

Floorcovering installation guide

Your new floorcovering will arrive in panels up to 2900mm wide and has been already trimmed by us for you to simply butt join into place. If you think you might need help, ask a friend for an extra pair of hands or call in an installer to fit.

We can also produce panels with an approx. 50mm pattern overlap between any strips to be joined. This overlap can help when lining up especially if the room isn't totally square and is to be trimmed away during install.

You'll have already measured up the full room area before letting us know what to produce – don't forget to always measure to the widest point if the floor narrows and disregard any obstacles as these will need to be simply trimmed out when installing.

Before installing

The longevity and appearance of any vinyl floor installation lies in the preparation and quality of the subfloor it's being laid upon. Prior to fitting, we recommend checking the floor for any defects and ensure that the surface is smooth, flat, clean and dry. Ensure there are no gaps between floorboards that may cause bumps and lumps and any unevenness needs to be levelled out if applying over concrete or tiles.

If there is a combination of very dark or light patches on the subfloor, these may need to be covered with floor paint and allowed to dry prior to the installation.

Remove all panels from the packaging and leave loosely rolled for at least 24 hours prior to installation to let the vinyl acclimatise to the room temperature. It's also worth checking the room with a hydrometer – if the reading is above 75% RH, it's crucial that a surface damp proof membrane is installed. If you are unsure as to the makeup of your existing subfloor, it is always worth calling a professional installer for advice.

When ready, lay out your panels and check everything looks as it should – get an idea of where the panels are going and how it all lines up. Any issues, let us know now as we can't accept any returns once the product has been installed.

Laying the first floor length

After laying out the prints, start to match the pattern on the panels across the joins. Work out the required position and make sure that the flooring covers your entire floor area.

Trimming the outer edge of your floor

First, if needed, trim the outer edge of your floorcovering. To do this, press the vinyl firmly against the base of the skirting board or wall using a small wooden block or similar. Using a long ruler or other straight edge and a sharp Stanley knife, trim away the excess leaving a 1mm gap between the edge of the floorcovering and the wall to allow for normal room expansion and contraction.

When cutting the strips, always make sure there is no movement between the panels and no joins are becoming misaligned.

Deciding how to stick your floorcovering down

Our floorcovering can be glued down by applying a solvent-free adhesive to the subfloor, (we recommend Ball Styccobond or Mapei).

When gluing, make sure the panel's subfloor area is fully covered with adhesive and it is evenly applied. It's sometimes easier to roll back some of the floorcovering, making sure it's not too severe as to put any creases in the vinyl, and glue a section at a time. Always cover a workable amount at a time and after applying, roll the vinyl back down releasing any little air pockets that may be underneath.

We'd always recommend using adhesive when installing as any loose-laid flooring can be susceptible to snags and pulls when furniture or anything else is moved around on it.

Joining panels

We trim all panels before shipping so we know they'll fit accurately up to each other. If your wall is not completely straight, make sure you have measured to the widest point as this will ensure the supplied panels line up and join as they should.

Once you've got them in place, apply the adhesive or tape under the join if not already applied, and using a wallpaper type roller if necessary, smooth down the seams ensuring they are level and fit together evenly.

If you need to seal the joins for an extra watertight fit, let us know so we can send over specific information and recommendations for cold weld application.

Additional information:

Keep traffic off the floor for at least 24 hours after installation and heavy loads for at least 72 hours. Do not slide heavy loads over the floorcovering - always lift and be careful.

As with all vinyl floorcoverings, make sure any furniture legs have large surface floor protectors to stop any marks or dents forming. Any vinyl flooring will dent if heavy furniture or appliances stand on it for a length of time.

After installation, be sure **not to** use any abrasive cleaners on your new printed flooring as these can scratch the surface.

You will receive a reference guide on how to keep your flooring clean with your order when delivered – if you'd like this guide emailing over, just get in touch at sayhello@forthefloorandmore.com