Best 4 Flooring

Installing and maintaining your foam backed sheet vinyl floor

Your new foam backed sheet vinyl floor is made to bring long lasting performance and great looks. Correct installation and maintenance will ensure that your foam backed sheet vinyl floor brings your home lasting good looks and long life.

Tools needed:
- A sharp safety knife and spare blades
- Non permanent marker pen
- Tape measure
- Long metal ruler or straight-edge
- Adhesive trowel
- Acrylic adhesive or double-sided tape (for loose lay up to 12m2)

Preparing the room, subfloor and cushion flooring

Ensure that the ambient temperature of the room is between 18-20OC and at a humidity of 45-65%. If the cushion floor is to be installed upon underfloor heating than this must be turned off 24 hours prior to installation and kept off throughout the fitting process.

Vacuum and clean the subfloor with water and a mild detergent to remove all grease and dirt. The subfloor must be dust-free, hard, flat, dry and smooth. Level the subfloor using a self-levelling screed if necessary.

Roll out the cushion flooring in the room and leave to acclimatise for a minimum of 12 hours before undertaking the installation.

Installation

Taking the time to install your cushion flooring properly, will ensure a better finish and a longer lasting floor. Make sure you have all the necessary installation tools and adhesive or double-sided tape available before you start. Before bringing the flooring into the room it is to be fitted in, select a starting wall. Ideally the wall should be the longest and straightest within the room.
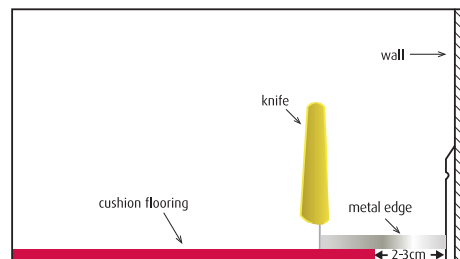
Take the roll of cushion flooring and lay it diagonally across the room. Gradually unroll, drawing it round until the pattern is running parallel to the starting wall. It may be easier to remove the door for the purposes of manoeuvrability. The edge of the flooring should be positioned 2-3cm from the edge of the starting wall. By measuring from the base of the skirting to a recognisable part of the pattern, check that the cushion flooring is running square to the starting wall. Also, remove any trapped air by using a smooth clean brush over the floor.

Fitting the first side

Providing there is surplus material on the width, in order to fit the first side place a metal ruler against the wall and keep the knife as vertical as possible against its edge.
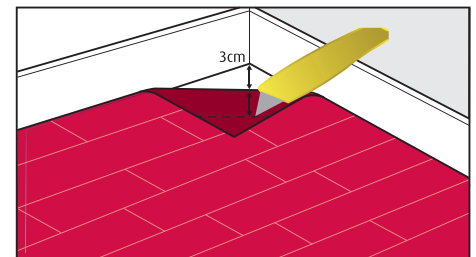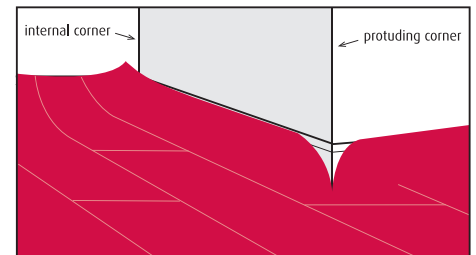
Slide the ruler or straightedge and knife along the line of the wall and remove any excess material. The floor will now fit the contours of the wall perfectly and should be positioned flush against it.

Corners

At protruding corners such as kitchen units etc, it is necessary to make relief cuts from the edge of the flooring where it meets the base of the skirting. This will enable the cushion flooring to fit the contours of the room.

In order to fit internal corners, fold the flooring back and measure from the edge of the fold to the base of the corner. Take this same measurement from the centre of the fold towards the edge of the flooring. This excess material should be cut off and the flooring will now fit into the internal corner. The floor should be then swept with a soft brush to remove trapped air pockets and flatten the flooring.
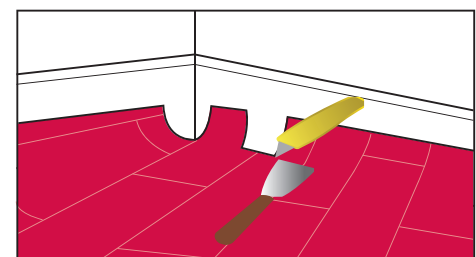

Doorways

Relief cuts are needed around the frame of the doorway. These should be achieved using the same method as for protruding corners. Similarly, as before, sweep the material with a soft brush to remove air pockets. If bulges are still apparent then further relief cuts are required.
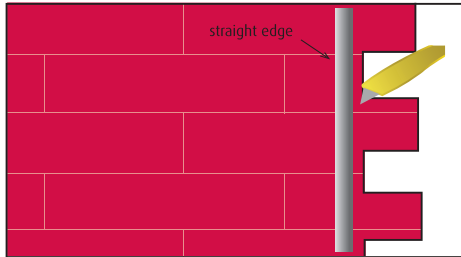
Cutting In

Press the flooring hard against the base of the skirting using a small block of wood and creating a slight crease. Using a paint scraper, press firmly into the base of the skirting and holding your knife as vertical as possible, make a small cut using the paint scraper as a guide.

