APEXA

General Installation Guidelines for Sheet Vinyl

APEXA

Storage & transport

Rolls should be stored either flat (horizontal) or, preferably, in a vertical position (2m rolls). In order to minimise the risk of pressure marks when storing in a horizontal position, the rolls should not be stacked one on another, and regular rotation of the rolls is recommended. Do not store rolls in very cold (below 2°C), very warm (above 35°C) or damp/ humid places.

Prior to installation

Visual inspection

Please ensure the product is inspected and checked for damage, defect or variation prior to installation in adequate light conditions. Check that the colours correspond to those ordered, that the quantities are correct and that there is no visible damage to the sheet. Do not install any vinyl that displays any imperfections. For defects that are visible prior to installation, we cannot accept responsibility for the uplift & relay costs. Installation implies acceptance. We recommend that you always use materials from a single colour batch in one room, as we cannot guarantee a 100% match between different colour batches. The rolls, selected within one colour batch, should be installed in the sequence of increasing roll number, taking into account the reverse laying direction.

Suitability

- Apexa sheet vinyl can be completely bonded with adhesives or installed as a “loose lay”, if limited to an area less than 16m² (Tempus 24m²) and installed as one single sheet. (see fully bonded or loose-lay installation).

- We do not recommend the use of perimeter fixing as this may cause bubbling.

- Apexa sheet vinyl can be used with traditional water-based underfloor heating and cooling systems. See separate section on underfloor heating. The subfloor surface temperature must never exceed 27°C.

- Apexa sheet vinyl is only suitable for indoor installation.

- Seasonal temperature conditions: Apexa sheet vinyl can be used in indoor situations. Preferably, keep the temperature between 6°C (min.) and 35°C (max.). Avoid rapid temperature increases of more than 5°C per 12 hours.

- For installation in areas with high temperature or high temperature variation (in certain cases this includes direct sunlight through glass) we recommend the use of a high temperature adhesive.

Composition, construction and quality of the subfloor

Knowledge of the composition and construction of the subfloor or base provides valuable information that allows you to correctly check the acceptable humidity, flatness, compressive and tensile strength of the subfloor. In addition, it tells you what type of floor preparation, levelling/smoothing compound, and possible moisture barrier you may need during the installation process. When there is ambiguity or doubt about the quality or composition of your subfloor, check your local installation standards and/or seek advice from your floor preparation, levelling compound manufacturer/supplier.

National regulations & standards

- Site and installation conditions must always comply with the relevant national regulations and installation standards, e.g. BS 8203, installation of resilient floorcoverings; BS 8000 relevant series and sections; NHBC standards 2017; Building regulations 2010, Approved Document C, Approved Document 7 and any recommendations issued by ourselves.
- In case the national standard or regulation conflicts with the manufacturer's recommendation, the most stringent of the two prevails.

Subfloor preparation

Check for irregularities in the subfloor

Good preparation is essential for trouble-free installation. It is vital for an excellent Apexa sheet vinyl finish.
The appearance of Apexa sheet vinyl will only be as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed. Any irregularities in the subfloor will show through the finished floor and must be suitably prepared before installation.

The subfloor must be hard, structurally sound, flat, smooth, clean and dry, as well as being free from defects and fit for purpose. When required, scrape off and remove old adhesives and loose laying levelling compound. Make sure the subfloor is free from chemical substances and other contamination.

For aesthetic reasons, it is recommended that the unevenness of the subfloor is not greater than 2mm measured over a width of 200cm.

A suitable plywood/levelling compound should be selected to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. However, the selection of suitable materials, including plywood, smoothing/ levelling compounds and any ancillary products, is dependent upon the occupational use of the area and must be agreed by the supplier of the preparative materials and the flooring contractor. All floor preparation materials used must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and in accordance with the national standards for resilient floor coverings.

The moisture content of the subfloor

- The moisture content of the subfloor must be in accordance with local or national standards for the installation of textile floor coverings.
- Unheated cementitious screeds less than 2.0CM% - 75% RH
- Underfloor heated cementitious screeds less than 1.8CM % - 75% RH
- Unheated anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds less than 0.5CM%
- Underfloor heated anhydrite (calcium sulphate) less than 0.3CM%

Direct-to-earth concrete and stone subfloors must have an effective Damp Proof Membrane (DPM) in accordance with the national standards for the installation of resilient floor coverings. Follow the manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface applied DPM and the use of a levelling compound.

Important

Floor installation should not begin until the installer has assessed and approved the subfloor and installation conditions.

Acclimatisation

Apexa sheet vinyl must acclimatise in the room of installation, or an equivalent area for at least 24 hours prior to installation, or until the product has achieved an ambient temperature: this is a minimum temperature of 18°C and a maximum of 27°C.

