

PlusFloor®

Installation Guide

Versailles



Prior To Installation

It is crucial to thoroughly inspect and check the product for any damage, defects, or variations before proceeding with the installation. This inspection should be conducted under adequate lighting conditions. Here are the key points to consider:

Color and Quantity Check: Verify that the colors of the panels correspond to those ordered and ensure that the quantities are correct. Additionally, inspect the boxes for any visible damage. If there are any discrepancies or visible damage, it is important to address them before installation.

Visual Inspection During Installation: While installing the panels, carefully examine them for any visible defects. If you notice any imperfections such as scratches, chips, or inconsistencies, do not proceed with installing those panels. It is recommended to set aside and avoid using panels that display any visible defects.

Use Materials from a Single Production Batch: To ensure a consistent shade and appearance, it is advisable to use materials from a single production batch for each installation. Different batches may have slight variations in color, so using panels from the same batch helps maintain a uniform look.

Natural Variation: Some designs may naturally exhibit variations within the pattern. It is important to be aware of this characteristic and consider it during installation. Mixing or shuffling the panels from different boxes can help distribute any inherent variations more evenly across the floor.

Please note that if defects are visible prior to installation, PlusFloor will not assume responsibility for the costs associated with removing and reinstalling the flooring. By proceeding with the installation, it is understood that the installed product is accepted.

Careful inspection and adherence to these guidelines will help ensure a satisfactory installation and minimize any issues or discrepancies.

Suitability

Versailles flooring can be installed on various types of subfloors, including concrete, cementitious screed, anhydrite (calcium sulfate), timber, and ceramic tiles, provided they have been properly prepared according to the floor preparation guidelines.

When installing on raised access flooring according to EN12825, it is important to note that the level of flatness described in the standard may not be sufficient to achieve the best aesthetic results for Versailles flooring without using a permanent adhesive. Increasing the flatness of the raised access floor beyond the standard requirements will enhance the overall appearance. It is recommended to have a pre-installation meeting with all involved parties to agree on the tolerances and ensure a satisfactory outcome.

Versailles flooring is compatible with traditional water-based underfloor heating and cooling systems. However, it is crucial to ensure that the subfloor surface temperature does not exceed 27°C to prevent any potential damage.

It's important to note that Versailles flooring is intended for indoor installations only and is primarily designed for temperature-controlled office spaces. It is recommended to maintain the air and floorcovering temperature between 15°C and 27°C. Avoid rapid temperature increases of more than 5°C per 12 hours to prevent any adverse effects on the flooring.

In areas where extreme temperature fluctuations and/or heavy traffic and loads are expected, it is necessary to fully adhere the Versailles flooring using recommended dispersion or 2-component epoxy/PU adhesive. This ensures optimal performance and durability in such demanding conditions. Detailed instructions on adhesive selection and application can be found in the relevant section.

Construction, and Quality of the Subfloor

Understanding the Versailles and construction of the subfloor or base is essential for ensuring a successful flooring installation. It provides crucial information to assess factors such as acceptable humidity levels, flatness, compressive strength, and tensile strength of the subfloor.

By knowing the characteristics of the subfloor, you can determine the appropriate floor preparation techniques and materials required for the installation process. This may include the use of leveling or smoothing compounds to achieve a smooth and even surface, as well as the need for moisture barriers to prevent moisture-related issues.

If there is any uncertainty or ambiguity regarding the quality or composition of the subfloor, it is recommended to consult local installation standards and guidelines. Additionally, seeking advice from floor preparation experts or suppliers of leveling compounds can provide valuable insights and recommendations specific to your situation.

By ensuring that the subfloor is properly prepared and meets the necessary requirements, you can create a suitable foundation for the installation of your flooring material, promoting longevity and performance.

National Regulations and Standards

It is crucial to adhere to the relevant national regulations and installation standards when it comes to site and installation conditions. These regulations and standards are in place to ensure the safety, quality, and compliance of the installation process.

If there is a conflict between the manufacturer's recommendations and the national standard or regulation, it is important to prioritize the more stringent requirement. This means that if the national standard or regulation imposes stricter guidelines or specifications than the manufacturer's recommendations, the stricter requirement should be followed.

By following the most stringent requirement, you can ensure that the installation meets the highest standards and complies with all necessary regulations, ultimately providing a safe and reliable outcome. It is advisable to consult and refer to both the manufacturer's recommendations and the applicable national regulations to ensure compliance throughout the installation process.

