

ROCOCO LVT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Rococo LVTs must be fully adhered to a smooth, hard, clean and permanently dry sub-floor with the appropriate recommended adhesive using a suitable notched spreading trowel. The finished appearance and long term performance will be affected by the quality of the surface directly underneath the tiles.

1.1 SUITABILITY

Rococo is suitable for indoor use only in most residential and commercial areas and with underfloor heating. If the room temperature is likely to regularly exceed 27°C, then a suitable 'high temperature' adhesive should be used. If the temperature is likely to exceed 40°C then an epoxy adhesive should be used. In all instances it should be remembered that all products of this nature are likely to suffer adversely from exposure to strong sunlight, care should be taken to provide protection at large windows, shop fronts etc.

1.2 TRANSPORT, STORAGE, ACCLIMATISATION AND INSTALLATION CONDITIONS

Rococo should be transported and stored in the original, unopened packaging in dry, warm conditions. Always lay boxes down on a flat surface avoiding impacts, particularly at the corners, from dropping or rough handling.

Acclimatisation and Installation should always be carried out in steady temperature and humidity conditions within the range of 18° - 27°C, and as close as practically possible to anticipated service conditions, which should also remain steady. The tiles must be acclimatised for a period of 48 hours on a flat surface and away from direct heat sources. The packages should be opened up and the contents spread out, not stacked up or standing on ends or edges, to allow air circulation around them.

1.3 SUB-FLOORS

Rococo can be installed on most solid or timber floors. All Sub-floors should be hard, flat, clean, dry, smooth, dust-free and soundly constructed.

- Hard: able to resist indentation by point loads. Carpet/carpet tiles and other soft materials must be removed.
- Flat: no sharp undulations. Deflections should be less than 3mm under a metre straight edge.
- Clean: no loose debris and free from contamination containing solvents e.g. turpentine, heating oil, paraffin.
- Dry: NO SURFACE WATER and moisture content below 75% RH.
- Smooth: No ridges, steps, bumps, holes, gaps or sharp edges of any kind.
- Dust-free: thoroughly swept or preferably using a vacuum cleaner.
- Soundly constructed: loose, broken or springy floor boards should be secured or repaired; broken, badly cracked or crumbling concrete and loose/flaking screeds should be cut out and made good.

1.3.1 SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION AND SMOOTHING

In general, existing floor finishes and coverings should be removed. In particular loose-laid or floating finishes and soft finishes such as carpet or carpet tiles must be removed. Linoleum, PVC and other finishes may become loose if covered and cause the new floor installation to fail.

MOISTURE: In addition to a visual inspection ALL floors should be tested to ensure that they do not contain excessive moisture before installing Rococo. For solid floor

we recommend that a hygrometer test is made and that the resulting moisture level reading is less than 75% R.H. at 20°C. If the reading is higher, a damp-proof membrane (DPM) is required. N.B. Timber floors can also contain high levels of moisture as a result of water spillage, leaking pipes, floods, residual construction water, and lack of ventilation or high air humidity either from above or below.

1.3.2 SOLID FLOORS

Direct-to-earth (ground level) solid floors must incorporate an effective DPM and remain permanently dry at a level below 75% R.H. (as above).

Suspended (above ground level) solid floors do not require a damp-proof membrane, but should have adequate ventilation below them and should also remain permanently dry, below 75% R.H.

Any existing floor-coverings should be removed together with residues of adhesive. If the surface is not smooth enough, a suitable floor smoothing screed should be applied at a nominal thickness of 3mm or more if the floor is very uneven. A primer should be applied first to ensure adequate adhesion of the screed and allow self-smoothing screeds to flow out correctly without premature

absorption by the substrate. Sufficient time must be allowed for screeds to dry out before the flooring is installed. In all cases the screed manufacturer's recommendations regarding application and drying times should be followed carefully.

Alternatively, on dry floors (including painted floors) and where appropriate, a floating underlay system such as can be used as an alternative to screed. Such underlayments can also provide sound reduction properties and allow for a fast-track installation.

1.3.3 FLOORING GRADE ASPHALT

To prevent discolouration or damage to the tiles and adverse effects on the adhesive from the active solvent content, asphalt should be smoothed over with a minimum 3mm of a suitable floor screeding compound. This will act as an isolating layer between the asphalt and the floor finish.

1.3.4 HARD FINISHES

Securely fixed ceramic, quarry tile, mosaic etc. Any loose/broken tiles or sections should be cut out and made good with a suitable proprietary floor smoothing compound, and grout lines should be filled. The surface must be free from any grease or contamination before a minimum 3mm of a suitable floor screeding compound is applied.

