mFLOR®

DRYBACK

ADVICE ON THE USE OF BONDED mFLOR® DESIGN FLOORS

EN

www.mflor.com

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR mFLOR®

Contact your mFLOR® dealer if you are unsure about any part of the installation and maintenance instructions and the full warranty conditions. mFLOR® is a flexible vinyl floor that is soft, warm, quiet and comfortable underfoot and specially designed for complete bonding to the screed with different types of glue or to a self-adhesive sub-floor. The choice of a type of glue or self-adhesive sub-floor in combination with mFLOR® is determined by the area of application and external conditions of the installation.

NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

When installing mFLOR® floors, national specifications must always be applied in accordance with the installation standards of floorings as described in BS 8203 in the United Kingdom, VOB Part C, DIN 18365 in Germany and all other relevant European, national and local standards.

TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

Boxes containing mFLOR® flooring must always be stored and transported on a flat and firm surface in neat stacks, flat (i.e. not overhanging), and never vertical. The boxes must never be stored in very cold (below 2°C), very warm conditions (above 35°C) or damp rooms.

VISUAL INSPECTION

mFLOR® flooring is checked carefully before it leaves the factory. This makes it possible for us to guarantee high standards of quality. mFLOR® flooring should always be inspected before installation. Check the batch number on the short side of each package and check that all the material for your job has come from the same batch. Minor variations in colour across the same batch number help give mFLOR® design floors its natural look. To avoid intrusive colour variations, we recommend not to install material from different batch numbers over large areas or within the same room. Check the boards for visible breaks during installation. Do not install any boards that have imperfections and get in touch with your mFLOR® contact person directly.

SUITABILITY

— mFLOR® dryback flooring is only suitable for indoor use.
— mFLOR® dryback flooring can be laid on various hard, flat floors such as sand cement, anhydrite (calcium sulphate), wood and ceramic tiles which have been suitably prepared (see screed preparation) and comply with national regulations.
— mFLOR® dryback flooring can be used with traditional water-based underfloor heating and cooling. Use with electric underfloor heating with an on/off switch is not recommended.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

mFLOR® dryback flooring is ideal for underfloor heating or water-based cooling. However, make sure that the surface of the screed is not warmer than 28°C.

For new underfloor heating, there are general start-up instructions or a "start-up and cooling protocol". Check with your client whether the start-up and cooling protocol has been carried out.

3-SEASON/NON-CLIMATE-CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENTS

mFLOR® dryback flooring is suitable for 3-season environments as long as they are applied with a suitable glue.

GREENHOUSES

mFLOR® dryback is not suitable for locations that may be exposed to extreme, direct heat, such as greenhouses with a glass roof and walls. Due to the extreme, rapidly rising temperatures where the floor can easily exceed 45°C, slight deformation of the panels and/or discolouration of the design can occur. If there is a wood-burning stove or fireplace, the correct protection must be applied so that the mFLOR® dryback is not exposed to extreme heat in the immediate vicinity of the heat source.

IMPORTANT FACTORS FOR INSTALLATION

Screed evenness tolerances	Max. height difference 3 mm over 1.8 metres or 5 mm over 3 metres.
Vapour-tight membrane -0.20mm	Not required, but advisable with a screed that is not dry*.
Sub-floor required	No
Acclimatisation requirements	Acclimatise in the room where the flooring is to be laid for at least 24 hours.**
Installation over ceramic tiled floor	Not without preparation
Installation by bonding	See installation guide
Maximum residual moisture permitted As a percentage of the screed	< 0.3% anhydrite with underfloor heating < 0.5% anhydrite without underfloor heating < 1.8% sand cement with underfloor heating < 2.0% sand cement without underfloor heating < 14% wood in MDF
Suitability for underfloor heating	Approved – temperature of the screed surface must not be more than 30°C.
3-season/non-climate-controlled environments	Suitable
Expansion requirements	None, mFLOR® dryback may be installed and sealed tightly (without tension) against walls, frames and objects.
Optimum temperature and relative humidity conditions	During installation: 18°C - 28°C During lifetime: between 6°C and 35°C Relative humidity: between 40% and 70%
Definition of water-resistant	The dimensional stability, rigidity and strength must not decrease as a result of contact with moisture/water.

* A vapour-tight membrane (vapour-tight film) prevents moisture coming into contact with the back of the mFLOR® LooseLay flooring. We will not be held responsible for any encroachment of the screed and/or the occurrence of mould. Inform your glue and levelling compound supplier in case of structural or design-related moisture problems.

** Acclimatisation is important not only to maintain the ideal processing temperature at which mFLOR® dryback flooring can best be installed, but also to relieve any stress that has developed in the material during transport, storage or installation.

CAUTION: Only those installation techniques described in this installation guide are covered by the warranty. No guarantee is given for customised mFLOR® dryback installations.