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Subfloor Preparation

Irregularities in the Subfloor

Indeed, proper preparation of the subfloor is essential for a successful installation of Versailles flooring. The quality and condition of the base directly impact the final appearance and performance of the finished floor. Here are some key points to consider:

1. **Subfloor Requirements:** The subfloor should be hard, structurally sound, flat, smooth, clean, and dry. It should be free from defects and suitable for the intended purpose. Any old adhesives, loose levelling compounds, and chemical substances should be removed.
2. **Subfloor Evenness:** It is recommended to ensure that the unevenness of the subfloor does not exceed 2mm over a width of 200cm. This helps to achieve a visually pleasing and level surface.
3. **Suitable Materials:** Select suitable materials for floor preparation, such as plywood and levelling compounds, based on the occupational use of the area. Consult with the supplier of preparative materials and the flooring contractor to ensure the compatibility and compliance with national standards for resilient floorcoverings.
4. **Raised Access Flooring:** Versailles is suitable for installation on all types of raised access flooring according to EN12825. However, to achieve the best aesthetics, it may be necessary to increase the level of flatness beyond the standard requirements. This can be achieved by using a permanent adhesive.
5. **Pre-Installation Meeting:** It is recommended to have a pre-installation meeting with all involved parties to discuss and agree upon the tolerances and requirements. The type of design, finishing, and aesthetic considerations should be taken into account during these discussions.
6. **Design Considerations:** Designs with color variation, heavier structure, and pronounced bevels are generally more forgiving on irregular subfloors compared to designs with uniform colors, little structure, and no bevels. Consider these factors when selecting the Versailles flooring design for a particular subfloor condition.

By ensuring proper subfloor preparation and considering design factors, it is possible to achieve an excellent and aesthetically pleasing finish for the Versailles flooring installation. Always follow manufacturer's recommendations and comply with national standards to ensure a successful installation.

The Moisture Content of the Subfloor

In the UK, specific moisture requirements exist for different types of subfloors when installing Versailles flooring. Here are the recommended moisture levels for various subfloor types:

1. **Unheated Cementitious Screeds:** The moisture content of unheated cementitious screeds should be less than 2.0CM% (Carbide Method) and the relative humidity (RH) should be below 75%.
2. **Underfloor Heated Cementitious Screeds:** For underfloor heated cementitious screeds, the moisture content should be less than 1.8CM% (Carbide Method) and the relative humidity (RH) should be below 75%.
3. **Unheated Anhydrite (Calcium Sulphate) Screeds:** The moisture content of unheated anhydrite screeds should be less than 0.5CM% (Carbide Method).
4. **Underfloor Heated Anhydrite (Calcium Sulphate) Screeds:** Underfloor heated anhydrite screeds should have a moisture content of less than 0.3CM% (Carbide Method).

For direct-to-earth concrete and stone subfloors, it is essential to have an effective Damp Proof Membrane (DPM) in accordance with national standards for resilient floorcovering installation. This helps to prevent moisture from the ground seeping into the subfloor and potentially damaging the Versailles flooring.

Subfloor Preparation

It's important to follow these moisture guidelines and ensure that the subfloor conditions meet the recommended moisture levels before proceeding with the installation of Versailles flooring. Adhering to these requirements helps to prevent issues such as moisture-related damage, warping, and adhesive failure, ensuring a successful and long-lasting installation.

Note: Before installing Versailles flooring, the installer must thoroughly evaluate the subfloor and installation environment. This assessment involves checking for flatness, smoothness, moisture levels, structural integrity, contaminants, and defects. Factors like subfloor type, installation method, and flooring requirements should also be considered. By conducting a comprehensive assessment, the installer can address any necessary floor preparation, ensuring suitable installation conditions. This minimizes the risk of problems like unevenness or adhesive failure, resulting in a durable and high-quality flooring.

Acclimatisation

Prior to installation, it is essential that the Versailles flooring is allowed to acclimatise in the designated room or a similar space for a minimum of 24 hours. This time is necessary for the product to reach the appropriate ambient temperature, which should fall between a minimum of 18°C and a maximum of 27°C.

To facilitate a gradual acclimatisation process, it is advised to store the planks or tiles in straight piles, ensuring they are kept away from any sources of heat, cooling, or direct intense sunlight. This precautionary measure will help achieve the desired gradual adjustment of the flooring material to its surroundings.

Temperature Condition Before Installation

Before proceeding with the installation, it is important to ensure that the ambient temperature in the room falls within the range of 18°C to 27°C. Additionally, the temperature of the subfloor should be maintained above 15°C. These temperature conditions are necessary for the proper installation of the Versailles flooring.

Temperature Condition During and After Installation

During and after the installation process, it is crucial to maintain a consistent temperature that does not deviate by more than 5°C per day. It is important to ensure that the ambient temperature in the room falls within the range of 18°C to 27°C. The room temperature should not fall below the recommended 18°C, while the subfloor temperature should remain above 15°C. This temperature stability should be upheld for a minimum of 24 hours prior to installation and throughout the entire installation process.

