

Installation Guide - Primetex

Primetex is a durable flooring offering a good value solution for residential spaces. It can withstand heavy traffic, resists scratching and is suitable for wet areas. Primetex's textile backing provides thermal and acoustic benefits and underfoot comfort. Primetex can be loose laid without adhesive in areas up to 25 m², or glued.

IMPORTANT

- Timber frames, subfloors and floors may move following construction or due to changes in climatic conditions.
- Allow the Primetex product to acclimatise at a temperature between 15 and 28°C in the installation area for at least 24 hours before installation. Product to be loose laid should be unrolled for this period.
- Before installation inspect the sheet in a well-lit area for any defects, damage, or differences in shading. If problems are apparent do not proceed, and contact Gerflor customer service. *Gerflor will not be responsible for installation cost claims where flooring was installed with obvious defects.*
- Verify pattern line up and shading to determine if any sheets need to be turned or reversed to avoid shade variation between sheets.
- The subfloor should be flat, dry, hard and clean.
- Primetex may be loose laid in areas up to 25 m².
- A full spread / direct stick installation may be more appropriate for certain site or building conditions (such as wide temperature variations) or customer usage.
- Leave a Primetex Maintenance Guide for the end user.

Installation should comply with Australian Standard AS1884-2012 for Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles – Installation Practices. Installation will require an assessment of site and building conditions and appropriate judgement by the installer.

For further enquiries regarding the installation or maintenance of Gerflor products please contact Gerflor Customer Service.

Section 1 Loose lay installation

Section 2 Full spread/direct stick installation

Section 3 Seam sealing

Section 4 Initial care and maintenance

SECTION 1 - LOOSE LAY INSTALLATION

1A INSPECTION AND PREPARATION

Primetex can be loose laid as a floating floor with minimal subfloor preparation (described below) directly over hardwood floors; concrete slabs; properly installed plywood or chipboard; well-adhered solid ceramic tiles; and well-adhered solid vinyl, rubber, linoleum, smooth or lightly embossed resilient floor coverings.

Any substrate should be flat, dry, hard, smooth and clean. Prior to installation, inspect the substrate and repair cracks, bumps, rough areas or any level differences that could telegraph through the material, adversely affecting the performance and appearance of the

finished floor. The subfloor must be smooth to allow Primetex to 'float' freely despite any movement in timber buildings or subfloor. Cabinetry must be installed prior to floor covering. Remove skirting or molding. Undercut door frames to the thickness of the material to be installed. Subfloors must be vacuumed before installation.

1A.1 Wood Subfloors

Where height differences or seam openings are greater than 1 mm or cracks or gaps are greater than 2 mm, obtain a smooth surface by sanding and/or filling with an appropriate patching compound (ARDEX Feather Finish or similar). Sand any rough wood substrate, and if needed skim coat with a floor leveller to allow the textile backing to move freely.

1A.2 Ceramic Tiles

Where grout lines are wider than 2 mm or height difference or depth more than 1 mm use a patching compound (ARDEX Feather Finish or similar) to obtain a smooth surface.

1A.3 Resilient Flooring: Sheet or Tiles

There is no need to remove fully bonded existing resilient floorings, unless large irregularities exist. Sanding and levelling compounds are not needed for a loose lay installation. Remove loose or perimeter glued resilient sheet vinyl. Do not install on old resilient flooring with foam or expanded backing.

1A.4 Concrete / Coating

The concrete slab must be constructed with good building practices and have an intact vapour barrier installed. Moisture content shall not exceed 75 % relative humidity as determined by ASTM F2170.

Paint does not have to be removed, sanded or covered by a patching compound. Fill cracks, holes, saw cuts or imperfections that are larger and/or deeper than 2 mm with a patching compound (ArDEX Feather Finish or similar).

1A.5 Heated Floors

Primetex can be installed directly over different types of heated floors that comply with local building codes. The floor temperature should never exceed 28°C. The heating system must be turned off 48 hours before and only turned on 48 hours after all work is completed.

1B INSTALLATION

1B.1 Prior to Installation

Check all roll labels to verify the product type, colour, thickness and quantity matches the order. Check the batch to avoid shading problems from one roll to another. If the customer has retained a sample, check against sample.

Unroll the floor covering, loosely trim it in, and allow it to acclimatise at a temperature between 15°C and 28°C (ideally 22°C) for a period of at least 24 hours. Some indentations caused during transport may be visible for longer than 24 hours. Whilst the sheet is rolled out inspect in a well-lit area for defects or differences in shading. If any problems are apparent do not proceed, please contact Gerflor customer service.

