

# Modular **Resilient** Flooring LVT Installation Guide

Interface®



## Preparation

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It is recommended that modular resilient floor covering installation shall not begin until all other trades are completed.

### 1. Storage, handling & conditioning of materials

Care should be taken when handling the product so as not to cause any damage to it. Boxes should be stored on a flat surface, stacked squarely on top of one another preferably no more than 10 boxes high. Avoid storing boxes in direct sunlight or near heaters or air vents as this may affect proper acclimatisation of the product.

The flooring must be acclimatised to the atmospheric conditions that will prevail after installation and during use. Interface LVT should be unpacked, stored on a flat surface and allowed to condition in the room where the installation will take place for at least 48 hours before laying. The room temperature should be 18°C minimum and should not exceed 29 °C.

### 2. Site conditions

#### 2.1 Floor Preparation

The type and condition of the subfloor has a direct influence on the installation and performance of Interface LVT and so correct floor preparation is essential. The subfloor should be firm, smooth, dry and floors should be cleared of all debris and free from any defects. All traces of most old floorcoverings and adhesive residues must be removed and, if necessary, the surface treated with Stopgap by F. Ball & Co. Ltd, or an equivalent floor smoothing underlayment to suit local needs / site conditions in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.

The surface of the subfloor should be level and even in order to achieve a good installation. Any irregularities in the subfloor will show through the finished LVT floor over time.

Any necessary preparation should be carried out in good time, to allow for setting and drying of any smoothing underlayment.



Figure. 1

#### 2.2 Damp Proofing

An efficient damp proof membrane should be incorporated in the construction of solid floors at ground or below ground level, or where moisture ingress may become apparent.

#### 2.3 Subfloors

Subfloors should be prepared in accordance with BS 8203 or corresponding national and European standards. General advice for a number of subfloor types is as follows:

##### 2.3.1 Concrete

Old and new concrete should be smooth, level and free of cracks and depressions. Most concrete floors will require a levelling compound to create such a surface. New concrete should be fully cured and sealed. Interface LVT should only be installed over dry concrete floors and so installation should not begin until concrete is fully dried and in compliance with moisture and alkalinity requirements. According to BS 8203 humidity levels must not exceed 75% relative humidity (Hygrometer Test). Standards in some countries will also specify a pH level for concrete floors.

##### 2.3.2 Timber

The floor should be structurally sound and fixed solidly with minimal flexibility. All loose boards must be fastened down and worn or uneven floorboards either replaced or levelled by sanding, planing or by patch filling before covering with flooring grade plywood or similar and pinned at 100mm centres (see Fig. 2 and BS 8203 for further details).

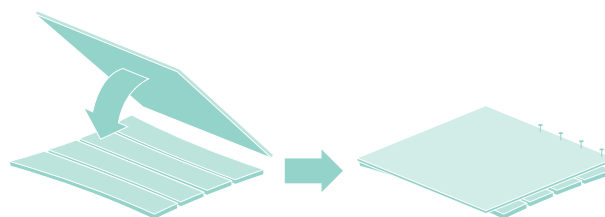


Figure. 2

##### 2.3.3 Ceramic, Terrazzo etc.

Should be sound and well bonded to a solid base. All cracks and irregularities should be patched and any surface finishes removed. Grout lines must be filled with a suitable levelling compound. If in doubt about moisture ingress a waterproof surface DPM could be used.

## Preparation (cont.)

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### 2.3.4 Existing Resilient Floor Covering

Interface LVT may be installed over existing resilient flooring which is single layered, non-cushion backed, fully adhered and smooth. The surface would have to be thoroughly cleaned to remove any waxes, polishes or other forms of contamination. Any loose flooring would have to be secured and cuts, cracks, dents and other surface irregularities in the existing floor repaired or replaced. Please note Interface LVT should not be installed over rubber based substrates.

### 2.3.5 Raised Access Panels

When LVT is to be installed directly over a Raised Access Panels some degree of panel telegraphing may be visible. These recommendations are to be followed to minimise such an effect. The panels should be manufactured according to EN 12825 (or equivalent) and installation should meet the following criteria as per PSA MOB PF2 PS (NB: additional items noted override the standard)

**Gaps between panels:** the maximum gap between panels shall not exceed 1 mm

**Overall levels:** the platform floor surface shall be level to within a) +/- 1.5 mm over any 5 metre square and b) +/- 6.00 mm over any size of basic space (areas larger than 5 metre square).

**Panel levels:** the difference in height between adjacent panels shall not exceed 0.75mm (with or without load)

**Panel flatness:** the concavity or convexity of any panel shall not exceed 0.75mm

This should provide a smooth and level surface which Interface LVT can be installed on top of. If these conditions cannot be met, then the entire area should be overlaid with an approved underlayment to minimise any telegraphing through to the surface of the LVT. Regardless of whether an underlayment is used or not any unstable or uneven panels should be repaired or replaced.

Please note that LVT planks and squares are not designed to be installed in register with the panels and should overlap the panels ensuring that the LVT joints don't come too close to the joints of the access panels.

Please also note that Interface is not responsible for the impact that any subsequent movement of the building or subfloor may have on the LVT installation or product itself.

### 2.4 Underfloor Heating

Interface LVT may be installed on internally heated floors, provided that the surface temperature will not exceed 27°C (80°F). Underfloor heating must be turned off at least 48 hours prior to installation.

*NB: In areas of high temperature, such as over underfloor heating, the use of a permanent adhesive is advisable.*

### 2.5 Old Adhesive Residue

Any old adhesive residues should be removed by mechanical methods such as scraping, shot blasting and grinding.

