

## PREPARATION FOR INSTALLATION

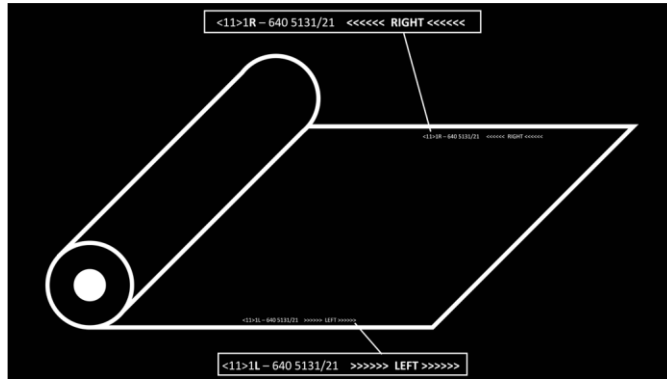
Before and during installation, check the floor covering for material defects (surface damage, pattern defects, underlay defects, differences in the shades of individual rolls, etc.). In the event defects or non-compliance are found, stop the installation and notify the seller of the defect. The notification should contain the pattern codes, batch and roll numbers, the quantity of the floor covering and photographs documenting the defect. This data is given on the labels on the packaging. Visible defects should be reported immediately before the floor covering is installed, as complaints regarding visible defect which are filed after the installation will not be accepted.

### NOTE:

It is required to follow the manufacturer's recommendations concerning the indented use of the floor coverings.

Retain factory labels for all rolls until installation is complete. To avoid difference in shades, the floor covering from the same production series should be selected in one room. The sheets of the floor covering should not be joined on one face in such a way that some sections are installed transversely and some longitudinally, as this may result in a difference in shades. For the commercial floors covering, on the reverse side, the manufacturer places information marking identifying, amongst others, the length and batch of the floor covering, and specifying the right and left edges of the material:

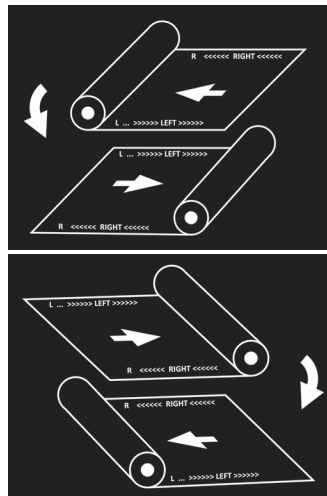
- a) right edge: single letter R and word **RIGHT**
- b) left edge: single letter L



and word **LEFT**.

During installation pay attention so that marked edges of individual sheets be adjacent to one another according to the pattern:

- L-L (LEFT-LEFT)
- R-R (RIGHT-RIGHT)



It is also recommended to install the floor covering with a subsequent number of rolls.

## SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

The durability and aesthetics of the floor largely depend on the condition of the substrate and the method of its preparation. The surface on which the floor covering is to be installed must be even, horizontal, free from cracks, dust-free, dry, clean, durable, and resistant to pressure during its use. In the event of floor coverings installation on uneven concrete substrate, in order to level the surface and to remove any other damage, e.g., cracks, it is necessary to use a self-levelling compound intended for use under flexible floor coverings. The difference in the straightness of the substrate cannot exceed 1 mm over a distance of 1 m and 2 mm over a distance of 2 m. When installing the floor coverings on a substrate with layers of old paint, mastic, asphalt, submit, and other petroleum substances, impregnating agents, fats, oils, grease, etc., they must be removed in order to avoid discoloration. Before applying the self-levelling compound, prime the substrate with cut-off agents specially intended for this purpose. Their task is to isolate and prevent

moisture migration between the layers of the substrate.

When installing the floor covering, the old carpet, PVC floor covering, PVC tiles, linoleum, parquet, etc., must be removed from the substrate until the concrete is clean. The surface prepared in this way should be de-dusted, the gaps should be filled with repair compound, then primed with a primer, and then a layer of the self-levelling compound should be applied. You may start the installation of the floor coverings after checking the substrate moisture. The manufacturer of floor coverings requires that this parameter, measured with the CM method before the installation of the floor covering, should be respectively: up to 0.5% for anhydrite substrates and up to 2% for cement substrates. Failure to meet the specified limit values for the substrate moisture results in the warranty loss. The manufacturer allows the installation of the material on wood-based panels (OSB, MFP) observing the following conditions of installation:

- wood-based panel placed directly on the proper screed or cleaned ceramic tiles,
  - irrespective of the type of wood-based panel used, cover its surface with a cut-off agent whose task is to isolate and prevent moisture migration between the layers of the substrate,
  - joints between the panels and fixing areas should be smoothed and sanded to avoid panels curling
  - cover the entire surface with a specialized levelling compound (e.g., a self-levelling compound intended for OSB, MFP or wood intended for use under flexible floor coverings).
- Installation which is not

compliant with the above guidelines may lead to discoloration of the floor covering. Any unevenness on an improperly prepared substrate may become visible on the face.