1B.2 Layout

a) Allow the flooring to relax. If the substrate is wood, ensure the textile backing moves freely. Starting from the middle of the room, push the air pockets or waves towards the walls with a cork board or a 3 section 35 kg roller. When the

flooring is well relaxed cut the material at the perimeter of the room, allowing a 1mm expansion gap. For a uniform gap and ease of installation a **Gerflor Romus Hi-tech Trimmer** is the perfect tool.

b) Inspect flooring for telegraphing or any remaining apparent sub-floor defects and correct.

1B.3 Appliance/ Rolling Equipment Loads

Secure the flooring using double sided adhesive tape 10 cm wide (Romus #98040 or similar) underneath the floor covering in front of all appliances, rolling equipment and doorways.

1B.4 Loose Lay Seam Preparation

a) When exceeding roll width, carefully measure the floor and mark a chalk line where the seams of the flooring will fall. In the case of wood subfloors, make sure that the flooring seams will not fall directly on top of the substrate seams. Allow a minimum of 15 cm between flooring seams and subfloor seams. Verify pattern line up and shading and determine if a sheet should be turned or reversed to obtain a better overall look. When pattern matching is required allow extra material. Overlap sheets for exact pattern to match over chalk line. Prevent flooring from moving. Using a metallic straight edge and a knife with a new blade cut through both layers of material in one pass. Remove excess material.

b) Cut seams before tape or glue is applied. Place 10 cm wide double sided tape (Romus #98040) centred along the chalk line. The bottom layer of release paper should remain, except for the 15cm nearest the wall which can be fixed to the substrate. Remove the top release paper. It is not recommended to adhere the join to the substrate as the flooring must be allowed to float freely.

c) Position flooring into place, fold over the first sheet on the double sided adhesive tape. Apply the second sheet to the side of the first sheet without leaving a gap. Once into place roll the seam using a hand roller for better adhesion. Repeat with the balance of the surface to be covered.

d) Trim when the product is well settled, leaving a minimum 1 mm gap around all fixtures.

e) After installation, roll the entire surface using a 3 section 35 kg roller.

f) Use caulking (Sikaflex or similar, not silicone) at the edge of the flooring to tub, shower stalls, toilets or pipes.

g) Trims or molding should not hinder movement of the floor covering. Do not nail into the floor covering.

h) Complete the cold welding of the seams as per **Section 3 Seam Sealing**.

SECTION 2 – FULL SPREAD / DIRECT STICK INSTALLATION

A full spread / direct stick installation may be more appropriate for certain site or building conditions (such as wide temperature variations), heavy rolling loads, or customer usage.

2A INSPECTION AND PREPARATION

Primetex products can be adhered using a full spread installation, directly over concrete substrate, approved plywood substrate, or well-adhered ceramic tiles.

All substrates should be flat, dry, hard and clean. Prior to installation, inspect the subfloor for any cracks, bumps, rough areas

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or any level differences that could telegraph through the material. Primetex products will not hide variations in height. When the substrate is porous, applying a coat of primer to improve adhesion is suggested. Remove skirting or molding. Substrates must be vacuumed prior to installation.

2A.1 Wood

Use first quality, EWPA approved plywood at least 13 mm thick, and install according to manufacturer recommendations. Inspect plywood for defects. All seams, edges and nail heads should be flush, patched, and sanded. Seams and cracks should be filled with patching compound or a quality underlayment (ARDEX, Feather Finish or similar). Installing resilient flooring over wood substrates will not diminish or prevent possible telegraphing of the wood joints through the resilient flooring. For a full spread installation, do not use substrates such as particleboard, hardwood planks or other types containing adhesives that can cause flooring discolouration. Overlay these substrates with a Masonite or plywood underlay.

2A.2 Ceramic Tiles

Smooth surfaces with an approved floor leveller. Fill seams, grout and cracks with a patching compound (ARDEX, Feather Finish or similar).

2A.3 Concrete

The concrete slab must be constructed using good building practices, have an intact vapour barrier installed, and a tolerance of 4 mm in a 2 m length at any point. Concrete shall be dry to a maximum of 75% relative humidity when tested with the in-situ probe method ASTM F2170. Some adhesives may be suited for use at higher relative humidity, check the manufacturer's recommendations. Repair any visible defects on the surface such as cracks, bumps, rough areas or variations in evenness.

Clean any grease, oil, paint, marker, spills, dust or any contamination that may adversely affect the adhesion of the flooring or leach through the flooring. Sanding the substrate will be mandatory in many cases, especially in areas where the substrate has been contaminated with foreign products. It may be necessary to scarify or bead-blast concrete surface to remove existing adhesives, paint or other surface applied materials.