1.3.5 FLOOR PAINTS/EPOXY COATINGS

These must be securely bonded to the base concrete, any loose or flaking material should be removed and the edges filled/ smoothed over if required before a minimum 3mm of a suitable floor screeding compound is applied.

1.3.6 TIMBER FLOORS

Suspended timber floors (joists and boards) must have adequate ventilation below them to disperse any moisture and prevent dry-rot. At ground level they must have at least 150mm well ventilated void space below and an effective damp-proof course at contact points with supporting walls. Boards should be in good condition and securely fixed to the joists.

Floating timber floors at ground level (chipboard on insulation slab on concrete base) must be dry and have an effective damp-proof membrane incorporated into the concrete base. The decking boards should be well supported from below by the insulation material and without excessive flexing movement under traffic. All board joints should be securely glued together.

Badly uneven areas may require sanding down or levelling in with a suitable screeding compound. Timber floors should be overlaid with a good quality exterior grade ply-board, minimum thickness 6mm, to provide a smooth, even surface and prevent floorboard joints from showing through as lines or ridges in the finished floor. Ply-board joints should be positioned so as not to coincide with

floorboard joints and every sheet should be secured by annular nails or suitable divergent point flooring staples at minimum 150mm centres across the entire area. Nails or staples should finish flush or below the ply-board surface. Ply-board joints and nail heads may require filling with a suitable feather-edge smoothing compound, which must be allowed to dry.

1.4 UNDERFLOOR HEATING

In the event of installing over underfloor heating, either a high temperature, or epoxy adhesive must be used. There are various methods of installing underfloor heating and you should always check with the manufacturer that **Rococo** is suitable for use with their system (there should be no reason for this not being the case).

In the case of electrical underfloor heating, the wires or mesh should be buried in a suitable smoothing compound; it should then receive a further primer before a second smoothing compound is applied. In the case that the underfloor heating is a pipe system, then a primer and smoothing compound should be used as normal, whilst following the advice above in relation to adhesives and temperatures.

2.0 INSTALLING TILES

Ensure the prepared sub-floor surface is clean and free from any dust. Measure out the centre line of the room taking care to avoid very small cut pieces around the edges. It may be necessary to adjust the starting line position by half a tile width to achieve the best layout. Mark out an accurate straight line to start tiling from. Remove the tiles from the packaging and stack them neatly to ensure they remain flat. Following the instructions and using the correct notched trowel, spread the adhesive along the start line to cover a section of the floor that can be completed within the open time, i.e. before the adhesive has become too dry to bond correctly. Some adhesives must be covered with tiles immediately (wet-laid: see 2.1), others can be allowed to become "tacky" (dry a little) before covering (see 2.2), **FOLLOW THE ADHESIVE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TUB.**

USEFUL TIP: when pressing tiles down by hand, always slide your hand towards the previously laid tiles. This will squeeze the tiles together and help to keep all the joints closed.

2.1 WET-LAID: Take care to avoid standing or kneeling on wet-laid tiles as they will slide out of position and also force adhesive up through the joints. Wet-laid tiles should be pressed down using light hand pressure only to exclude any air bubbles and achieve good overall contact with the adhesive.

USEFUL TIP: do not spread more adhesive than you can reach across, place the tiles in position and press down, then spread more adhesive and continue.

Do not slide the tiles into position. Remove any excess adhesive from the tile surface while still soft using a damp cloth.

TACKY: After spreading, the adhesive will need a few minutes to become tacky, depending on temperature and ventilation. The adhesive is tacky when the surface of the ridges has just dried to a touch-dry film but remains wet inside the ridges. Check this by placing a tile into the adhesive, pressing down firmly and peeling back immediately. There should be a ridge pattern of wet adhesive transferred onto the back of the tile. If not, the adhesive is too dry and must be re-applied.

USEFUL TIP: This is a much cleaner way to lay tiles with very little cleaning up. The tiles do not slide if stood on. Check frequently that the adhesive is still transferring to the tiles.

Cut and fit the edge pieces neatly against the walls as and when required. Check that the adhesive here has not become too dry. Check that no small trimmings or other waste fall onto the adhesive. When completed ensure that all tiles are well pressed down into the adhesive, a floor roller is recommended for this. Leave the floor to set fully, approx. 24 hours, before resuming normal traffic.

3.0 CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

A simple programme of regular sweeping/ vacuuming up any loose debris and damp mopping with a proprietary cleaning system will keep the floor looking good for years to come. Avoid using abrasive materials, aggressive detergents and over wetting the floor. Wet floors can be slippery. Excessive amounts of water or steam cleaning can, in time, penetrate the joints and degrade the adhesive.