FLOOR PREPARATION

Checking and pre-treatment of screed:

Ensure that the (background) information about the composition, construction and quality of the screed is correct. The screed must be kept dry, level and clean, as described in DIN 18365. The screed must also be compression- and tension-resistant. Take advice on the right type of moisture protection, primer, levelling and sub-floors that you need to professionally prepare and install a screed.

In principle, all types of floor screed must be PRIMED AND LEVELLED because the slightest unevenness in the sub-floor will impact on the finished floor otherwise. In addition, professionally levelled screed ensures an equal absorbing capacity for the glue, resulting in optimal adhesion.

Evenness of screed

The screed must be flat and not have any unevenness in excess of 3 mm within a radius of 1.8 metres or 5 mm within a radius of 3 metres. The screed must not slope down by more than 25 mm over 1.8. metres in one or more directions.

Influence of slopes

If the slope is greater than 1 mm over 1.8 metres or 3 mm over 3 metres, this can affect the installation, which can manifest itself in small (wedge-shaped) gaps between the panels.

Moisture protection

Moisture protection for levelling is not necessary when the screed is permanently dry. Contact your glue and levelling supplier for expert advice if the screed is not permanent
dry.

Underfloor heating

Make sure that the ambient temperature and the temperature of the screed are comfortable during acclimatisation and installation. If necessary, lower the water temperature of the underfloor heating by setting the pump thermostat to 20°C. If heating pipes heat the screed to a temperature higher than 30°C, mFLOR® dryback flooring may discolour from underneath. Prevent this at all times by using a thicker levelling layer and a suitable sub-floor and/or by adjusting the water temperature in the pipes.

RESIDUAL MOISTURE CONTENT OF SCREEDS

Maximum residual moisture permitted as a percentage of the screed:

< 0.3% anhydrite with underfloor heating
< 0.5% anhydrite without underfloor heating
< 1.8% sand cement with underfloor heating
< 2.0% sand cement without underfloor heating
< 14% wood in MDF

ACCLIMATISATION

mFLOR® dryback should be acclimatised in the room where it is to be installed for at least 24 hours prior to installation, or until the product has reached the ambient temperature. This is a temperature not lower than 18°C. Ensure that the packages are laid flat and without stress during acclimatisation. Leave the panels in the packaging in small stacks away from sources of extreme heat or cold. The environment for acclimatisation should be between 18 – 28°C during this period and should be maintained within these levels after installation for optimum end results. Acclimatisation is important not only to maintain the ideal processing temperature at which mFLOR® dryback flooring can best be installed, but also to relieve any stress that has developed in the material during transport, storage or installation.

REMARKS

PVC floors may expand and shrink under the influence of temperature or climatic conditions. If the PVC is not properly acclimatised or if the temperature fluctuates by more than 10 degrees over 12 hours, raised joints may occur in the PVC floor which can cause irreparable damage. This can be prevented by following the installation instructions correctly.

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER INSTALLATION

It is best to install mFLOR® dryback at a room temperature between 18°C and 28°C and a floor temperature above 15°C. Installations in places that are colder than recommended have a detrimental effect on the user-friendly installation features of mFLOR® flooring. The boards and/or tiles are less easy to handle and less flexible, and cutting will be more difficult, making it harder to cut out small pieces. The lower the temperature, the harder they are to handle. For installations in places that are warmer than the recommended temperature conditions, we recommend that you create the correct installation conditions by external means such as fans, blinds, etc.

A constant temperature which does not fluctuate by more than 5°C per day and which is not below the required 18°C or above the required 28°C room temperature, and a minimum floor temperature of 15°C, must be maintained during acclimatisation, during the installation and for 72 hours after installation has been completed.

TYPE OF BONDING

mFLOR® dryback can be applied with all regular brands of glue as long as the relevant supplier prescribes that it is a suitable glue for LVT strips, tiles and/or mosaic. You can choose the most suitable glue from your supplier's range – depending on the type of screed, external conditions, field of application and/or size of LVT. You can choose between dispersion glue for LVT, fibre reinforcement adhesive, PU or 2C glue for LVT, or alternatives such as a drying adhesive or a self-adhesive floating sub-floor.

TYPE OF GLUE FOR LARGE DIMENSIONS

When installing strips longer than 140 cm and tiles larger than 65 x 65 cm, the strips and tiles must always be installed using a wet glue, such as the Uzin KE-66, 646 Eurostar Premium or similar.

ROLLING AFTER GLUING

Roll the installed floor directly with a minimum of 50kg roll to ensure optimum adhesive transfer and adhesion.

INSTALLATION PLAN

To make sure that you achieve the best layout and the lowest cutting loss possible, mark out a chalk line to match the dimensions of the strips or tiles to be installed. We advise you to prepare a working drawing before you start to install a floor. This drawing should show how you intend to install the strips or tiles in the room in question.