2A.4 Heated Floors

Refer to 1A.5

2B INSTALLATION

2B.1 Adhesives

Depending on the substrate or end user requirements, use a taciifer type adhesive (such as Spray-Lock 9500) or pressure sensitive type adhesive. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations with regards to spread rate, open and set up time. Clean adhesive while wet with a clean cloth and water. If adhesive has dried on the surface wipe gently with a clean cloth and mineral turpentine.

2B.2 Prior to Installation

Check all roll labels to verify product type, colour, thickness and quantity matches the order. Check the batch to avoid shading problems from one roll to another. If the customer has retained a sample, check against sample.

Store the Primetex product in the area in which it is to be laid at a room temperature

between 15°C and 28°C for at least 24 hours. Unroll the flooring and inspect in a well-lit area to ensure that the surface and backing are free of manufacturing defects or apparent product flaws. Do not install product with defects.

2B.3 Layout

a) To avoid the appearance of air pockets or waves in the flooring after its installation, lightly lift and shake to loosen the material. Make sure the backing floats freely and slides on the substrate.

b) Starting from the middle of the room push the air pockets or waves towards the walls with a cork tool or a 3 section 35 kg roller. Loosely trim it in.

2B.4 Full Spread Installation and Seam Preparation

a) When exceeding roll width, verify pattern line up and if the sheet needs to be reversed or not. Carefully measure the floor and mark out with a chalk line where the seams of the flooring will eventually fall. In the case of wood substrate, make sure that the flooring seams won't fall directly on top of the substrate seams. Allow a minimum of 15 cm between flooring and substrate seams.

When pattern matching is required, be sure to allow extra material. Overlap sheets for exact pattern match over chalk line. Prevent flooring from moving. Using a metallic straight edge and a knife with a new blade, cut through both layers of material in one pass.

b) Fold back a workable section of the material and expose the substrate and the chalk line. Apply adhesive according to manufacturer recommendations.

c) When the adhesive has set up fold over the first sheet into the adhesive. Apply the second sheet to the side of the first sheet without leaving a gap. Once into place, roll the seam using a hand roller for better adhesion. Repeat with the other section. Proceed with the final trimming.

d) Immediately roll the entire surface crossways with a 3 section 35 kg roller. Minimize foot traffic for at least 48 hours.

e) Use caulking at the edge of the flooring to tubs, shower stalls, toilets or pipes.

f) Clean any remaining adhesive traces with mineral spirits and avoid walking directly on the seam.

g) Complete the cold welding of the seams as per **Section 3 Seam Sealing**.

SECTION 3 - SEAM SEALING

3A PREPARATION

The Romus #95650 liquid seaming technique is custom designed for Gerflor textile backing products. With proper use, the Romus Welding System will completely fuse the flooring together throughout the full thickness leaving a uniform and solid look. Liquid seam sealing shall comply with ASTM F693 "Standard Practice for Sealing Seams of Resilient Sheet Flooring Products by Use of Liquid Seam Sealer". Romus is a clear liquid seam sealer that can be used with any colour. Romus Seam Sealer will take one hour to harden completely. Wait 24 hours before washing the seam.

3B INSTALLATION

3B.1 Cover seam with a high quality (blue) masking tape.

3B.2 Cut masking tape at the seam using a knife with a new blade.

3B.3 Insert the needle into the seam pulling towards you and slowly apply the liquid until it penetrates the seam and beads up onto the masking tape.

3B.4 Allow the sealer to set and dry for no more than 5 minutes.

3B.5 Remove the masking tape which will also remove the excess seam sealer.

SECTION 4 - INITIAL CARE & MAINTENANCE

SURFACE PROTECTION

- These products have an embossed protective polyurethane surface treatment applied to the product during the manufacturing process. It is therefore usually not necessary to seal or polish these products over their complete lifetime, greatly reducing the maintenance costs overall.
- Use weight dispersing aids under heavy furniture.
- Use mats in doorways to reduce the amount of dirt and grit which could damage the new flooring.
- **Rubber leaves indelible stains on vinyl flooring.** Avoid placing waxed or rubber products in prolonged contact with the Primetex floor.

INITIAL MAINTENANCE

- Remove loose dirt and debris from the newly installed floor using broom or vacuum. Ensure all adhesive residues are removed with due regard to supplier's recommendations. Do not use high abrasive pads or scourers.
- Wash floor with a damp mop using a neutral detergent. Ensure all detergent residues are rinsed and removed from the floor.

Please remove any excess material, and leave the job clean and tidy. Leave a copy of the maintenance instructions for the end user.

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