

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### PRODUCT SUITABILITY

**DURA.Flexflor** is suitable for all interior floor surfaces, above, on or below grade, and over concrete or wood substrates. It is ideally suited for medium duty commercial environments such as retail, leisure, health and education. **DURA.Flexflor** is SCS Floor Score certified, is manufactured under ISO 9001:2000 *Quality Management Systems*, ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and is suitable for radiant heated floors and is 100% recyclable.

### TESTING AND ACCLIMATION

Concrete substrates must be cured for a minimum of 42 days and tested for moisture emission using the anhydrous calcium chloride method, the test should be conducted around the perimeter of the room, at columns, and where moisture may be evident. The moisture emissions from the concrete should not exceed 1.36 kg / 92.9m<sup>2</sup> / 24 hrs. (3lbs / 1000sf. / 24 hrs.)

If the concrete exceeds moisture limitations, the installation should not proceed until the problem is corrected; re-test to ensure that the problem has been corrected. It is important to note that a moisture test indicates conditions at the time of testing, manufacturer and/or flooring contractor cannot be held responsible if moisture appears in the future, causing adhesive failure. Please note that new concrete subfloors contain a high percentage of moisture and must be allowed to dry out. The drying time will depend on several conditions, such as the type of concrete used, average air temperature and thickness and location of the slab.

**DURA.Flexflor** must be present on site to allow an appropriate period of time for the product to acclimatize. Remove the material from packaging, spread out the material to acclimate in the room where the installation is to take place at a constant temperature of 18°- 24° for a period of 48 hours prior to the installation and for an additional 48 hours or as required for loose lay installations. A constant temperature of 18°- 24° and relative humidity of 45%-60% must be maintained prior, during and after all installations.

### INSTALLATION OPTIONS

1. **DURA.Flexflor** can be installed in a loose-lay method, with a perimeter adhesion of industrial heavy duty double-sided adhesive tape or pressure sensitive adhesive.

2. **DURA.Flexflor** can be installed in a full spread method, with a pressure sensitive or permanent wet set adhesive.

- For commercial applications, **DURA.Flexflor** must be glued down in a full spread permanent wet set method.
- For installation over radiant heat, **DURA.Flexflor** must be glued down in a full spread permanent wet set method.

**NOTE:** Any installation exceeding 7m in length or width **must** have a 5mm expansion gap and a full spread permanent wet set method **must** be used; areas exposed to direct sunlight **must** be glued down in a full spread permanent wet set method. (\*see care & maintenance).

### SUBFLOOR

- Substrate surfaces shall be sound, true and level to a tolerance of 6 mm in 3 m (¼" in 10 ft.) for floors and free of deflection of no more than 1/360 of span under live or dead load.
- Concrete substrates shall be cured for a minimum of 42 days and tested for moisture emission using the anhydrous calcium chloride method. Test results shall be no more than 1.36 kg / 92.9m<sup>2</sup> / 24 hrs. (3lbs / 1000sf. / 24 hrs.) prior to the installation of the floor covering.
- All new concrete substrates should be steel trowel finished. A moisture barrier with a permeance of less than 0,2 metric perms as measured according to the ASMT-96 standard must be present under concrete slabs that are on or below grade, this barrier must be resistant to deterioration as well as to puncture during construction and must remain intact and continuous.
- Any repair to the concrete substrate shall be made using the proper surface preparation product, fast setting cement-based polymer modified patching compound and acrylic latex additive are recommended. Other types of levelers, such as calcium sulfate/plaster/gypsum based compounds are not recommended.
- Neutralize any traces of strong acid or alkali prior to application of the surface preparation product or the adhesive.
- Particleboard, strand board and flake board are not recommended underlayments, therefore are not recommended for use as a substrate for **DURA.Flexflor**.
- Plywood substrate and underlayment shall be group 1, exterior grade plywood, CC plugged or better conforming to APA classification and U.S Product Standard PS 1-95 or a select or (SEL TF) COFI classified. The installation of wood underlayment shall comply with ASTM F499-84 standard.
- All new wood underlayment shall be acclimated for at least 48 hours to the job site condition prior to installation.
- When required, the wood underlayment shall be filled and patched to correct seams, cracks, indentations and other subfloor irregularities using the proper surface preparation products. Fast setting cement-based polymer modified patching compound and acrylic latex additive are recommended. Other types of levelers, such as calcium sulfate/plaster/gypsum based compounds are not recommended

