



# LAYING TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS

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## RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE

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This document defines the procedures for installing broadloom textile floorings, glued or fitted, as well as loose lay tiles and planks.

**It is best practise to comply with the following conditions, in particular before laying of these coverings:**

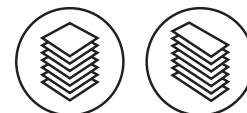
- Rooms must be closed.
- They must be laid after all other works (painting, structural work, rendering) are complete.
- The heating system must be turned on first.
- Rooms must be at no less than 12 °C.
- Relative ambient humidity should not exceed 65 % at the time of laying.
- The surface must be clean and dry.
- A surfacing and smoothing filler must be applied on a clean surface for glued carpet, carpet tiles or planks, and should be left to dry for 24 hours before laying.
- The moisture content of the surface must not exceed 5 % of the dry weight: as a rough guide, for an adhesive screed 30 mm thick, it should be left to dry for at least 4 weeks in dry periods and 5 to 6 weeks in wet periods.
- Coverings should be stored in closed, dry rooms at no less than 15°C, 48 hours before laying.
- Carpet tiles should be stored flat in their original packaging; stacking should be limited to 8 to 10 20-tile boxes.
- The glue should be stored sheltered from frost at no more than 30 °C and no less than 5 °C.
- For underfloor heating, the heating should be turned off 48 hours before the smoothing filler is applied and only turned back on 48 hours after the covering has been laid.

### **Final acceptance:**

- The covering must be clean, free of glue stains and trimmings.
- If finishing work is required after installation, the carpet must be protected with a plastic sheet.
- Glued coverings cannot be used for 48 hours after laying.
- Fitted carpet or weighted removable carpet tiles and planks can be used straight away.



# ADVICE FOR LAYING TILES AND PLANKS



This document repeats the principal points mentioned above 'Technical specifications sheet for textile floor coverings'.

## 1. Preparation

### 1.1 Storing the material

Do not stack the pallets. Store the tiles on a flat surface and stack them in their original packaging. Do not stack more than 10 boxes. Before proceeding to lay them, allow the tiles to rest for 48 hours in a closed area with a temperature between 15°C and 30°C so that they can readjust.

### 1.2 Construction site conditions

- The temperature in the premises must be at least 12 °C and relative humidity must not exceed 65%. The premises must be closed, covered and lit. The substrate temperature must be greater than 10 °C.
- All other work on the building (structural work, plastering, painting, heating, etc.) must be finished.
- The substrate must be smooth, clean and dry (moisture content below 4.5%) and non-compressible.
- To achieve this, a smoothing compound such as **F Ball Stopgap 1200 Pro** is recommended.
- You must ensure that a substrate survey has been conducted and a joint report written.

Type of substrate	Removable weighted tiles		Fixed panels
	Thickness of floor covering		
	< 7 mm	≥ 7 mm	
<b>Bonded screeds and panels (see 6.1.3)</b>	+	x	x
<b>Tiling, subfloor with prepared cladding &amp; smooth surface, etc. (see 6.1.1 et 6.1.2)</b>	x	x	x
<b>Raised subfloor</b>	<i>No Primer</i>		

+: Priming always necessary.  
x: Primer possibly not necessary depending on the condition of the actual surface of base.

- When laying the covering it is recommended that the joints of the tiles not be aligned with those of the floor. Be sure not to allow the preparation product to penetrate between the floor modules, which would have the effect of making their later disassembly more difficult.
- In the case of underfloor heating: the temperature of the floor must not exceed 28 °C. Only start work if the underfloor heating commissioning certificate has been received.