Underfloor Heating

Versailles flooring is compatible with traditional water-based underfloor heating systems, in accordance with standard EN 1264 part 1 to 5. However, it is not recommended to use wired electrical systems unless they are encased in a minimum of 9mm of suitable levelling compound. It is important to avoid direct contact between the flooring and electrical wired heating systems. The surface temperature should never exceed 27°C. If you have any doubts or questions, it is advisable to seek additional advice.

After the installation is completed, it is necessary to gradually increase the temperature of the underfloor heating system over a period of 72 hours. This should be done in increments of 5°C per day until it reaches the standard operating temperature conditions, with a maximum operating temperature of 27°C. It is important to refer to the manufacturer's instructions to ensure the suitability of the system.

Please note that the following information is specific to the installation on PlusFloor looselay self-adhesive underlays. While some infrared heating panels may be suitable, caution should be exercised as certain systems can generate sudden heat gain, which is not recommended. Regardless of the circumstances, the surface temperature must not exceed 27°C. If you have any doubts, it is recommended to seek further advice.

Installation of the Patterns

Underfloor Cooling

Versailles flooring is suitable for installation over floor cooling systems. However, it is important to ensure that the supply temperature of the cooling water does not fall below the dew point temperature. To prevent condensation and potential damage to the adhesive and floor covering, it is recommended to maintain the temperature of the subfloor at least 3 degrees above the dew point. Keeping the subfloor temperature above the dew point helps to avoid the Versailles of moisture on the surface. It is crucial to adhere to these guidelines to maintain the integrity of the installation and the longevity of the Versailles flooring.

Required Expansion Gap

Versailles flooring is compatible with floor cooling systems. However, it is essential to ensure that the supply temperature of the cooling water does not drop below the dew point temperature. Maintaining the subfloor temperature at least 3 degrees above the dew point is crucial to prevent condensation. Temperatures below the dew point can lead to moisture accumulation, which can be detrimental to the adhesive and the floor covering. To protect the integrity of the installation and preserve the quality of the Versailles flooring, it is vital to adhere to these temperature guidelines.

Installation Methods

Versailles flooring offers various installation methods to accommodate different preferences and requirements. The following are the commonly recommended options:

1. Fully adhered to the subfloor with a permanent adhesive: This method requires using a permanent adhesive to fully adhere the Versailles flooring to the subfloor. It provides maximum stability and is suitable for high-traffic areas or where extra durability is desired.
2. Adhered to a looselaid underlay: In this method, the Versailles flooring is adhered to a looselaid underlay, which is placed on the subfloor. The underlay provides additional cushioning and stability.
3. Adhered to an underlay which is adhered to the subfloor: This method involves using an underlay that is adhered to the subfloor, and then the Versailles flooring is adhered to the underlay. It offers enhanced sound insulation and comfort.

It's important to note that for any alternative installation methods not mentioned here, it is advisable to seek technical advice directly from PlusFloor to ensure proper guidance and compatibility with the product.

Installation of the Patterns

Overall, the use of release adhesive offers practical advantages in terms of installation efficiency, durability, flexibility, and cost savings, making it a preferred choice for many Versailles flooring projects.

Fully Adhered Installation with Dispersion or 2-Component Epoxy/PU Adhesive

When installing Versailles or tiles, it is important to lay them without tension, ensuring a continuous and snug fit against walls or plinths.

To achieve optimal results, the entire area should be affixed using the recommended adhesive, following the manufacturer's instructions. This adhesive fixation offers several benefits, including reduced sensitivity to movement on suspended subfloors, improved resistance to wheeled furniture or rolling loads, and increased durability in areas with temperature and humidity fluctuations.

The advantages of using a permanent adhesive include:

1. **Dispersion Adhesive:** Suitable for all types of surfaces and areas with heavy use or moderate temperature variations. It can be combined with other areas that are installed using a release adhesive.
2. **2-Component Adhesive:** Ideal for areas prone to periodic wetting, such as entranceways, and spaces with significant temperature fluctuations, like non-temperature controlled conservatories or areas in front of large glass windows.

For any specific conditions, including installation suitability, underfloor heating compatibility, and the selection of the appropriate adhesive, please reach out to the knowledgeable PlusFloor Technical team.

Recommended Overlay

Consideration can be given to installing Versailles on an underlay in addition to the traditional methods of tackifying or direct adhesion to the subfloor. PlusFloor offers underlay options that cater to both looselay installation and improved acoustic performance. It is crucial to select an underlay that has been specifically tested and approved by PlusFloor for use with the floorcovering. Please note that PlusFloor disclaims any responsibility for non-approved combinations. It is important to adhere to the recommended and approved underlay options to ensure optimal performance and warranty compliance.