## OLD SUBSTRATES

- **DURA.Flexflor** can be installed over any hard and flat surface.
- Existing cement, terrazzo, ceramic tile, single layer non-cushioned mineral fibrous felt-back sheet vinyl shall be sound, solid, well adhered, flawless, stripped or sanded clean and free of dust, wax, grease, soap residue or any deleterious substance that may reduce or prevent adhesion.
- Can be installed over a single layer of non-cushioned resilient flooring provided the following conditions have been met; the existing flooring must be fully adhered and well-bonded; the sub floor or underlayment that is under the existing resilient floor must meet the requirements already noted.
- Any cuts, gouges, dents, grout joints or other irregularities in the existing floor and any existing embossing or texture must be leveled to prevent telegraphing; embossed vinyl flooring shall be properly leveled with the fast setting cement-based polymer modified patching compound and acrylic latex additive system and entire floor skim coated to ensure adhesion.
- Any waxes or finishes must be completely removed and rinsed with clean water; and If the existing floor has been installed over concrete, on a below grade, a calcium chloride moisture test must be performed. The results of the test must meet the requirements as previously noted. Moisture tests should be conducted over an area where the existing floor and adhesive has been completely removed.

## PREPARATION

- The material must be allowed to acclimatize at a constant temperature of 18°- 24° for a period of 48 hours prior to installation and for an additional 48 hours or as required after the installation. A constant temperature of 18°- 24° and relative humidity of 45%-60% must be maintained prior, during and after all installations. New concrete floors need to dry out for at least 60 days prior to installation. Make sure the floor is smooth, clean, and free of wax, grease, oil or dust. All surfaces shall be sound, true and level to a tolerance of 3 m (¼" in 10 ft.) for floors.

**NOTE:** Any installation exceeding 7m in length or width **must** have a 5mm expansion gap and a full spread permanent wet set method **must** be used; areas exposed to direct sunlight **must** be glued down in a full spread permanent wet set method. (\*see care & maintenance).

## INSTALLATION

- A 5mm expansion gap must be left against walls and other fixed components such as transitions, thresholds/doorways, doorframes, pipes, etc. all door jambs and casings must be undercut. Areas exceeding 7m in length or width **must** have a 5mm expansion gap.
- Ensure that each plank fit "tightly" together, the planks should not be forced into place.
- Lay a complete row of planks and cut the last plank with the cut edge to fit against the opposite wall, allowing for a 5mm expansion gap, the planks should not be forced into place.
- For best visual effect and dimensional stability, always stagger the planks from row to row with a minimum 20cm offset.
- Loose lay installations require a transition trim at all thresholds/doorways.
- The manufacturer or supplier will not be liable for any loss, damage or complaint of any kind if the specific laying procedures described in this guide are not followed.
- Installations must be from cartons with the same production lot numbers.

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## LOOSE LAY

- A 5mm expansion gap must be left against walls and other fixed components such as transitions, thresholds/doorways, doorframes, pipes, etc. all door jambs and casings must be undercut. Areas exceeding 7m in length or width **must** have a 5mm expansion gap and a full spread permanent wet set method **must** be used.
- Install a minimum of 15 cm wide strip of industrial heavy duty double-sided adhesive tape or pressure sensitive adhesive around the perimeter of the room.
- For areas greater than 3.66m in width or length, a grid formation method **must** be used by applying a minimum of 15cm industrial heavy duty double-sided adhesive tape or pressure sensitive adhesive at each intersecting 3.66m interval, alternately a full spread installation is recommended for best results.