## Planning

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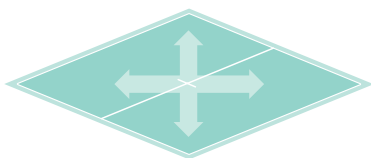
### 3.1 Tools

Steel measuring tape, chalk line, utility knife and a straight edge. For planks a 1 meter set square would also be useful.

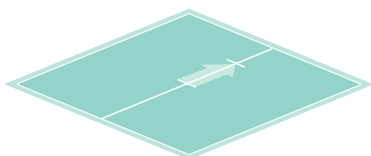
### 3.2 Measurement

Determine the centre of the room and starting (or datum) point using standard tile-laying methods. (see Fig. 3). The resulting quadrants should meet at right angles. Offsetting the centre chalk line may be necessary to ensure that the perimeter cuts will be at least half-size or larger. In some cases, due to doorways or partitions, the starting point is not the centre of the room.

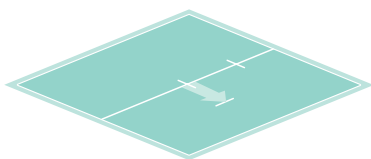
- a. Measure to determine the center point and mark.  
Snap a chalk line.



- b. Measure 2 meters out from your center point along the chalk line.



- c. Measure 1.5 meters from your center point at a right angle to your chalk line and make a mark.



- d. Measure the distance between your marks. It should be 2.5 meters.

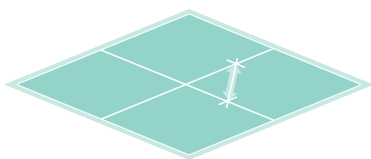


Figure. 3

Ideally the floor should be installed in the same direction as the light entering the room.

### 3.3 Method of Fixing

Interface LVT should be installed using a tackifier release adhesive. However in areas subject to extreme temperature variations, for example LVT installed in areas with full length windows where direct sunlight will reach the product, permanent adhesion is required. F74 or F46 from F.Ball & Company Ltd is approved. To minimise exposure to direct sunlight the use of blinds or external canopies around windows are recommended. Similarly in areas subject to heavy rolling loads permanent adhesion is required.

#### Adhesive

An approved tackifier release adhesive, such as F41 from F.Ball & Company Ltd, should be used and applied using a roller. This is also a suitable adhesive for Interface carpet tiles. Allow to dry to form a clear, tacky film before placing the flooring in to position. When used over raised access flooring the tackifier should be applied carefully using a roller to avoid excess adhesive seeping between individual panels.

On completion roll the LVT floor from end to end and side to side using a 68 Kg flooring roller to ensure complete contact between the flooring and adhesive and to flatten out any adhesive ridges. Pay particular attention to the edges and to areas which will be subjected to less foot traffic in use.

## Planning (cont.)

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### 4.1 Method

Material should always be inspected prior to installation. Any material installed with visual defects will not be considered a legitimate claim as it pertains to labour.

From the starting point (see 3.2) install the LVT (both squares and planks) accurately and firmly along the centre chalk line. These will act as the anchor row. Build outwards from this point using conventional tile installation techniques.

Work out of multiple boxes at a time and mix material from the boxes sufficiently well enough together. This should avoid any colour differences or repeated designs in the finished installation.

### 4.2 Direction

The back of Interface LVT carries arrows which should be observed when installing the product. Product specific installation recommendations can be found on the shade cards, specifications and in the product catalogue on the website. Squares are suitable for monolithic and quarter turn, non-directional, ashlar & brick and planks are suitable for either ashlar or herringbone. Stagger each row of planks to ensure that the joints do not correspond with the previous row installed.

### 4.3 Tightness

As the materials are installed particular care should be taken at all stages to ensure that the squares or planks are properly aligned and tightly butted together, with the backing of adjacent ones touching.

### 4.4 Cutting

To correctly cut the LVT score the top side of the material with a utility knife. Bend the product and finish the cut through the backside. This will ensure the cleanest cut. It may be necessary to use a heat gun to cut around vertical obstructions. Allow the heated LVT to return to room temperature before installation.

Fit the perimeter cut with manufactured edge adjoining the last complete plank, then cut the edge to the perimeter.

### 4.5 Expansion joints

Resilient flooring products should not be installed over expansion joints.

## Completion

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Until the area is completed, with all materials in position, walking upon and/or movement of furniture on the installation should be avoided. If building works are still taking place on site the floor should be protected by covering with sheets of hardboard or plywood.

An initial site clean is recommended after installation. This will likely involve vacuum cleaning or sweeping and damp mopping – see LVT maintenance guide for further info.

When moving any type of furniture or heavy equipment, protect the floor by covering with hardboard or plywood, to prevent movement, scratching or permanent damage.

Do not use rubber feet on your furniture. Use appropriate protectors under furniture. These should be felt or other soft material specifically designed to protect the hard surface from scratches or damage to the wear layer.

Rubber can damage the LVT so avoid placing rubber mats etc on top of it. This could cause staining.

## Warnings

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1. On all installations there is a maximum benchmark area of 100m<sup>2</sup> which should be inspected by all authorising parties. Should there be any discrepancies against original specification or manufacturing, Interface should be notified prior to the continuation of the remaining installation.
2. Any variation in site practices to the above may have the effect of rendering the guarantee invalid. Interface cannot accept responsibility for faults occurring as a result of methods of installation varying from those outlined above. These instructions should also be read in conjunction with the Interface conditions of sale.
3. Health & Safety. If adhesive are used or any floor preparation materials please ensure they are used in accordance with manufacturers recommended procedures or precautions regarding safe handling procedures. COSHH and H&S data sheets need to be obtained from the appropriate adhesive manufacturer.