### 1.3 Fixing method

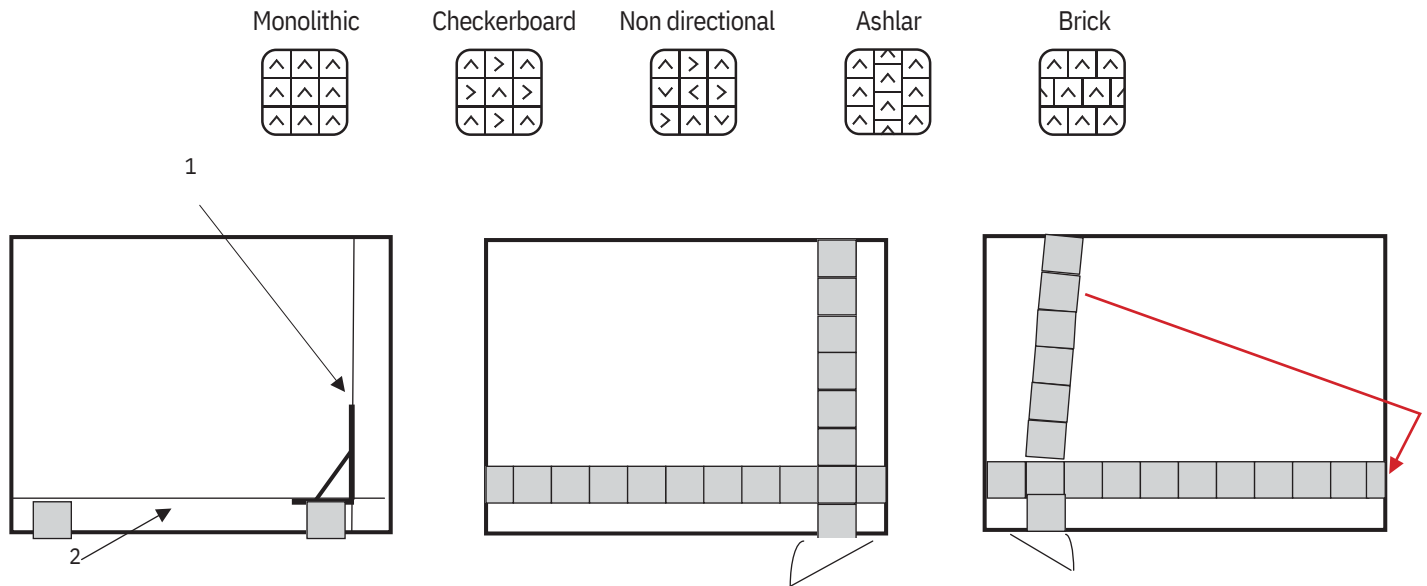
An aqueous dispersion preparation product specially made for loose-lay carpet tiles must be used. The tile layer must refer to the fixing product manufacturer's instructions to ensure that the solution is compatible with the backing of the tiles. Recommendations regarding the amount of product, gumming time and method of application must be strictly followed. The holding product is applied to the entire surface to be covered.

Respect the recommended proportions and apply an even layer of glue with the recommended tool. Before laying the tiles, respect the gumming time and make sure that no glue is transferred when you touch it. It is strongly recommended that you regularly carry out unsticking tests to check that the tiles are fully movable.

If renovations are undertaken, it is essential that the previous holding product is neutralised using a bonding primer.

## 2. Laying the tiles and the planks

Check the laying style required (checkerboard, monolithic, non-directional, ashlar or brick) by referring to the specifications, or checking the package labelling. The direction of the pile is indicated by arrows on the back of the tiles. Tiles must always all be laid in the determined direction (see diagrams below).



### Fixing method

- 1) Draw a reference line using a guiding line or a laser device. Using a tile positioned against the skirting board of the wall of the room to be carpeted, draw two marks, then, using a guiding line or laser device, draw a line connecting the two marks.
- 2) To ensure successful squaring, draw a second mark using a flat angle bracket.

### Laying out tiles

Laying out the tiles correctly will make the work look better. In general, balance must be achieved between the two ends of the room to be laid. The tile cuts at the edges of the room must be greater or equal to half of a tile.

### Example of how NOT to set up and lay out tiles.

### Method

Place the first tile at the intersection of the AB and AC axes and continue laying in a staggered 'staircase' pattern, being careful to ensure each tile is square against its neighbours (see figure 1). Frequently check that the tiles are properly aligned by running your finger along the edge of the tiles.

#### • Blocking:

Check that the edges of the tiles touch properly.

The contact pressure should however not be too great so as not to cause bumps and buckling.