Remove this piece of the flooring and repeat every 15-20cm along the edge of the flooring.
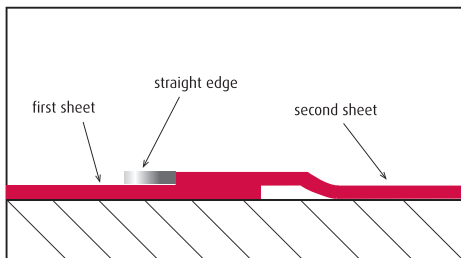
Once this has been done, pull the material back, place a straight edge along the line of cuts and trim neatly.
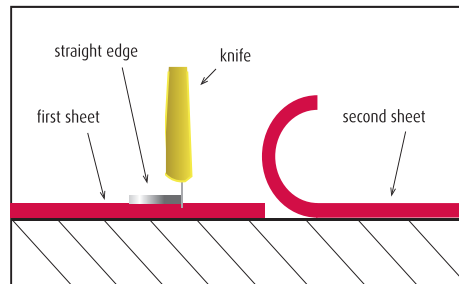

Seams

It may be necessary to have joins in your cushion flooring and in order to achieve this successfully, cut a straight edge along the line of the seam using the line of the pattern where possible.

The second flooring sheet should be inserted under the true edge of the first flooring sheet taking care to line up the pattern exactly. If necessary, a weight can be used to prevent movement. In order to cut the seam on the second sheet, butt a straight edge against the seam of the first sheet, fold back, and trim the second sheet along the straight edge. The two sheets will now meet perfectly.

Seams should be stuck using an acrylic adhesive, or double-sided anti-plasticiser tape. Which ever method is applied must be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. It is essential that the area being stuck is free from dirt and loose particles. Run a cloth or roller along the seam to flatten the flooring and remove excess adhesive with a damp cloth or white spirit.

Only once the seam is secure can the second sheet be fitted. To prevent dirt and water from entering seams, seal using a suitable vinyl seaming weld. Silicone sealants can be used around edges where potential for standing water is high, such as in bathrooms.

Securing your cushion flooring

Because of your cushion flooring's lay flat properties, it is not necessary to stick down all over areas under 12m2, just secure the floor under heavy objects such as tables, chairs and electrical appliances such as washing machines and fridge freezers to prevent damage when moving items. Areas over 12m2 should be fully adhered to the subfloor with a recommended acrylic adhesive.

Never push, pull or drag furniture or appliances across the flooring. When moving items of furniture and appliances

always lift and carry the items, or use a towel or turn a piece of carpet upside down, place underneath the item and slide.

HINTS AND TIPS

The finished foam backed sheet vinyl floor is only as good as what's underneath, so follow these tips on subfloor preparation for an excellent end result:

The subfloor should be dry, level and swept clean of small objects.

Timber boards – ply or hardboard with barbed or rim edge nails every 15cm. Lay hardboard rough side up

Bitumen or dark asphalt – Screed over to cap the subfloor
Old dark thermoplastic (or PVC) floor tiles – as above to avoid the tiles staining through into the vinyl. A layer of paper underneath can also be used.

On occasion, mistakes may occur in fitting the material particularly around edges where the cut has not been as straight as it should have been. To avoid an unsightly finish, place wood mouldings around the edge of skirtings.

It is a good idea to remove doors while fitting your cushion flooring as it will make manoeuvrability easier. If the level of the sheet vinyl floor has been changed through adding hardboard or similar then it may be necessary to trim the bottom of the door to avoid scuffing the sheet vinyl floor.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Easy to keep clean and hygienic, your new cushion flooring has to withstand a lot of traffic, wear and dirt so regular maintenance is necessary to keep it looking its best for longer. There are no hard and fast rules for when to clean your floor as it depends on the room usage and the amount of traffic it receives. Always read the cautionary information on all cleaners prior to use.

GENERAL CARE & MAINTENANCE

Vacuum or use a soft brush to remove as much dirt as possible. Clean with a solution of warm water and a few drops of washing-up liquid. Excessive use of washing-up liquid can leave an invisible film on the floor which is difficult to remove and will feel tacky. Any marks that are difficult to get out with this method can be rid by gentle rubbing with a fine grade nylon pad.

Cleaning with the above mentioned method when the floor looks dirty, or once a week, will maintain your floor adequately. If the floor is exposed to lots of traffic, an acrylic emulsion polish can be used to protect the floor.