AVOID COLOUR DIFFERENCES

We advise you to only process material from the same batch per room. To achieve the most realistic result, we advise that packs are always mixed together. The arrows on the back of the product should only be followed for tiles larger than 65 x 65 cm (Fonteyn and GRAND Milano collections).

STEP BY STEP INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL

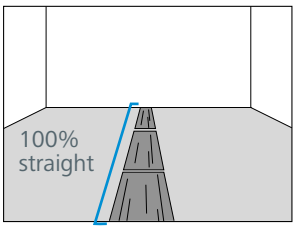
Choose the installation method based on the above installation methods listed by application and area.

Carry out the installation starting from the middle of the room/area and work towards both ends from the middle. Never start directly against a wall with the first row of boards or tiles as they may be uneven and therefore negatively affect the installation.

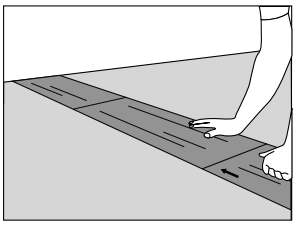
REMARKS:
The most commonly used and easiest way of working with strips is to start in a perfectly straight line through the middle of the longest length of the room and then work to left and right.
With tiles, we always recommend starting from a point as close as possible to the centre of the room. Laying the tiles from a central point and working outwards ensures that rows containing parts of tiles on the outer sides of the room will be of equal size.

Decide the direction in which you are going to lay the mFLOR® dryback floor – it is usual to lay the rows working towards the window. Measure the width of the room accurately and calculate an even distribution of the first and last rows. Then draw a starting line on the floor using a pencil or chalk line, or use a laser along which you lay the first row.

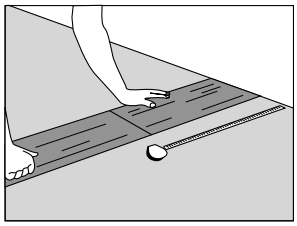
INSTALLATION OF mFLOR® DRYBACK FLOORS



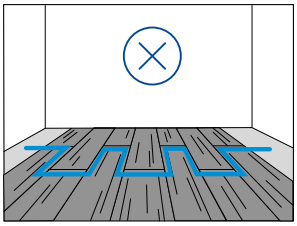
1. Glue the first part, measured and marked out, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the correct opening time and processing time. Place the mFLOR® dryback panels exactly along the perfectly straight starting line.



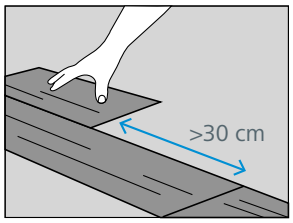
2. Lay the panels without stress and continuously against each other, taking into account the direction of the arrows on the backing in the case of large tiles.



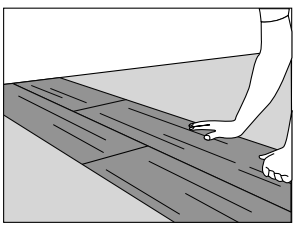
3. Measure the last panel of the first row carefully and place it without stress against the wall or plinth.



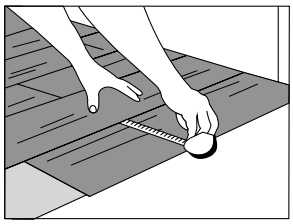
4. For a natural look, we recommend that the piece left over from the first row should not be used as the first piece of the second row. Avoid having a recognisable, repeating distance between the panels, which creates a kind of staircase effect. Boards are installed randomly and tiles can be installed in a straight line, in a half-brick bond or in an irregular bond.

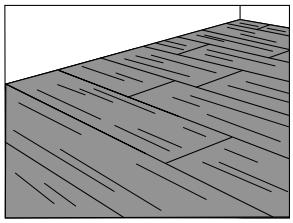


5. For the second and each subsequent row, take a new panel and decide how large the panel should be (or use a piece that is left over from one of the previous rows). For boards, make sure that the joint of the short side is at least 30 cm from the joint of the short side of the previous row; and at least 20 cm for tiles.



6. Place the second and each subsequent row without stress and adjoining the previous row.





7. Cut the last row along the wall or any obstacles by measuring accurately or using contour jigs. Lay the last row without stress between the previous row and the wall, without one panel being too tight and pushing other panels away.

REMARKS:

Never use solvents to remove adhesive residue. Remove adhesive residue with a moist cloth straight away. In case of dried glue stains, soak them off using hot water and a soft brush and remove using a damp cloth.

Protect your floor using the right Scratch No More protective caps for all furniture that is slid and for furniture that is occasionally moved using a felt glide.

To ensure that your floor is protected optimally once installation has been completed, please carefully read and observe the mFLOR® maintenance instructions, especially in intensive situations.