- Cut the tiles (see figure 2):

Tile A is the last tile before cutting;

Tile B is the tile to be cut which must be placed exactly on Tile A.

Tile C is an extra tile used as a template. Position it against the wall and on top of Tile B.

Use its edge to trace a line on Tile B, then cut using a craft knife. Then place the cut part of Tile B in between the wall and Tile A.

To lay cut-pile products, straighten the pile well before positioning the tile in order to avoid trapping the pile at the joint.

## Finishing

Once each laying area is completed the flooring needs to be protected from the work of other tradesmen. Avoid placing heavy items on the covered areas until the surface is completed.

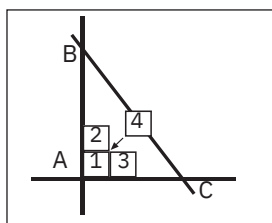


Figure 1

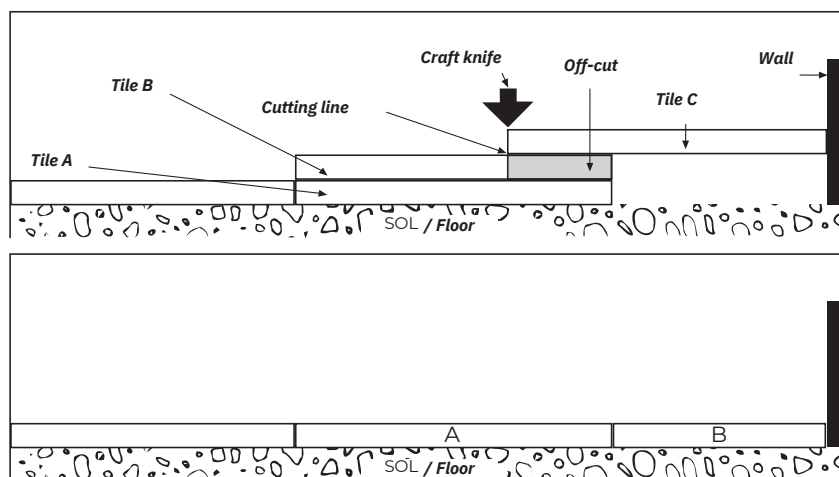
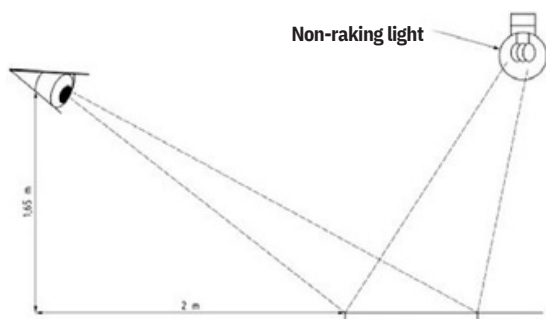


Figure 2



## Product delivery – Visual inspection conditions

The final condition of the flooring is inspected from a height of 1.65 m and a distance of 2 m, in non-raking light (angle between the flooring and light greater than 45°). It is normal for a checkerboard effect to remain, the extent of which depends on pattern and colour. Slight gaps, misalignment or marks may develop during laying.

### Warning (Check list)

1. Store the tiles for 48 hours at a temperature above 15 °C but not exceeding 30 °C. Before laying the tiles, please, check that the reference is correct (colour/product).
2. Check that the material to be used in the laying area comes from the same batch. Do not accept any mixing of batches. Batch numbers are given on the label of each box. Do not lay defective tiles.
3. Ensure that the preparation product to be used is recommended for the back of the tiles. Respect the gumming time as well as the quantities the manufacturer recommends. Failure to respect these two rules can result in the tiles becoming stuck, and hence prevent them from being movable.
4. Never start laying from a full tile positioned against a wall. Failure to respect the staggered staircase method of laying can result in the tiles not being square to each other, causing the partial opening of joints. This is not due to poor calibration of the tiles. Ensure you follow these rules.
5. Expansion joints: tiles which are laid over a joint are recut along the joint and glued either side of it.
6. For cut pile products. Be careful not to trap the fibres between the tiles (lift up the tile with a hooked blade to reposition the trapped fibres and ensure the joints look correct).
7. Heating tests: after laying the tiles, avoid thermal shocks due to any abrupt increase in temperature.
8. Responsibility. We decline all responsibility for any defects resulting from divergence from the methods described here. In addition to reading these instructions it is essential to also read the general Terms and Conditions.

