

## Installation Guidelines: Corkment Underlayment

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### General Installation Guidelines

- Corkment Underlayment may be installed on approved substrates on all grade levels.
- Areas to receive material should be clean, fully enclosed and weathertight. The permanent HVAC must be fully operational, controlled and set at a minimum of 68° F (20° C) for a minimum of seven days prior to, during, and seven days after the installation. The material and adhesive should be conditioned in the same manner for at least 48 hours prior to the installation. Areas to receive flooring shall be adequately lighted to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and seaming of the flooring, and for final inspection.
- Store Corkment Underlayment standing upright.
- The substrate must be sound, smooth, flat, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign materials including, but not limited to, dust, paint, grease, oils, solvents, curing and hardening compounds, sealers, asphalt and old adhesive residue.
- Always conduct moisture tests on **all** concrete substrates, regardless of age or grade level.
- Determine the moisture vapor emission rate (MVER) of the concrete by testing conducted in accordance with ASTM F 1869. The MVER of the concrete must not exceed 8.0 lbs. per 1,000 square feet in 24 hours when using Forbo L 885 adhesive. When moisture vapor emissions exceed these requirements, refer to the Moisture Limitor section of Forbo's Installation Guide for additional information.
- Determine the internal relative humidity of the concrete by testing conducted in accordance with ASTM F 2170. The internal relative humidity of the concrete must not exceed 85% when using Forbo L 885 adhesive. When moisture vapor emissions exceed these requirements, refer to the Moisture Limitor section of Forbo's Installation Guide for additional information.
- The concrete surface pH must be tested and must not exceed pH of 11 when using Forbo L 885 adhesive.
- Always conduct adhesive mat bond tests before beginning the installation. Bond testing will aid in identifying both the working characteristics of the adhesive (open time and working time) for the site conditions, and also any potential bonding problems.
- Use material from the same batch/dye lot.
- Roll the material immediately and always check for proper adhesive transfer. In order to achieve a secure bond, there must be complete transfer of adhesive to the material backing.
- Remove fresh adhesive residue immediately with a clean white damp cloth. Dried adhesive residue can be removed with a clean white cloth and mineral spirits.
- Material should always be visually inspected prior to installation. If there are any questions regarding the quality of material, contact your local Forbo representative or Forbo Technical Services PRIOR to installation.  
**Any costs (including labor) associated with the replacement of material that was installed with visual defects that could have been seen prior to installation are not covered under warranty.**
- Ensure that all recommendations for substrate and jobsite conditions are met prior to beginning the installation. Beginning the installation is an implied acceptance of site conditions by the parties involved and liability for any failure directly related to inadequate site conditions becomes the responsibility of the installer and/or flooring contractor.
- Take pride in your work and be Professional at all times.
- For additional information, contact Forbo Technical Services.

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### **Installation**

1. Use a 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square notch trowel to apply the adhesive. A short open time will often be necessary to allow the adhesive to develop body. The material **MUST** be placed into the adhesive before it has had an opportunity to dry. This enables a complete wet transfer of the proper amount of adhesive and is essential for a secure bond.

**NOTE:** The actual open time and working time of adhesives is determined by the ambient air temperature and humidity, the amount of air circulation, the substrate type and porosity, the working characteristics of the adhesive being used and the trowel notch being used. It is the installer's responsibility to make adjustments to specific conditions as may be necessary.

2. Begin laying the material at the starting point, ensuring that the material is laid along the layout lines. Install one sheet at a time.
3. Install the material with the jute side upwards (exposed) and the cork surface adhered to the subfloor. Wherever possible, install the Corkment Underlayment at a right angle to the direction that the finished flooring will be installed. If the Corkment Underlayment and the finished flooring must be installed in the same direction, off-set the seams a minimum of 6".

**Note:** The thickness of the Corkment Underlayment which is applied must never be thicker than the gauge of the finished floor covering.

4. Because the material must be installed into wet adhesive, do not spread the adhesive in an area larger than can be installed while the adhesive is still wet.
5. After adhering, immediately roll the flooring in both directions using a 100 pound roller to ensure adequate transfer of adhesive. Re-roll the material periodically to ensure that the material remains in contact with the adhesive while the adhesive is drying.
6. Cut seams for a net fit and always cut the material with a slight undercut.
7. Wait a minimum of 24 hours before installing the finished floor covering.

Forbo's Installation Guide contains additional information on substrate evaluation and preparation, and is available for download at [www.forboflooringna.com](http://www.forboflooringna.com). For a hard copy, or for additional information, contact Forbo Technical Services at +800 842 7839.