Store the rolls away from heating, cooling or windows with direct intense sunlight. This is to achieve gradual acclimatisation.

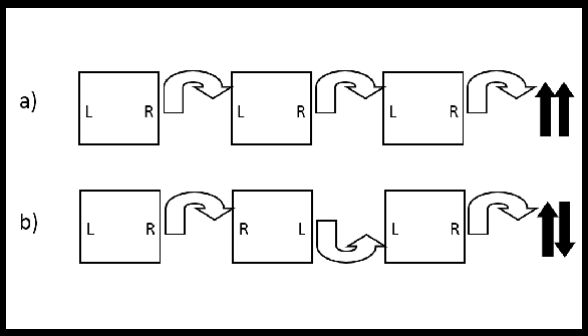
Temperature condition before installation

Apexa recommends that the rolls are cut to approximate installation sizes 24 hours before installation. Unpack and unroll the Apexa floorcovering
and check all sheets in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour.

For two-meter width floor coverings, the sheets should then be rolled loosely and stored in an upright position for acclimatisation. Four-metre width floor coverings should be cut to size and laid flat to acclimatise.

Be careful when stacking rolls. Falling rolls can cause harm to people and the surrounding environment, and this may also result in damage to the product.

To maintain the best shade match, when planning the installation of multiple rolls, roll number sequencing/order must be followed, e.g. 20374900, 20374901, 20374902. See picture below. This may result in slightly more installation waste.
When cutting to size, please consider the nature of the design and pattern repeat. In the case of wood designs and tile styles Apexa recommends that every sheet is installed in the same direction (a). In the case that the design is one all-over colour or design, Apexa recommends that every sheet is rotated through 180° (b). If in doubt, we advise to check with your local supplier.



Installation in areas colder than recommended will make sheets harder to handle and less flexible, whilst cutting will become more difficult. For installation in areas warmer than recommended, we advise consultation with your local supplier on how to create the appropriate installation conditions.

Starting installation

Temperature conditions during and after installation

A constant temperature, fluctuating no more than 5°C per day, not below the required 18°C room temperature and 15°C subfloor temperature, should be maintained 24 hours before, during and 72 hours after installation.

Underfloor heating

Apexa sheet vinyl can be used with traditional water-based underfloor heating systems (according to standard EN 1264 part 1 to 5). Wired electrical systems are not recommended unless the system is encased in a minimum of 9mm of suitable levelling compound. Direct contact with electrical wired heating systems must be avoided. The surface temperature must never exceed 27°C. If in doubt, seek further advice.

The underfloor heating installation must be switched off at least 24 hours before, and during the installation of Apexa sheet vinyl.

72 hours after installation the underfloor heating must be gradually increased by increments of 5°C per day until it reaches the standard operating temperature conditions, with a maximum operating temperature of 27°C. For the suitability of the system please check the manufacturer's instructions.

Underfloor cooling

Apexa sheet vinyl can also be installed over floor cooling systems. However, the supply temperature of the cooling water must not be reduced below the dew point temperature. Always keep the temperature of the subfloor at least 3 degrees above the dewpoint. Temperatures below the dew point will produce condensation and can therefore damage the adhesive and the floor covering.

Installation methods

Installation from one colour batch

We recommend that you always use materials from a single colour batch in one room, as we cannot guarantee a 100% match between different colour batches.

The rolls, selected within one colour batch, should be installed in the sequence of increasing roll number, while paying attention to the laying direction if the design requests it.

Apexa sheet vinyl can generally be installed with the following methods:

Fully bonded or loose-lay installation

If a room or an area is smaller than 16m² (Tempus 24m²) and without any heavy or rolling furniture and appliances (e.g. dining or office chairs, tables, sideboards, washing machines, etc.) and the vinyl can be installed in one sheet, one piece, then a loose or fully bonded installation can be selected as desired.

If a room or area is larger than the areas stated above or there is heavy or rolling furniture and appliances (e.g. dining or office chairs, tables, sideboards, washing machines, etc.) or if the vinyl cannot be installed in one sheet, one piece, then a fully bonded installation is recommended.

We also recommend a fully bonded installation in areas of the building with high footfall (e.g. commercial areas, hallways, stairs, kitchen and utility areas).

