

5 Installation of Heterogeneous vinyl sheet



This section is intended for Polyflor heterogeneous sheet vinyl ranges with transparent wear layer/print construction. In general, the installation procedure is the same as that detailed in Installation of Homogeneous and Safety vinyl sheet and reference should be made to this section for in-depth advice. Included below are details of how installation differs from homogeneous vinyl sheet, specifically in relation to alignment of adjacent sheets and welding options.

5.1 ALIGNMENT OF DECORATION

This type of floorcovering features a print layer

with a regular, repeat decoration (e.g. wood plank). With wood effect designs, to maximise the final appearance of the installation and to ensure the decorative effect is not lost, it is important that care is taken to align the plank decoration of each adjacent sheet. All none wood effect designs MUST be reverse laid.

Once the adjacent sheets are aligned, the seam should be cut using one of the following methods:

Using a straight edge and keeping the utility knife upright, cut through both layers to ensure there is a tight seam. With wood effect designs,

the edge of the printed plank can be used in the lengthwise direction as a guide. Once the seam is cut, discard the waste material and check the final appearance.

Or

Using a straight edge and utility knife, cut off the selvage of the top sheet of the wood effect designs, using the edge of the printed plank in the lengthwise direction as the guide. Discard the waste strip. Then, using the cut edge as a guide, set a proprietary seam cutter to cut the lower sheet. Discard the waste strip and check the final appearance.

Once the seams have been dry cut, the vinyl sheets can be adhered to the substrate. Fold back all the sheets half way and apply an adhesive approved by Polyflor, following the adhesive manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

Working from the centre of the room, fold the sheets back into their original position, using a rolling motion to reduce the risk of trapping air. Using a 68kg roller starting in the width direction, roll the floor to expel any air bubbles and ensure good contact with the adhesive, substrate and the back of the sheet vinyl. Repeat in the lengthwise direction. Repeat the whole rolling process approximately 4 hours later.

5.2 WELDING THE SHEET

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

5.2.1 Hot 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.



Figure 15 Cold welding

Note: The welding technique described will provide a very strong mechanical weld. Should you require a much thinner line whilst at the same time providing a continuous surface, we suggest that in these instances, and using the technique described, only the wear layer be grooved out. This will result in a much narrower weld whilst still preventing ingress of dirt or moisture.

5.2.2 Cold Welding

Once the seam has been accurately cut, remembering that this type of welding should not be considered as gap filling, the seam can be welded.

A. *Cover the seam with masking tape or similar to prevent any excess welding liquid coming into contact with the vinyl surface.*

B. *Cut through the tape at the seam, using a utility knife with a sharp blade. Apply the welding liquid (Figure 15), 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.

5.3 SUBFLOORS

In common with the installation of any type of flooring, the subfloor should not only be in sound condition, but also free of any contaminants, like oil, paint, preservative

treatments or other forms of marking, such as a permanent marker pen.

Similarly, no markings should be applied to the back of heterogeneous flooring.