### NOTE:

Panels that have been loosely installed, without prior proper fixing to the substrate and proper grinding of the surface may cause permanent damage to the floor covering in the areas where they are joint.

Before trimming the floor covering, unroll it and leave it flat for 1-2 hours at room temperature - if the temperature in the room is lower than 15°C - "aging" may take up to one day. When the floor covering reaches appropriate temperature, it will be more flexible and easier to install.

### NOTE:

The manufacturer of the floor coverings is not responsible for an improper and poorly prepared substrate which does not meet the accepted standards and principles of construction practice.

## GLUING

The weather conditions for the installation of flexible floor coverings are as follows:

- a. substrate temperature 15-22°C
- b. air temperature 17-25°C
- c. relative air humidity max. 75% (ideal conditions is 55%).

To maintain the high quality of the floor coverings and its long service life, it should adhere to the entire surface.

Water-dispersive adhesives are used to adhere the floor covering to the substrate, and in the case of plinths, contact adhesive is used. Both when using levelling compounds, impregnates as well as when adhering, use agents specifically intended for flexible floor coverings and strictly follow the recommendations and comments attached to the product by their manufacturer.

Only in the event of residential premises with a surface of no more than 20m<sup>2</sup> where the floor will be made of only one sheet of material, it is allowed to adhere it with an adhesive tape intended for the installation of PVC floor coverings in compliance with the recommendations and remarks of its manufacturer. The adhering process must be carried out along all edges and at intervals of 1 meter along and across the sheets as well. Please make sure that the substrate to which the floor covering is installed

meets the requirements described in the paragraph "SUBSTRATE PREPARATION"

### NOTE:

In the event of rooms in which swiveling chairs on wheels are or will be used, the floor covering must adhere over its entire surface with water-dispersion adhesive.

In large rooms, it is necessary to carry out the adhering process in stages, especially when joining two sheets of the floor covering. To do so, place the weights on two adjacent parts (they prevent the sheets from moving). Unwind the halves of the sheet to the other side, thus exposing about a half of the room.

Apply a suitable adhesive to the exposed part of the substrate using a serrated spatula (in compliance with the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer). The adhesive layer should be even without lumps. Try to cover the entire surface. Depending on the temperature and type of adhesive, wait 10-20 minutes, then turn the unrolled parts of the sheets back into place and press them evenly to the substrate in the direction from the center to the outside, and then along the sheet joining line and at the edges.

Remove the load and proceed with the adhering procedure in the same way for the rest of the floor covering. Each glued sheet should be pressed over the entire surface with a roller weighing 50 kg. If the adhesive is squeezed out at the point where the sheets adhere to one another, wipe it off immediately with a wet cloth. During the adhering process, observe the instructions provided by the adhesive manufacturer on the packaging.

Ventilate the closed rooms after installing the floor coverings until the specific odor disappears. Only after this period the floor coverings are ready for use.

#### NOTE:

For living rooms with an area of more than 20 m<sup>2</sup> and all public utility premises, adhering the floor covering to the substrate over the entire surface is the basic condition for pursuing the warranty claims.

#### USE

Before using floor coverings without factory-made polyurethane protective coating, protect them with preservatives that create a layer which protects their surface. Its application protects the surface of the floor covering against discoloration and the negative impact of external

factors such as, e.g., dirt, sand, scratches, and excessive abrasion. The choice of the protective coating depends on the user's preferences. The leading manufacturers of this type of preparations propose currently three types of preservatives:

- traditional coatings - wax
- acrylic coatings
- polyurethane coatings (2-component)

Before applying the selected protective layer, perform machine ground washing (using a single-disc machine), and then thoroughly neutralize the surface with clean water. In the event of a polyurethane coating consisting of two components, mix both components (A and B) thoroughly with each other and leave it for ca. 5-10 minutes.

Next, using a suitable roller (a sponge roller intended for painting), evenly distribute the selected protective coating on the surface of the floor covering. After completed application, wait until the coating reaches its assumed parameters (the time depends on the type of protection used and is determined by the manufacturer).

The least durable protection is the wax coating. Its durability is estimated for a period of 3 to 6 months, after which it should be renewed.

The acrylic coating is characterized by increased resistance and durability up to 12 months. After such time, the condition of the protective layer should be assessed and renewed if necessary.

The polyurethane coating has the best protection efficiency for the protected surface, and its durability is 36 months. After such time, it may be necessary to renew it.

Floor coverings with a factory-made polyurethane protective coating already have a protective layer which increases the resistance of the surface of the floor coverings to discoloration and the negative influence of

external factors such as dirt, sand, scratches, and excessive abrasion. Such coating is not a constituent part of the surface layer of the floor covering and is subject to natural aging, chipping and scratching due to contact with hard and sharp objects. This is considered normal wear and tear of the protective layer.