Recommended adhesives

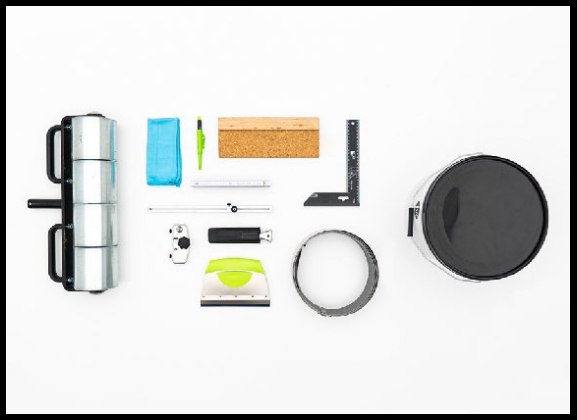
Apexa recommends installing with solvent free adhesives. Apexa provides Xtrafloor® adhesives, designed for effective and efficient installation. If you use other adhesives, please contact Apexa, who can provide a list of suitable alternatives.

Please also take note of the Apexa welding instructions. Both hot and cold welding are possible.

Installation step by step

Recommended tools

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Adhesive and trowel
- Damp cloth
- Utility knife
- Hook blades
- Straight blades
- Combi scriber
- Long scriber
- Broom and/or rubbing block
- Steel line for cutting straight and/or seams
- Roller minimum 50kg
- For hot welding: Hand or electric groover, Hot air welding gun with appropriate tools, Quarter moon set or skiving knife, Xtrafloor® welding rod in the chosen colour
- For cold welding: Xtrafloor® Invisiweld kit, use type A

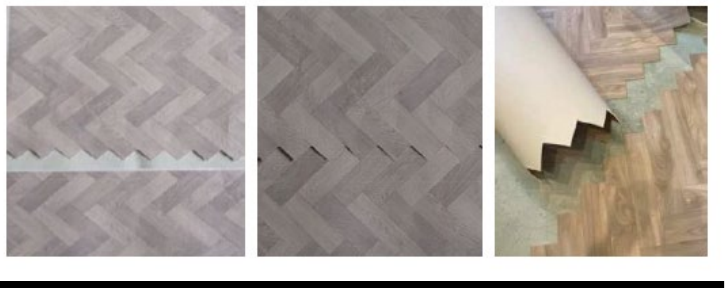


Finishing accessories, either proprietary or Xtrafloor® can be used to provide a neat finish (door trims, skirting board, etc.).

- Step 1: Place the sheets in position, cut seams with the double-cut method and trim to size.
- Step 2: Fold back half of the sheet ready for the application of the adhesive. Prior to using the adhesive read the manufacturers' instructions. Spread the right amount of adhesive, with a notched trowel, equally over the subfloor. After applying the adhesive and in accordance with the instructions, allow the adhesive to partially dry (open time) until it reaches its initial bonding strength, before placing the floor covering back into position.
- Step 3: Install the sheet floor covering avoiding bubbles, compression and tension. Check that the seams are butted together neatly. Do not compress the seams as this will cause tenting.
- Step 4: To remove any bubbles, use a broom or rubbing block. Work from the centre of the sheet towards the edges and seams. Use a roller to flatten the adhesive and ensure full adhesive transfer. The latter should be done before the adhesive has dried.
- Repeat steps 1 to 4 with the second half of the sheet.
- Step 5: Welding the seam together is recommended but only after the adhesive is fully dry, normally 24 hrs (depending on site conditions and type of adhesive used).
- The Apexa sheet vinyl panels can be installed in two different ways:

Cutting Seams

- Overlap the sections of vinyl to be joined and align the pattern. Use a straight edge and a new blade in your knife
- (a concave blade works best). Place the straight edge at the edge of the joint line of the top piece of vinyl (either the grout line or edge of a plank) and, keeping the blade of the knife vertical, cut through both layers of material along the length of the join, using the straight edge to maintain a straight cut.
- With herringbone patterns, we recommend seams are produced by cutting around the tips/ends of the design on one side first. Slide the second piece to be cut under the precut first piece and align the pattern. Use a smaller straight edge, aligned with the edges of the first piece cut, to guide the knife blade when cutting the lower piece. This will produce a saw edge cut on both pieces that will interlock. This is the recommended method to hide the seam in the herringbone pattern.



Welding

Welding is the only option for ensuring closed and tight seams. This is important for watertightness and bacteria resistance. Hot welding is only recommended on commercial products (it needs sufficient wear layer thickness (+/-0,45mm) and the right product construction).

Sealants

In residential "new-build", it is common practice for resilient flooring to be retrospectively sealed around skirtings and the like to achieve an airtight seal for pressure and leak testing. Where sealant is to be used, Apexa recommends Low Modulus Neutral (LMN) Silicone Sealant.

Protection

Apexa floors should be protected from heavy traffic for 72 hours after installation so that the adhesive can cure at a constant temperature between 18-27°C.

First contact with water

Prevent the floor from coming into contact with water for the first 72 hours after installation. Hereafter the adhesive is sufficiently resistant to water so that the bonding strength will not be affected