

SHEET VINYL FLOORING FITTING GUIDE



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SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- **Concrete floors** Use a levelling compound if the surface is uneven, rough or cracked. It is usual to apply 3-6mm of levelling compound to produce the desired level of smoothness.

- **Floor boarded timber floors** All loose floorboards should be secured with suitable nails or countersunk screws. Any protruding nails must be hammered down flush with the surface. Cover the floorboards with 3-6mm gauge resinbonded plywood panels (normally 1200mm x 600mm). Secure the panels with 25mm ring shanked nails, staples or countersunk flat head screws, at 100mm spacing. If the subfloor is timber on top of a solid base (e.g. wood blocks on concrete) remove the timber and treat as concrete. Do not lay the flooring directly on timber treated with wood preservative.

- **Quarry or ceramic tiles** Follow the basic requirements above for concrete floors. Any loose or broken tiles should be removed and the floor patched with a suitable concrete batch before using a latex levelling compound to fill the joints between the tiles to create a smooth surface. You can install the floor directly on the ceramic tiles if the joints are 1mm deep and 2mm width. Old quarry tiles were often laid on subfloors without a suitable damp-proof membrane. This should be checked prior to the installation of the floor. If there is no integral DPM then a surface DPM must be installed.

- **Existing smooth flooring** Remove all existing cushioned vinyl, linoleum, cork flooring. • **Hard flooring** Existing hard flooring such as PVC Composite tiles may be left in place. All polish must be removed from the tiles with a solution of 2% household ammonia, the floor must then be thoroughly rinsed with clean water. Any damaged or loose fitting tiles must be removed and the floor patched flush to the remaining tiles with levelling compound. To prevent staining to the new floor, the tiles must then be covered with a MINIMUM 6mm thickness of levelling compound.

- **OSB plates** All loose floorboards should be secured with suitable nails or countersunk screws. Any protruding nails must be hammered down flush with the surface. Do not lay the flooring directly on timber treated with wood preservative.

- After subfloor preparation has been completed, carefully remove all dirt and debris from the subfloor with a vacuum cleaner, a broom or a brush with fine bristles

RECCOMENDED TOOLS



A tape measure



A sharp knife with a straight blade for long cuts



Hair-dryer (optional)



A roll of double-sided tape suitable for use with cushioned vinyl floor coverings (plasticizer-resistant)



A soft brush



Pencil



A long metal ruler or straight edge

SHEET VINYL FLOORING SINGLE PIECE INSTALLATION

Important. Before installation, we recommend that the cushioned floor is laid flat and left for 24 hours at a room temperature of +18°C. If it is not possible to do this then the flooring should be loosely rolled and left in the room where it is to be installed for at least 24 hours. This will make the floor more flexible and easier to handle.

FITTING YOUR FLOOR

1. Measure the maximum width and length of the room remembering to include any recess or doorway.
2. Rough cut the material to size leaving about 5cm all round for final trimming in.
3. Line up the cut piece to your selected starting wall. The material is laid with the 5cm over-cut running up the walls, ensuring that the pattern runs parallel to the wall.
4. It is important to cut the floor in gradually. Several small trimming cuts are better than attempting one cut and will result in a better finish. Always hold the knife perpendicular to the floor to keep a straight cut finish.

5. With the material now lying flat around the fittings and corners, the final cutting along the wall lengths can be carried out. Push the flooring into the joint between the wall and floor with a straight edge and cut off small strips at a time, gradually working the material down to the floor keeping the blade tight against the skirting board and held as near the vertical position as possible.
6. Avoid trimming in too tightly as this will prevent the material lying flat (as a general rule leave a gap of 1.5 - 2mm between the edge of the floor and the skirting board to allow for normal movement, this will avoid any buckling due to room expansion/contraction).

7. Release any trapped air by sweeping with a soft broom.

8. Double sided tape can be used to fix the perimeter edges.



Internal corners

Make small diagonal cuts across the material's corner very gradually until the material fits neatly into the corner.



External corners

Push the material firmly down into the joint between the floor and wall. Cut down the material, following the corner and trim flat to the floor. It can be helpful to gently warm the floor with a domestic hair dryer to make it more flexible.



Irregular fittings (radiator pipes etc).

Push the material into the joint between the floor and fitting and cut down almost to the floor. A small cross-cut will then stop the material tearing. Gently ease the material down around the fitting by cutting to the floor at all pressure points and cutting flat to the floor.



EXTRA TIP

Do not crease or fold the vinyl sheets as this can lead to permanent damage. Do not write on the back of the vinyl sheets with a pen or a felt tip marker. If necessary use a soft graphite pencil.