

Recommended method for laying and cleaning of resilient floor coverings

This notice provides information on planning and executing floor covering work. This work is one of a group of building contract items as defined by the German (VOB) Building Contracting Code, comprising General Technical Specifications (ATV) DIN 18365 floor finishing standard specifications. Both standards are mandatory in planning and executing laying work. Floor coverings have to be used according to their classification (note label and technical specification).

1. Subfloors

Subfloors should fully comply with DIN 18365 floor finishing specifications. The foorer should inspect the subfloor to make sure it is of the proper type and condition or if there raise any objections he may consider necessary. Demands on subfloors are laid down in DIN 18365 compulsory inspection requirement. In case of any queries concerning the subfloor and construction please contact the adhesive manufacturer. Usually our floor coverings have to be installed by use of a light-colored dispersions glue.

2. Installation

2.1. Color harmony

Floor covering materials are bound to come with certain variations in hue and shade, inevitable as part of their manufacturing and visual color rating process. For an installation of several rolls in related series of rooms has to be considered the identity of batches and an ascending sequence of roll identification numbers when ordering and installing. Sheets without design-repetition has to be installed reversed! Please note the marked direction for installation and roll ID-number on label when arranging the sheets before installation [consecutive numbering = three figures behind the slash of roll number]. Please inspect the material for color harmony before installation. Minor differences dependent on production should be tolerated. Customer complaints for color deviation cannot be accepted after installation.

2.2 Acclimatization

A perfect process for laying resilient floor coverings requires a room temperature of at least 18 °C, a floor temperature of at least 15 °C and less than 75 % of relative atmospheric humidity.

2.3. Cut and stick

1. Create suitable conditions of room climate (see point 2.2).
2. Preparing the subfloor in compliance to the recognized codes of practice and recommendations of adhesive manufacturer.
3. It is advisable that sheets are cut to size and laid slack rolled at least one day before installing.
4. Cut of sheets, considering the repetition of design. Sheets without design-repetition has to be installed reversed!
5. Laying down the sheets. Cut (double cut) of seams and wall connecting line.
6. Fold back sheets and apply adhesive all-over and in straight line. Application calls for a proper choice of teeth ratio and satisfactory length of flash off time (please note the recommendations of adhesive manufacturer). Avoid a twice application of adhesive (it would be visible at the floor covering surface). Put the flooring into the flashed off, semi-wet bed of adhesive.
7. Laying of sheets blister free. Straining and compressions in the joint area must be avoided necessarily.
8. Roll and weight down carefully to flatten the adhesive. Wetting of the flooring backside has to be done consistently good.
9. Controlling of seams and weight down again.
10. Joint sealing not before 24 h (see at point 2.6.)

2.4. Adhesives

Please note the details and recommendations of manufacturer's guidelines. We recommend adhesives of the following manufacturer: ARDEX GmbH, Bostik Findley GmbH, Forbo ADHESIVES Erfurt GmbH, Henkel Bautechnik GmbH/Thomsit, Kiesel Bauchemie GmbH & Co. KG, Mapei GmbH, Schönox GmbH, UZIN Utz AG, Wakol-Chemie GmbH. Exclusively the manufacturer of adhesives is responsible for the suitability and correctness of details! Advices and recommendations of the manufacturer are mandatory to be considered.

2.5. Alternative laying with tackifier adhesive

This alternative method is introduced to the market and corresponds to the state of the art. The laying method must be carried out in accordance to DIN 18365 and is only recommended for the use of LIVE PU and LIFETEC® (exclusively domestic premises). Please note the recommendations and adhesive manufacturer's directions for using as well as advises in point 2.3. (cut and stick).

2.5.1. First laying (Alternative laying with tackifier adhesive)

First laying should be done in compliance to point 2. Instead of adhesive is applied the recommended tackifier by use of an appropriate application roll. Cold welding of seams is possible straightaway after installing.

2.5.2. Second laying (Alternative laying with tackifier adhesive)

Second laying should be done in compliance to first laying. After cutting the new roll material and removing the old flooring (crosswise to the direction of laying) a direct installation is possible. The same tackifier has to be applied again if necessary.