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## GLUE DOWN

- A 5mm expansion gap must be left against walls and other fixed components such as transitions, thresholds/doorways, doorframes, pipes, etc. all door jambs and casings must be undercut. Areas exceeding 7m in length or width **must** have a 5mm expansion gap and a full spread permanent wet set method **must** be used.
- For a full spread installation with pressure sensitive or permanent adhesive, follow the manufactures installation recommendations.
- A full spread permanent wet set method is required for areas exposed to direct sunlight. (\*see the care & maintenance section)
- Use the notched trowel recommended by the adhesive manufacturer to achieve full transfer of the adhesive to the backing of the floor covering. Work in small enough area to ensure that **DURA.Flexflor** is laid into adhesive according to the adhesive manufacture's installation methods.
- Position the plank in the adhesive without sliding and pressing firmly down, paying special attention to the edges and corners and that the ends of the planks are staggered a minimum of 20cm for best visual appearance.
- Periodically check by lifting a plank/tile to assure enough adhesive coverage to achieve full transfer to the backing of the floor covering.
- Roll each section in both directions immediately upon completing with a minimum 100-150 lb. roller. Re-roll the entire area after one or two hours. Promptly remove adhesive smudges with a clean cloth dampened with water while adhesive is still fresh and mineral spirits when dried. Ensure that all tile and planks are free from general traffic for 24 hours after installation.

## **RADIANT HEATED FLOORS**

**DURA.Flexflor** installations over approved radiant heated floor systems must be installed in a wet set method with an adhesive that is approved over radiant heated floors, please consult your representative for your particular application.

- Concrete subfloors must be cured for a minimum of 90 days before beginning the installation.
- In floor heating pipes must be covered with a minimum of 1" of concrete.
- Maximum allowable ambient temperature is 24° C.
- The heating system must be fully operational at normal temperature for a minimum of 21 days prior to the flooring installation.
- The heating system must be turned off 12 hours prior to the flooring installation and must remain off for 12 hours after the flooring installation.
- Starting 12 hours after the completion of the flooring installation, gradually increase the temperature over a 7 day period at 2° C increments to the normal operating level.

## **CARE & MAINTENANCE**

**DURA.Flexflor** UV cured polyurethane finish will protect your floor for many years. Follow the precautions below for keeping your floor looking good for years to come.

- Temperature and humidity during and after the floor covering installation must be maintained, ensure that room temperature is kept between 18°- 24° and relative humidity between 45-65%.
- Do not allow traffic on the installation before 24hrs after completion.
- Do not thoroughly wash the floor covering with water before 30 days. Wipe with a damp mop during the first month to allow adhesive to cure.
- Sweep, vacuum and damp mop floor regularly.
- Do not allow exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time will cause discoloration and expansion. The use of suitable drapes and blinds to avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods are required.
- Use non-staining, flat surface not less than 2 inches in diameter for legs of heavy appliances and furniture. Use proper floor protectors on all chairs, remove all small diameter buttons from legs of straight chairs and replace with medal glides no smaller than 1inch in diameter. Examine your protectors periodically, check for burs, debris or wear and make sure the surface is smooth.
- Do not drag items across your floor.
- Avoid rolling type caster chairs, these precautions may reduce scratches and indentations from appearing on your floor.
- Do not expose floor to frequent standing water and wipe up all spills quickly.
- Use walk off mats at all room entrances, do not use rubber or latex back mats, certain chemicals in backing can stain vinyl, use non-staining vinyl mats or woven rugs that are colorfast.
- For routine cleaning thoroughly sweep, vacuum and damp mop the floor before washing. Add 4 mL/L or as recommended by the manufacturer of a neutral floor cleaner to 1 gallon of warm water. Damp mop the floor using a clean sponge or damp mop for best results, continue to rinse the mop or sponge throughout the cleaning process.
- For deep cleaning add 8 mL/L or as recommended by the manufacturer of a neutral floor cleaner to 4 liters of warm water. Damp mop the floor using a clean sponge or mop for best results, continue to rinse the mop or sponge throughout the cleaning process.
- For heavily soiled floors add 50 ml/L or as recommended by the manufacturer of a neutral floor cleaner to 1 gallon of warm water. Damp mop the floor using a clean sponge or mop for best results, use a white scrub brush or nylon pad may be used to loosen dirt. For best results, continue to rinse the brush or pad throughout the cleaning process.
- **DURA.Flexflor** UV cured polyurethane finish does not require coatings, however if an extra coating is desired they must be applied according to the manufactures recommended procedures. Once a coating is applied, a regular maintenance program will be required to strip and re-coat the flooring according the manufactures recommendations.