PlusFloor offers a Heavy Duty Use underlay designed to provide enhanced performance and durability. Here are some key features and benefits of the PlusFloor Underlay:

1. **Improved sound insulation:** The underlay is engineered to enhance sound insulation, achieving a sound reduction rating of $b.Lw=15$ dB when combined with a 5 mm floorcovering.
2. **Quick and easy installation:** The underlay features a release foil and pressure sensitive adhesive film, ensuring convenient and efficient installation.
3. **Compatibility with underfloor heating and cooling:** The underlay is suitable for use with underfloor heating and cooling systems, allowing for efficient temperature management.
4. **Excellent dimensional stability:** The underlay offers excellent dimensional stability, helping to maintain the integrity and appearance of the Versailles floor over time.
5. **Suitable for heavy rolling loads:** The underlay is designed to withstand roller castor chairs and rolling loads of up to 250kg, providing reliable support and durability.

When using PlusFloor Underlay, you can expect improved acoustics, ease of installation, compatibility with underfloor heating, enhanced stability, and the ability to handle heavy rolling loads.

Installation of the Patterns

The PlusFloor underlay offers the advantage of smoothing out minor irregularities up to a maximum width of 5mm. This feature allows for installation over various existing floor coverings, including linoleum, compact PVC floors, wooden floorboards, and ceramic tiles (without crossing the joints). The underlay minimizes the visibility of subfloor irregularities, providing a smooth and even surface.

During installation, it is crucial to ensure that the floor has a minimum surface temperature of 18°C. Monitoring and recording these conditions throughout the installation process is highly important, and maintaining the records serves as evidence of proper installation conditions.

When installed on PlusFloor underlay, the Versailles flooring becomes a "floating" floor. In stable temperature conditions, a tension-free installation is sufficient, leaving a 1 to 2mm expansion gap at the perimeter of the room or area. For innovative solutions to cover the expansion gap, refer to the 'finishing your floor' section.

Tools Required

- Tape measure
- Chalk line/laser line
- Underlay Tabs
- Utility knife
- Pencil
- Roller minimum 50kg
- Set Square

Recommended Overlay

Install the PlusFloor underlays by placing the sheets next to each other without leaving gaps, ensuring that the edges are in direct contact. The underlays should be positioned perpendicular (at a 90° angle) to the direction in which the new floorcovering will be laid. In cases where the underlay has a printed side, make sure to lay it with the printed side facing up.

It is not necessary to fasten or attach one sheet to another. Once the underlays are properly laid, you can proceed with installing your new floor following the provided fitting instructions. It is important to note that using adhesive should be discussed with the technical services of PlusFloor beforehand. They can provide guidance on whether adhesive is required and the appropriate type to use for your specific installation.

General Steps

The installation method described in the section "Installation methods" involves laying the Versailles or tiles in a semi-loose laid manner using a release adhesive. The planks or tiles are laid without tension and are continuously butted against each other and the walls or plinths.

To achieve this, the entire area should be adhered with the recommended release adhesive. The adhesive should be spread evenly over the subfloor, allowing it to tack-off until it reaches its initial bonding strength. This method reduces the sensitivity of the Versailles to movement on suspended subfloors and provides greater resistance to wheeled furniture or rolling loads.

It is important to consult the specifications of the adhesive being used for further information and to follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

General Steps

Step 1: Determine the installation direction of the PlusFloor flooring and mark a straight line parallel to the longest wall. For adhered installation, proceed to step 2. For loose-laid underlay installation, refer to the section "installation of loose-laid underlay." For adhesive tabs installation, refer to the section "installation methods."

Step 2: Create a section to be glued, typically around 5 rows wide. Read the manufacturer's instructions before using the adhesive.

Step 3: Apply the adhesive evenly on the subfloor and let it tack-off until it reaches its initial bonding strength. Consult the adhesive specifications for more details.

Step 4: Lay the planks or tiles in the tacked-off adhesive, following the direction of the backing arrows. Use a new panel for each row and avoid using leftover pieces from the previous row. Cut the planks or tiles without tension against the wall or skirting. Only apply adhesive for a manageable section at a time.

Step 5: Press each plank or tile firmly into the adhesive with a rubbing block or hand roller for full contact.

Step 6: Remove excess adhesive with a damp cloth.

Step 7: If using full contact adhesive, immediately roll each section with a minimum 50kg flooring roller in different directions during the adhesive working time.

Repeat steps 2 to 7 until the entire installation is completed.

INSTALLATION AND WARRANTY

All PlusFloor floors should be installed by a skilled and competent installer who will consider the unique circumstances of each site. The PlusFloor warranty will be applicable only to floors that have been installed by a competent flooring installer conforming to the standards comparable to BS8201 in the UK or an equivalent standard worldwide.

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