

INTRODUCTION

This manual is intended as a guide to all parties involved in the specification, installation and maintenance of Polyflor vinyl floor covering.

British Standard Code of Practice BS 8203 provides detailed recommendations for the installation of sheet and tile flooring on both new and existing floor constructions and is endorsed by Polyflor for the installation of Polyflor flooring.

This technical information manual is intended as a guide to all parties involved in the specification, installation and maintenance of Polyflor vinyl floor covering. It will not replace the skills of a trained floor layer and Polyflor always recommends the use of reputable flooring contractors, whose experience will prove invaluable at all stages of a project. Selecting a flooring contractor solely on price can lead to a poor installation and a dissatisfied end user.

A successful installation not only depends on the skills of the floor layer but also on the planning of the project prior to installation. Consultation between all parties concerned will eliminate problems and will ensure a successful installation, which meets the design requirements within the allotted time scale.

1.1 PRODUCT SELECTION

Selection of the correct floor covering is of paramount importance. Not only must the floor covering meet the designer's initial performance specification but the product performance must be sustainable for the guaranteed life of the product, allowing for foreseeable actions such as general wear and tear and regular maintenance. This is extremely important for the Essential Requirements as defined by the European Union for all construction products.

Consideration at the initial specification stage must be given to the occupational usage of the building and the building type. Particular attention must be paid to the type and intensity of traffic (both pedestrian and wheeled), any special acoustic, electrical resistance or slip resistance requirements, as well as reaction to chemicals and staining agents, and physical properties such as resistance to point and rolling loads.

Should you wish to clarify any points regarding Polyflor flooring or accessories, then please contact Polyflor. The Technical Sales Team or Customer Technical Services Department (CTSD) can provide advice on the suitability, performance and application of any Polyflor products.

1.1.1 Project pre-planning

One important consideration at the outset is the maintenance aspects of the floor covering to be installed. Floor coverings with enhanced slip characteristics have a higher surface coefficient of friction and requires different maintenance than a traditional smooth floor covering. Colour also plays a very important part and one should remember that light colours will show soiling more easily and could require a more intensive maintenance programme than darker colours.

Having decided upon your floor covering, it is essential that the product, together with its accessories, are installed correctly within pre-defined time and budget constraints. To achieve this, the tender documentation should include the maximum amount of information possible, such as:

KEY POINT

Tender documentation should include the maximum amount of information including detailed handover inspection checklist.

- 1 Full details of the subfloor construction, especially on solid subfloors and any treatments or additives. Include the expected dates for completion of each stage.
- 2 Full details of standard features such as welding, site formed coving or pre-formed coving. In addition, it should include other features such as pattern or border detail and requirements such as door trims, diminishing strips.
- 3 Reference to any tests which must be carried out e.g. for moisture, electrical resistance, screed strength and flatness/level.
- 4 Drawings showing the direction of decoration or where sheet must be laid in a particular direction.
- 5 A statement of the standard of workmanship required, clearly indicating items which will be unacceptable at the handover inspection.
- 6 Full details of finishing requirements. These may include: removal and safe disposal of waste, retention of flooring over a certain size, a construction clean, initial polish where applicable and protection of the finished floor prior to customer handover.

By including this level of detail in the tender document, the flooring contractor is able to give an accurate costing and advise on the length of time required to complete the work at that cost. Once the tender is accepted, ideally discussions should be held to highlight any potential problems well in advance and to ascertain the services required on site when the floor covering is installed.

