

Floorcraft Sonic-Cut Design

A- Preparation and important Information prior to installation

A.1 EXAMINATION OF THE GOODS

- Designs & Features are assembled dry at our factory and digital photographs are taken as an assembly guide.
It is important that the material is installed soon after delivery, the design can be unpacked and checked to make sure that all sections are in-place and that it is correct.

A.2 ACCLIMATISATION

- The design must be stored flat at a temperature of 18°C and not weighted down, 24 hours prior to installing.
- The design should be acclimatised within the area by laying it flat on a prepared clean subfloor at an ambient temperature of 18°C.

A.3 ROOM TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS

- The 18°C ambient temperature must be maintained throughout the duration of the installation. The minimum temperature of the subfloor should be no less than 15°C.
- Care should be taken when handling all types of designs & logo's to ensure that safety procedures are followed and that damage does not occur to the material.

A.4 SUBFLOOR CONDITION

- The preparation/dryness of the subfloor and installation procedures should all be as BS 8203: 2001. i.e.: The relative humidity of a solid subfloor should be below 75%RH when tested with a Hygrometer as described in this British Standard.
- Prior to selecting a smoothing compound, it will be necessary to investigate what type of traffic the floorcovering once installed will be subjected to.
- Latex smoothing compounds are not suitable for areas that will receive heavy traffic, especially heavy-wheeled traffic with narrow wheels.
- Never subject a newly installed floorcovering to heavy wheeled traffic at an early stage, as this will disperse trowel applied adhesive from below the floorcovering which may result in future problems.
- Wheels should be + 30mm and preferably made of neoprene.

- If it is necessary to traffic the floorcovering at an early stage, protect the design / installation with hardboard or plywood.
- For specific subfloor types and preparation, please refer to our Specifications Subfloor Types.
- **Recent studies have shown that micro-organisms can colonise, under certain conditions, the area between the subfloor (wooden or cement) and the installed flooring. During their normal life-cycle, these micro-organisms produce a colorant, usually pink, purple, red or black (but can be other colours), which can 'bleed' through to the surface of the PVC flooring product over a period of several months or longer.**
- **Advice should always be sought from the manufacturers of subfloor preparations and adhesives prior to installation, to ensure that their products are suitable for the environment in which the PVC flooring is to be laid – this advice may include using products that contain biocides or of specific resin types.**
- **For wooden fabricated underlay e.g. plywood, care must be taken to store the material in an area where it will not become damp or contaminated.**
- **The 'bleed' through of colorant created by micro-biological activity below PVC floorcovering products is not attributable to a product/ manufacturing fault.**
- Although Tarkett may on occasion list a choice of adhesive, levelling compound and surface damp proof membrane manufacturers and types, we do not however guarantee the products listed (except for Tarkett wood adhesives) or suggest that the list of products or manufactures, are complete or current. Tarkett would not accept any liability (except for Tarkett wood adhesives) for any of these products failing to perform in conjunction with any of their products. It is the responsibility of the manufacturer of the adhesive, levelling compound and surface damp proof membrane and the flooring contractor to ensure the products being used are appropriate for use and applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- It is imperative that underfloor heating systems have been previously commissioned and found to be functioning correctly prior to the floor finish being installed.

- Ensure that the underfloor heating system is switched off 48 hours prior to the floorcovering installation commencing and remains off for at least 48 hours after the installation is complete.
- During the period of decommissioning of the underfloor heating system, an alternative heating source should be provided, if required, to ensure that the area of installation is kept at a constant temperature of 18°C - 27°C.
- Gradually increase the temperature over a number of days by only a few degrees per day until the desired room temperature is reached.
- The temperature should never exceed the floorcovering industry agreed maximum of 27°C at the underside of the floorcovering (the adhesive line).
- Failure to follow these guidelines can result in the floorcovering debonding, joints opening, and on some occasions discolouring, all which can occur within a long or short period of time.
- It is also extremely important that enough installers are employed and that a sufficient time period is allowed for installation of the design feature.