### 3. Laying tiles and planks on a Sonic Booster Layer (SBL) acoustic underlay

Using a Sonic Booster Layer acoustic underlay for smaller spaces or in inlays significantly increases the sound insulation properties of our tiles with BBack backing. SBL is not recommended for heat- ed floors.

#### 3.1 Storing the material

Do not stack the pallets. Store the SBL on a flat surface and stack it in its original packaging. Do not stack more than 10 boxes. Before proceeding to lay them, allow the tiles to rest for 48 hours in an en- closed storage area with a temperature between 15°C and 30°C so that they can readjust. In the case of raised floors: they must com- ply with French NF-DTU 57.1 standard. When laying the covering it is recommended that the joints of the tiles not be aligned with those of the floor. Be sure not to allow the preparation product to penetrate between the floor modules, which would have the effect of making their later disassembly more difficult.

#### 3.2 Site conditions

- The temperature in the premises must be at least 12°C, and rela- tive humidity must not exceed 65%. The premises must be closed, covered and lit. The substrate temperature must be greater than 10°C.
- All other work on the building (structural work, plastering, painting, heating, etc.) must be finished.
- The substrate must be smooth, clean and dry (moisture content below 4.5%) and non-compressible.
- You must ensure that a substrate survey has been conducted and a joint report written.
- In the case of raised floors: When laying SBL it is recommended that the joints not be aligned with those of the floor.

#### 3.3 Fixing method

SBL is fixed to the substrate using a special aqueous dispersion for loose lay carpet tiles. Recommendations regarding the amount of product, gumming time and method of application must be strictly followed. The holding product is applied to the entire surface to be covered. For example, the following products may be used to fix SBL:

Supplier	Reference
BOSTIK	DAL 50
UZIN	U2100
F-BALL	F41

#### 3.4 Laying SBL

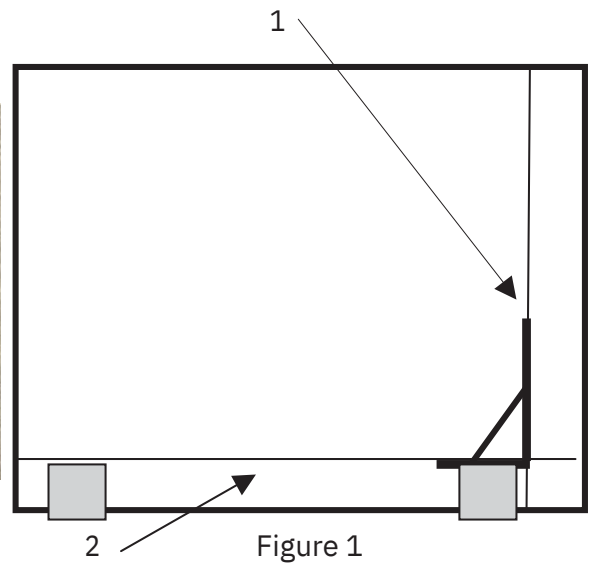
Respect the recommended proportions and apply an even layer of glue with the recommended tool. Before laying the SBL, respect the gumming time and make sure that no glue is transferred when you touch it. It is strongly recommended that you regularly carry out “unsticking” tests to check that the planks are fully moveable.