2.6. Recommendation for sealing joints

A permanent sealing of joints can only be given by using an appropriate welding procedure. Thermal welding procedure is recommended for the flooring types LIFETEC® SPEZIAL, LIFETEC COMFORT®, COMPACT XPS®, ACOUSTIC design, LIFE + CARE COMFORT and LIFE + CARE COMPACT XPM® by using a colored debolon welding rod. A cold welding method by using paper mask tape and appropriate cold welding paste is alternatively possible also. Please consider cold welding equipment Type T and paper mask tape of Werner Müller GmbH PVC-Kaltschweißtechnik (<http://www.mueller-pvc-naht.de>) for debolon ACTION VB, LIVE PU, LIFETEC®, LIFETEC SPEZIAL®, LIFETEC COMFORT®, LIFE + Care COMFORT. Cold welding agent of Type A is to use for COMPACT XPS®, ACOUSTIC design and LIFE + CARE COMPACT XPM®. Please ask for appropriate recommendation at Werner Müller GmbH PVC-Kaltschweißtechnik (<http://www.mueller-pvc-naht.de>).

3. Cleaning and care

debolon resilient flooring should be cleaned after installation to remove any building site dirt.

3.1. Floor covering without surface protection:

The clean newly laid flooring should always receive a first protective treatment. Apart from the regular treatments, your flooring will at long intervals require deep thorough cleaning. This will remove any old coats of preservative agents as well as firmly adherent dirt completely. The deep thorough cleaning agent should match the usual wiping product. Please consider the recommendations and advices of the detergent manufacturer. After the deep thorough cleaning, a protective starter treatment should again be applied.

3.2. Floor covering with surface protection:

An initial sealing, waxing or finishing is not necessary for debolon floor coverings treated with the special surface protection deboXPS® or deboXPM®. If there are any signs of wear or roughening of the surface after intensive use, please make a thoroughly cleaning and apply a protective coating (polymer dispersions or PU-seal). We recommend a regularly double-stage cleaning by wet wiping. Entrance mats will prevent dirt collecting and moreover help to extend the lifetime of the flooring. Please consider the application of an adequate pad when using a cleansing machine. debolon floor covering should never be treated with any aggressive agent, scouring sand, soft soap, floor polish or solvent. A recommended commercial intensive cleanser should be added to the water for removing persistent stains. The cleaning interval depends on the dirt level and demands of cleanliness.

debolon LIFE + CARE COMFORT and LIFE + CARE COMPACT XPM® are both factory-finished with a matt, low light reflective surface. The slightly increased mechanical resistance originating from wet cleaning by using a cleaning mop is a typical product related characteristic. The maintenance cleaning is considerably made easier by using a professional cleaning agent.

Regularly tested products from the following suppliers are recommended for cleaning and care: CC-Dr. Schutz GmbH, ECOLAB GmbH, RZ Chemie GmbH, Diversey Deutschland GmbH, Loba GmbH & Co. KG, Tana Chemie GmbH, Dr. Schnell Chemie GmbH, Johannes Kiel KG. The manufacturer of flooring-care is responsible for utility and applicability of the recommended products and gives further details if necessary.

4. Special advices

Substances with dyeing or bleaching effect have to be removed immediately. Chairs have to be necessarily equipped with castors of type W according to EN 12529 (light colored, soft and of recommended size).

This recommendation is just to be considered supplementary. It does not raise claims to completeness and does not cancel the German (VOB) Building Contracting Code comprising General Technical Specifications (ATV). Both regulations as well as the generally recognized codes of practice are to be regarded when planning and executing floor covering work. The contractor has to made his own decision regarding method and direction of installation, considering local and structural conditions. This recommendation does not release the contractor from its duties of notifying and inspecting. Changes due to technical progress are reserved.

If you have any queries how to use or treat debolon floor coverings, please call our customer support staff who gladly will provide you any information required. The extensive recommendations of numerous flooring-care and adhesive manufacturer we will send to you on demand.

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