



*mFLOR Loose Lay*

# Professional installation guide

GB

# General guidelines for mFLOR Loose Lay

Contact your mFLOR dealer if you are unsure about any part of the installation and maintenance instructions and the full warranty conditions. mFLOR Loose Lay is a flexible vinyl floor – warm, quiet and comfortable underfoot and specially designed for a completely loose or fixed installation. Full bonding is not necessary, which means there is no permanent damage to the screed or existing floor finish. mFLOR Loose Lay is partially or fully fixed depending on the type of application and the area to be covered. mFLOR Loose Lay offers fast and effortless installation.

## *National requirements*

When installing mFLOR Loose Lay 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 Loose Lay flooring must always be stored and transported on a flat and firm surface in neat stacks, flat (i.e. not overhanging), and never vertical. Do not stack pallets when storing. The boxes must never be stored in very cold (below 6°C), very warm conditions (above 35°C) or damp rooms. The advised temperature is between 15 and 25°C.

## *Visual inspection*

mFLOR Loose Lay flooring must be inspected prior to 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 Loose Lay 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 Loose Lay contact person directly.

## *Suitability*

- mFLOR Loose Lay is only suitable for indoor use.
- mFLOR Loose Lay 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 Loose Lay can be used with traditional water-based underfloor heating and cooling. Use with electric underfloor heating with an on/off switch is not recommended.

## *Greenhouses*

mFLOR Loose Lay is not suitable for locations that may be exposed to extreme, direct heat, such as greenhouses with a glass roof and walls.

### **REMARKS**

If a sub-floor undulates or is uneven, this may show in the mFLOR Loose Lay floor covering. Boards, floorboards, stapled or nailed hardboard, ceramic tiles with joints wider than 5mm and deeper than 2mm, uneven tiles, uneven slabs, expansion joints or other height differences in the screed must first be prepared in order to create a suitable sub-floor. mFLOR Loose Lay cannot be laid over carpets, carpet tiles or other soft floor coverings.

If in doubt, please contact your adhesive and levelling compound supplier for advice.

# 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 -0.20 mm	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 **
Laying on a ceramic tile floor	Suitable if the joints are not wider than 5 mm or deeper than 2 mm and no tiles or edges are protruding upwards.
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	Not suitable
Expansion requirements	Install free from stress
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 Loose Lay 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 Loose Lay 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 Loose Lay installations.

## *Screed 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.

### **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 by more than 25 mm over 1.8 metres in one or more directions.

### **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 Loose Lay 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 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

## *Temperature conditions before, During and after installation*

It is best to install mFLOR Loose Lay 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 Loose Lay. 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 for 3 days before and during installation and for 7 days after installation has been completed.

## Acclimatisation

mFLOR Loose Lay 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 acclimatisation environment should be between 18 and 28°C during this period and should be maintained within these levels after installation to ensure acceptable product performance.

### REMARKS

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

## Installation methods

- Loose Lay, completely loose
- Locally fixed, with self-adhesive pads, double-sided tape, spray or roll adhesive
- Fully fixed, with spray or roll adhesive
- Fully bonded, with dispersion adhesive
- Permanently bonded, with PU, 2K or other hard adhesives

## Installation methods by application

Private use	Light commercial use	Heavy commercial use
Loose Lay	Loose Lay	Loose Lay
Locally fixed	Locally fixed	Locally fixed
Fully fixed	Fully fixed	Fully fixed
-	-	Fully bonded
-	-	Permanently bonded

Temperature-sensitive rooms	Humid rooms	Wet rooms
Fully bonded	Fully bonded	Fully bonded
Permanently bonded	Permanently bonded	Permanently bonded

## Installation methods by surface area

Rooms up to 36m <sup>2</sup>	Rooms up to 75m <sup>2</sup>	Rooms > 75m <sup>2</sup>
Loose Lay	Locally fixed	Fully fixed
Locally fixed	Fully fixed	Fully bonded
Fully fixed	Fully bonded	Permanently bonded
Fully bonded	Permanently bonded	-
Permanently bonded	-	-

# Step by step installation instructions

## *General*

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

Carry out installation starting from the middle of the room/area and work towards both ends from the middle.\*

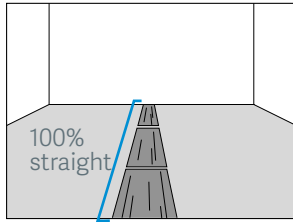
\*If necessary, you can start along the wall and work towards one end, provided you have first allowed for any unevenness of the wall and trimmed the first row of boards.