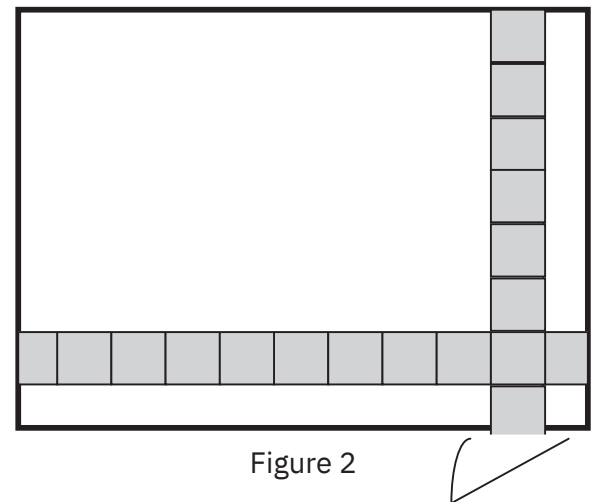
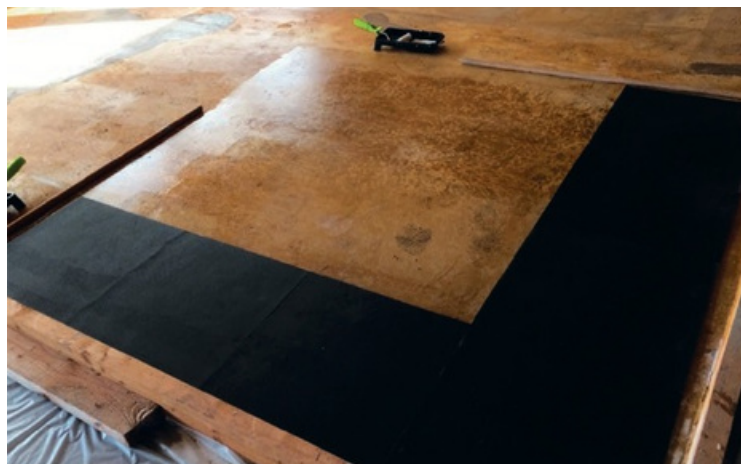
If renovations are undertaken, it is essential that the previous holding product is neutralised using a bonding primer.

**SBL must be positioned with the fibrous side against the substrate.**

Using a chalk line, trace an initial reference line along the length of the room to be carpeted. To determine the starting point for laying your tiles, trace a second reference line perpendicular to the first, ensuring a minimum width of 25 cm for the SBLs positioned at the edge. [Cf. Figure 1]



Start laying the SBL along the reference lines, positioning them edge to edge without any gaps. [Cf. Figure 2]  
Continue to lay the tiles in a staggered staircase pattern, checking regularly that the SBL rows are properly aligned.

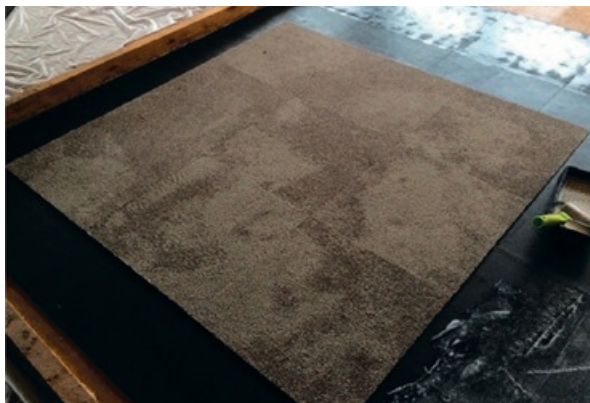


**3.5 Laying tiles with BBack Backing**

The same preparation product must then be applied to the surface of the SBL before the tiles are installed. Depending on the product used, it may be necessary to apply two layers of tackifier, a first layer to limit absorption into the substrate ( $\approx 50 \text{ g/m}^2$ ), and a second layer after smoothing to obtain the adhesive effect.



As before, trace an initial reference line along the length of the room to be carpeted. To determine the starting position for laying your tiles, trace a second reference line perpendicular to the first, ensuring that the tiles positioned at the edges have a minimum width of 25 cm [Cf. Figure 1] and that the carpet tile joints are offset in relation to the SBL joints.



Start the installation of the tiles along the reference lines. Continue to lay the tiles in a staggered staircase pattern, checking regularly that the rows of tiles are properly aligned. In addition, check that the tile edges are all in contact with each other, ensuring that no pile is trapped between the joints. The contact pressure should however not be too great so as not to cause bumps and buckling.





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