

Installation

Installation technique for natural fibre floorcoverings: double-stick method

(As approved by Mike Whale, Master NICF Fitter)

This is the recommended fitting technique for natural fibre floorcoverings supplied by Alternative Flooring. If this method is not carried out as specified, no claims for shrinkage, bubbling etc. will be considered. Please also pay attention to the suitability of each of the floorcoverings, as no claims will be accepted if the flooring is fitted in an unsuitable location.

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Pre-installation process

Before you start fitting, please ensure:

1. The sub-floor is dry, level, sound and dust-free and prepared to British Standards (BS 5325: 2001)
2. You check the floor covering to ensure it is the correct material, the right size and there are no visible defects. Irregularities in the weave, colour variations, slubs, tufts and knots are part of the natural charm of the product and as such are not manufacturing defects or valid cause for complaint.

Check the flooring is acceptable BEFORE CUTTING. Remember, once you have cut the floorcovering, you have agreed that the floorcovering is acceptable. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

3. The flooring is acclimatised in the area it is to be laid for at least 48 hours. This involves unwrapping and loosely rolling the flooring.
4. There are no sources of excessive moisture in the area the floorcovering is to be laid, e.g. damp walls.

Installation process

Alternative Flooring recommends only the following 'double-stick' method for installing our natural fibre floorcoverings.

1. Fix short pin or blind (no pins) gripper around the perimeter of the room. Allow a gully, approximately 2/3 the thickness of the carpet, between the gripper and the wall/skirting to allow for bolstering later.

2. Apply tackifier (e.g. F Ball F40) to the floor with a roller or trowel as per the manufacturer's instructions.

When the tackifier has dried, lay the underlay into the tackifier and tape up the joints in the underlay with single-sided tape. Suggested underlays are Tredaire Contract or Duralay's Durafit.

2a. Alternatively, if the floor is boarded, you might need to prepare it with plywood. The underlay can be fixed with a 75mm band of permanent adhesive around the perimeter then fully stapled at 150-220mm centres and joints taped with single-sided tape.

3. Roll out the floorcovering over the underlay and rough-cut, allowing at least 6cm oversize all around.

(Please note the floorcovering must have been acclimatised in the area it is to be laid for at least 48 hours. This can be done at this stage or before starting the installation, but it must be carried out before the next stage.)

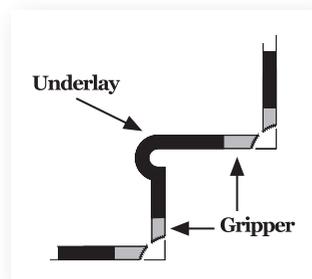
- 4.** Fold back the floorcovering by 50% of its area and, using a 2mm X 6mm V notch trowel (3mm X 6mm for coir) apply the permanent adhesive to the underlay (e.g. F Ball F3). Take care to allow the trowel to glide over the underlay, as too much downward pressure on to the trowel will reduce the effectiveness of the notch size to apply the correct quantity of adhesive. (Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.)
- 5.** Now lay the floorcovering back into the adhesive. Then fold back the other half and repeat step 5.
- 6.** Use a 15 kg glider over the entire floor area to ensure adequate transfer of adhesive to the back of the floorcovering.
- 7.** When the adhesive has 'grabbed' the floorcovering, trim off the excess around the perimeter with a straight blade or scissors and bolster down into the gully left by the gripper.
- 8.** For extra security, you can staple the floorcovering on to the gripper using an electric stapler, e.g. Maestri.
- 9.** Any exposed edges at doorways etc. must be protected with either metal door bars or wooden threshold trips.

Installation on stairs

Please refer to product suitability to check that it is recommended for use on stairs.

Alternative Flooring will not consider any complaints for floorcoverings fitted on stairs that we have not recommended for this purpose.

1. Fit blank or short-pinned gripper to the tread and riser at the crotch of the stair. The gripper should leave a space approx. 1.5 times the thickness of the floor covering, to allow the floorcovering to be bolstered in later.
2. Lay a suitable underlay (e.g. Tredaire Contract) from the gripper on the tread over the nosing of the stair and down to the gripper on the riser. Please refer to the diagram. The underlay should be stuck using a permanent adhesive, (e.g. F Ball F3). Alternatively, it can be fixed by stapling at the back of the step, along the front of the step and over the riser.
3. Using a permanent adhesive (e.g. F Ball F3), fix the floor covering to the underlay on the tread and bolster tightly into the gap between the gripper into the crotch of the stairs.
4. If required, you can staple the floorcovering under the nose using an electric stapler (e.g. Maestri) and also onto the grippers for added security.



In areas of heavy use or in contract situations, Alternative Flooring recommends using stair nosings.

Underfloor heating

We are unable to guarantee any of our floorings when used with underfloor heating as they have not been independently tested for such use.

We are aware that the thinner floorings, such as Sisal Bouclé, have very low thermal resistances and therefore, in theory, should be usable with underfloor heating. Many of our other customers have used this product without a problem.

If you decide to go ahead and install over underfloor heating, you would need to consult with your fitter in relation to the type of underlay they would use. That's because the flooring would still have to be fitted using the recommended double-stick method, and the underlay would need to have a low thermal resistance to ensure the underfloor heating was still effective.