## **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.

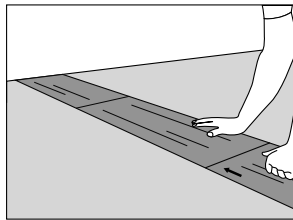
Decide the direction in which you are going to lay the mFLOR Loose Lay floor – it is usual to lay the rows working towards the window. Measure the width of the room accurately and calculate an even distribution of the first and last rows. Then draw a starting line on the floor using a pencil or chalk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

# Installing Loose Lay

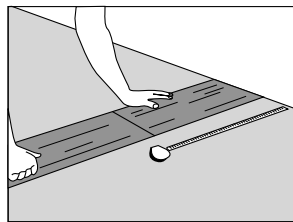


## Installing Loose Lay

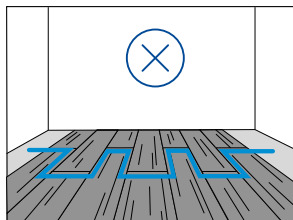
1. Place the mFLOR Loose Lay panels (strips) exactly along the perfectly straight starting line. When laying tiles, start in the middle of the room and work outwards in a circular motion.



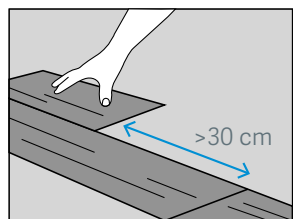
2. Following the direction of the arrows on the backing, lay the panels without stress and continuously against each other and against the wall or plinth.



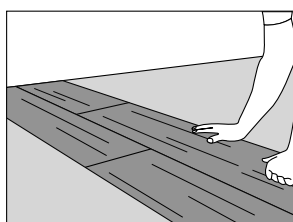
3. Measure the last panel of the first row carefully and place it without stress against the wall or plinth.



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.

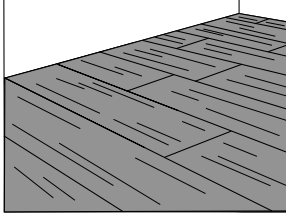
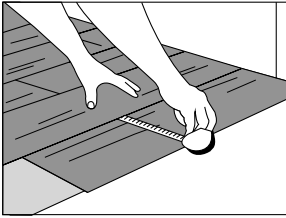


5. For the second and each subsequent row, take a new panel and decide how large the panel should be (or use a piece that is left over from one of the previous rows). Ensure that the joint of the short side is at least 30 cm from the joint of the short side of the previous row.



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





- 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.

### *Fixation and/or bonding*

#### **Self-adhesive pads:**

Lay a self-adhesive pad under each intersection of a longitudinal joint and an end joint. These pads adhere to the back of the panels and not to the screed.

#### **Double-sided tape:**

Place double-sided tape, suitable for mFLOR Loose Lay, in places where you want to strengthen the entire Loose Lay installation. Double-sided tape is ideally suited for fixing in doorways and for small fitting pieces, end-pieces or transitions.

#### **Spray and roll adhesive:**

Apply the spray or roll adhesive according to the supplier's instructions. Let it dry sufficiently and place the mFLOR Loose Lay on this non-slip adhesive to prevent it from sliding.

#### **Full bonding with dispersion adhesive:**

Apply suitable dispersion adhesive according to the supplier's instructions. Place the mFLOR Loose Lay on this full bonding. After bonding, roll the floor crosswise with a roller weighing at least 50kg for optimal adhesion/glue transfer to the backing.

#### **Permanent bonding with hard adhesives:**

Apply suitable PU, 2K or other type of adhesive according to the supplier's instructions. Place the mFLOR Loose Lay on this permanent bonding. After bonding, roll the floor crosswise with a roller weighing at least 50kg for optimal adhesion/glue transfer to the backing.