scratching.
- Use large castor cups or other means to protect against indentation from heavy furniture.
- Regularly sweep the floor to remove loose dirt or grit as these can cause fine scratches.
- For a thorough clean, a range of pH neutral cleaning materials are available. Avoid the use of household cleaners and bleach-based detergents. These could make the floor slippery or cause discoloration.
- Always mop up spills as soon as possible to reduce the risk of slipping and possible staining.
- Do not subject loose lay to standing water. This will present a slip hazard.
- Floor care guides are available from your supplier or the website.