B- Installation

B.1 INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

- Prepare the subfloor as necessary and remove all trace of debris.
- Ensure that the design's / logo's are the correct ones for the areas identified, **do not remove from the designs the protection holding tape at this stage.**
- Locate the design / logo exactly and accurately in the correct position as required on the surface of the floor. **Make sure that the surface protection is holding the design tightly together.** In the unlikely event that individual pieces of the design are displaced, are no longer positioned or fitting precisely, carefully pull the protection away from the surface to enable the pieces to be realigned tightly together, then replace the holding tape (This may involve extra time for the installation of the feature to be allocated).
- Once satisfied that the design is correctly positioned, mark around the outside of the design with a pencil onto the floor surface. Make a plan / measure where the design is positioned in relation to the surrounding area, carefully remove and place the design in a separate area to protect from damage.
- The main area of Tarkett flooring can now be installed by following manufactures instructions, make sure that the adhesive is applied correctly, up to and against the pencil line, do not apply any adhesive within the area of where the design will be positioned.
- Once the material has been laid into the adhesive, roll the area with a 68Kg flooring roller, repeat rolling at 15 minute intervals until fully bonded to the subfloor, paying close attention to sheet joints, cross-joints and ends of sheets. Inaccessible areas should be rolled with a hand roller. Remove any excess of adhesive with a cloth moistened with water or if dry, use nothing stronger than methylated spirits.
- Carefully position the design on the floor, making sure it aligns exactly as measured previously. To hold the design firmly in position, use masking tape positioned at intervals around the design, use the cut edge of the design to guide a pin-vice tightly around and onto the Tarkett material below. Deepen this cut with a utility knife and finally cut through with a hook knife.
- Prior to the removal of the waste material from beneath the design, and to enable the repositioning of the design, use several small pieces of masking tape to mark the exact position.
- Lay the design back into position and once satisfied that it is a good fit, carefully remove the design and position face down and remove the unwanted section of material.

The application and type of flooring adhesive used to adhere and bond individual designs to a substrate is solely the responsibility of the installer. Tarkett Limited do not recommend acrylic or pressure sensitive adhesives for adhering sonic-cut designs due to the fact that moisture ingress from regular cleaning & maintenance could penetrate the un-welded joints and cause emulsification of water based adhesives.

In locations where the design may be subjected to extreme temperature variations (such as a conservatory) we recommend that a 2 part epoxy adhesive should be considered.

Tarkett Ltd strongly recommend that designs & logo's that will not have all of the joints hot welded are adhered using Treadfast 1635, Cross Linking, Water Resistant, Contact Adhesive (method statement obtained from Tremco-illbruck Ltd – Tel No – 01942 258011) The adhesive must be mixed and applied strictly and in-accordance with manufactures instructions. For further advice regarding the adhesive application concerning Tarkett Linoleum Designs & Logo's please contact Tarkett Technical Services, Tel No – 01622 854183.

- Once the Treadfast 1635 adhesive has been applied correctly to the two surfaces and the adhesive becomes "touch dry" carefully place the design onto the previously cut waste material and position correctly, holding the design firmly in-place, gently slide the waste material sideways to allow the design to locate onto the adhesive and fit tightly within the surrounding material.
- The protection holding tape can now be carefully peeled back and removed from the surface of the design. The protection tape should always be removed prior to the floor be trafficked or within 24 hours.
- Carefully roll the design / logo with a 68Kg flooring roller, repeat rolling at 15 minute intervals until fully bonded to the subfloor, paying close attention to joints, cross-joints and ends of sections. Inaccessible or difficult sections should be rolled flat with a hand roller.

B.2 HOT WELDING OF JOINTS

The perimeter, cut joint of the design must be hot welded to create an impervious joint. (If the Floorcraft Design has been adhered using an acrylic water based adhesive, all joints / seams must be hot welded).

Allow at least 24 hours to lapse prior to hot welding with the Tarkett welding rod.

- Groove the joint using a Tarkett Seam Groover (1258027) & Blade (1258028), "P" type grooving tool.
- The Tarkett material should be grooved 2/3 into its thickness.
- Make sure the groove is clear of all debris and excess adhesive prior to commencing welding.
- The recommended welding temperature is 250-300°C when fitted with a Tarkett speed-weld nozzle, item - 1258012.

