

ACOUSTIC  
HETEROGENEOUS  
VINYL

Optic Acoustic  
Tapiflex Excellence 65  
Tapiflex Essential 50

# Installation instructions

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## IMPORTANT!

- Make sure all specifications and instructions are followed carefully.
- Contact your Tarkett representative if you are unsure about any part of the installation.
- This information is subject to change due to continuous improvement.
- Use the same batch number for each continuous surface (if material from several boxes is used, they should have the same manufacturing serial number and be used in consecutive order).
- Store the boxes in small neat piles (max. 5 boxes high).
- Let the flooring acclimatise for a while before laying.
- The subfloor must be flat, level, clean, without marks (no felt pen, marker, etc.), sound, dry, solid, hard, smooth and not exposed to moisture. Absorbency must be checked.
- Use only adhesives recommended by Tarkett. Always follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions.
- The work must be completed with an inspection: ensure that the newly laid floor is free from adhesive residues.

## SUBFLOOR

The subfloor must be level, flat, clean, free from marks (no felt pen, marker of any type, ballpoint pens, paint, etc., that could cause discoloration due to migration) sound, dry, solid, hard, smooth (the absorbency must be checked) and not exposed to moisture.

The preparation/dryness of the subfloor and installation procedures should all be in accordance with the current relevant Standard within the country of use. The dryness of a solid subfloor should be below the maximum moisture level permitted when tested in accordance with that Standard.

E.g. in the UK, the relative humidity of concrete surfaces must be below 75%, and less than 2% with the CCM method.

In North America, ASTM F-170 recommends a water-to-cement ratio of 0.40 to 0.45.

Before selecting a smoothing compound, check what type of traffic the floorcovering will be subjected to once installed. Latex smoothing compounds are not suitable for areas that will receive heavy traffic, especially heavy, narrow wheeled traffic (see EN 12529, Castors and wheels). Check levelling compound compatibility, and follow the instructions of the levelling compound manufacturer.

**Note:** exclusion of liability (adhesives, levelling compounds, etc.)

Although Tarkett may list a selection of adhesive, levelling compound and surface damp-proof membrane manufacturers and types, we do not guarantee the products listed. The list of products and manufacturers is not guaranteed complete or current.

Tarkett will accept no liability for any of these products failing to perform in conjunction with any of its products. It is the responsibility of the adhesive, levelling compound and surface damp-proof membrane manufacturer and flooring contractor to ensure the products being used are appropriate for use and applied in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.

## CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR INSTALLATION

It is important to store the rolls/tiles for at least 24 hours before installation at a minimum room temperature of 15°C. This temperature should be maintained throughout the installation.

The minimum temperature of the subfloor should be 10°C.

The recommended relative humidity inside the room should be 50-60%.

Sections of flooring must be cut to the required lengths, plus an allowance of a few centimetres, and stored in the room where they are to be installed.

Tiles should be stored flat in their packages, in small neat piles (max. 5 boxes high).

## UNDERFLOOR HEATING

It is imperative that underfloor heating systems have been previously commissioned and found to be functioning correctly before installation of the floorcovering.

Ensure that the underfloor heating system is switched off 48 hours before installation of the floorcovering commences, and remains off for at least 48 hours after installation is completed. While the underfloor heating system is off, an alternative heating source should be provided, if required, to ensure that the installation area is kept at a constant temperature of 18-27°C.

Gradually increase the temperature over a number of days by only a few degrees per day until the desired room temperature is reached. The temperature should never exceed the floorcovering industry's agreed maximum of 27°C on the underside of the floorcovering (the adhesive line). Where underfloor heating is used, we recommend that vinyl tiles are hot welded.

## LAYING DIRECTION

### ROLLS

Plan the sheet direction for the area to be installed to ensure whenever possible that joins do not coincide with doorways, main traffic lanes, sinks or urinals. If the room is reasonably square, the sheets should run parallel to the incoming light. In long, narrow rooms it is best to install the sheets along the length of the room.

**All consecutive sheets should be installed in the opposite direction to the previous sheet installed, except for wood designs, which are installed in the same direction.**

Butt join when edges are straight, or overlap the edges by 3 cm and trim the two sheets simultaneously.

### TILES

Before starting tile installation, determine the method of laying taking into account the shape of the room and the design to be laid. See the various methods on the separate sheet: *Installation of tiles*.  
Install the tiles edge to edge, and flatten by hand as they are placed.

## GLUING

Glue with an acrylic emulsion recommended by Tarkett.

Apply 250 to 300 g/m<sup>2</sup> using a finely serrated trowel (A1 or A2).

After allowing an appropriate tack time, press manually using a piece of board with a rounded edge.

## COVING

In some areas, it is recommended to cove the flooring up the wall.

## WELDING

Hot welding with a welding rod is recommended for rolls and for tiles.

Important! Do not weld until the adhesive has bonded completely (wait 24 to 48 hours).

Groove the joints using a hand grooving tool or a machine before welding. Never groove to the foam backing for acoustic PVC. Weld with hot air and a Tarkett Speed Welding Nozzle or equivalent.

In domestic installations, cold weld if possible provided the sheets were overlapped and cut simultaneously.

## AFTER INSTALLATION

IMPORTANT! Wait 48 to 72 hours before allowing any foot traffic or moving in furniture.

### Protection of installation

If building work is carried out after installation, the floor should always be protected by covering it with hardboard or plywood sheeting. Masking tape must not be stuck directly to the floor.

Never subject a newly installed floorcovering to heavy wheeled traffic at an early stage, as this will force adhesive from beneath the floorcovering.

### Initial site clean

An initial site clean is always recommended before the new floorcovering is commissioned.

Residual adhesive should be removed with methylated spirits and a clean cloth.

Lightly soiled floors: vacuum, sweep or damp mop the area to remove loose dirt and building dust. A combined machine is very effective for large areas (combined scrubber/dryer with cylindrical brushes for safety flooring).