If the factory protective coating is worn out, it should be renewed.

**Routine cleaning** - before cleaning the floor covering, sweep its surface and then wash with water with the addition of a cleaning agent intended for daily care of the PVC floor covering. To do so, prepare the mixture of a cleaning agent

(proportions according to the recommendations of the cleaning agent manufacturer). Apply the prepared solution with a mop onto the face of the floor covering and wipe it with "towards yourself" movements. Do not rub the dirt and do not make circular movements, the so-called "eights". Then, immerse the mop in the cleaning solution again and, after wringing it out thoroughly, collect the dirt. Perform these actions until the entire floor covering is washed.

**Thorough cleaning** - perform this cleaning in the event of heavily soiled floor coverings and in the event it is necessary to remove old protective coatings before applying new ones with the use of specialized cleaning chemicals. To do so, prepare a mixture of the cleaning agent with cold water (proportions in compliance with the recommendations of the manufacturer of the cleaning agent). Apply the solution prepared in this way onto the carpet with an un-squeezed mop and leave for 10 to 30 minutes, avoiding the surface drying out (add water to the surface that is drying out). After the specified time has elapsed, with the use of

appropriate cleaning equipment (e.g., a single-disc machine equipped with a grey cleaning pad; 150 rpm), scrub the surface of the floor covering, while making sure that it is wet at all times. Then remove the resulting dirt with a wet vacuum cleaner with extraction system to simultaneously remove the dirt and rinse the surface. This action will allow you to thoroughly remove the dissolved dirt and neutralize the floor covering, while preventing the remains of dissolved dirt from remaining and drying on its surface, which may not be washed later with clean water.

If it is not possible to use specialized equipment, it is allowed to use the mop to collect the dissolved dirt.

Keep in mind that it is necessary to rinse the cleaned places with clean water at the same time.

After the cleaning process is completed, assess the condition of the protective coating (if it has been applied previously) and, if necessary, decide to renew it. In the event of thorough cleaning, which is aimed at removing all old coatings, apply a new protective layer before reusing the floor covering to its surface in compliance with the above information.

**Maintenance** - apply 1-2 layers of PVC flooring maintenance agent on the prepared surface.

#### NOTE:

The particles of sand, dust, etc. left on the surface of the floor covering cause accelerated wear of the floor covering.

#### NOTE:

It is essential to avoid the ingress and accumulation of water under or on the floor covering. Avoid keeping and storing the floor covering in conditions of intense moisture.

#### UWAGA:

In the event of public utility buildings, for floor coverings without factory protective coating, preserve them with a 2-component polyurethane system (PU), as it is the basic condition for pursuing the warranty claims.

#### EVENTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES EXCLUDED FROM THE WARRANTY

- yellowing and discoloration resulting from contact of the floor covering with rubber backs of doormats and carpets, furniture pads, etc., small elements made of rubber, certain types of rubber soles, mats on colored vinyl backing, and other floor covering;
- yellowing and discoloration due to migration of the constituent ingredients of the adhesive;
- yellowing and discoloration resulting from faulty, improperly prepared or poorly cleaned substrate;
- yellowing in the dark rooms/places. Covered areas of floor (under furniture, carpet, permanently closed doors, etc.) may have different color compared to non-covered areas. This is a characteristic of all PVC floorcoverings,
- the possibility of differences in shades, gloss or etching/kneading between available sales material and photos, advertising materials or templates;
- damage resulting from the use of unsuitable assembly

materials;

- visible scratches and dulling of surfaces or communication areas resulting from the accumulation of dirt, sand and dust on the surface of the floor covering - it is recommended to use wiper matting system;
- discoloration or frosting of the floor covering resulting from long-term contact of the floor covering with an excessive amount of water.
- discoloration due to the activity of solvents, e.g., acetone, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, cyclohexanone; staining agents, e.g., shoe polish, tar, rust, blood, hair dye; strong food dyes, e.g. carrot juice, berries, beetroots, plums, mustard etc. - remove them immediately, as even a short-term contact can lead to the formation of stains that cannot be removed;
- dents, tears and scratches on the surface resulting from the lack of protection of sharp legs of refrigerators, washing machines, tables, armchairs, etc. with the use of, for example, felt pads;
- tear of the floor covering or permanent mechanical damage resulting from dragging heavy objects with sharp edges, without their proper protection;
- gloss changes, regardless of how they are caused;
- damage caused by sharp, cutting or piercing materials;
- damage caused by neglect, improper maintenance or other causes beyond the control of Unilin Flooring Polska.

Unilin Flooring Polska Sp. z o.o.  
42-700 Lubliniec  
Ul. Powstańców Śląskich 54  
Tel.: +48 (34) 341 23 60  
e-mail: officeflooringpolska@unilin.com  
www.lentexflooring.com