- Using a Leister hot air welding gun fitted with the speed-weld nozzle, this will require the setting to be approx 5-6. If unsure consult manufacturer's instructions for correct setting. Set the welding gun at this temperature for several minutes prior to commencing welding to attain the correct temperature.
- Try out the welding operation on a scrap piece of Tarkett material prior to welding the joints.
- Weld at approximately 2m a minute.

Preferably 2 people welding, one operative welding at least 3m ahead of the other prior to the second person trimming the cable 1mm proud of the material with the aid of a spatula knife inserted into a welding slide. The weld should then be allowed to cool down. Finally trim the weld-cable flush to the surface of the material using the spatula knife only.

C- Installation of sonic cut design Linoleum xf² pattern tile pieces

- Prepare the subfloor as necessary and remove all traces of debris.
- Plan the area to be installed to ensure whenever possible that small cuts (-10cm) of tiles are not used, especially near doorways.
- Choose one of the longest walls in the area to be installed.
- Measure out from this wall at either end, across to the other side of the room.
- If there is a significant difference in both of these sizes, choose the larger of the sizes.
- Again measure out from the same wall at both ends. This time measure only half the size previously chosen. Mark this size on the subfloor in pencil.
- Strike a chalk line between both pencil marks. This chalk line now indicates the centre of the width of the room.
- Repeat procedures 2-6 on the shortest walls at the top and bottom of the area to be installed. This now indicates the centre of the length of the room.
- Although the centre point of the area to be installed has now been identified, this procedure does not calculate the size of the part tile pattern that will have to be inserted at the edge of the walls. They may be too small to be acceptable. (-10cm)
- To adjust the size of the perimeter tile pieces, move the centre chalk-line half the size of the tile. e.g.: - tile pattern size 50cm, move chalk-line 25cm from its present location. By doing this, the tile pattern size at the perimeter of the walls will increase or decrease in size whilst still achieving a balance tile pattern size on either side of the area being installed.

- When the chalk-line is in its final position, butt a straightedge up against them and draw a pencil down the edge of the straightedge onto the subfloor. Apply the adhesive up to the edge of the pencil mark, which represents the chalk-line.
- Apply a recommended Linoleum adhesive suitable for bonding Linoleum XF² from the current adhesive range of adhesive manufactures within the country of installation e.g. F Balls F54, Laybond L48, or Uzin LE 2401.
- The adhesive should be applied using the appropriate 'V' notched trowel for the chosen adhesive. It is important that the notches on this trowel remain this size throughout the duration of the installation. Always follow the adhesive manufacturers guidelines whilst installing the product.
- When applying adhesive to the subfloor, it is important that only the area that can be comfortably installed within the open time of the adhesive, should be applied.

Failures of this type of installation are almost always due to late placing of the product into the adhesive. In other words the adhesive was too dry when the product was placed on the floor. Perimeters of the area are notorious failure areas.

- When installing tile patterns, try to leave the perimeter area dry of adhesive, especially in large areas. Fit the tiles dry, then remove and apply the adhesive.
- Use a 68Kg roller to ensure that the tiles are firmly bonded into the adhesive as the installation is progressing.

D- Maintenance

- To help protect your floorcovering from varying levels of traffic and also as the first defence against the weather, we strongly recommend that barrier mats be installed at all entry points into the building to limit the amount of wet and dry soiling.
- If maintained correctly, barrier mats should limit the transfer of foot borne contamination and make the daily cleaning and maintenance programme even easier.
- **Polish or maintainers must not be applied to the surface of Tarkett iD, iQ, Premium, Acczent, Tapiflex or xf² products.**
- Allow at least 5 days from the completion of the installation of the floorcovering, prior to carrying out any wet cleaning.

- Ensure that any adhesive left on the surface of the floorcovering is removed, do not use solvents, gently clean away the adhesive by using a white cloth dampened with a small amount of methylated spirits, finally, clean the area with a neutral detergent.
- When cleaning, it is important to ensure that only the smallest amount of moisture is deposited onto the floorcovering so that the floor will be dry within 15 – 20 seconds.
- **Please obtain from Tarkett Ltd the correct cleaning & maintenance instructions for the product installed.**