

Installation Guidelines: Existing Resilient Flooring

Forbo flooring products installed over existing resilient flooring may be more susceptible to indentation, and there is always the possibility that the existing flooring may telegraph through the new flooring.

Forbo flooring products may be installed over a single layer of non-cushioned resilient flooring provided it meets the following conditions:

1. Where existing resilient flooring is installed over concrete that is on, above and below grade, there should be no history of moisture related problems and moisture test results must not exceed the requirements of the existing resilient flooring or the product to be installed. Refer to the Moisture Testing section of Forbo's Installation Guide for additional information.
2. The substrate and underlayment must meet the requirements of the existing and the new floor covering.
3. The existing flooring must be fully adhered and well bonded.
4. The existing flooring must not be embossed or textured.
5. All cuts, gouges, dents, and other damage must be repaired with flooring material that is the same or similar to that installed, or with patching materials suitable for that purpose. Always follow manufacturer's recommendations for use and application of patching materials.
6. All waxes and finishes must be removed from the existing resilient flooring, and the surface rinsed with clean water. After cleaning, pH tests should be conducted to assure stripper residues have been removed.

The use of embossing levelers is not recommended for commercial installations.

Note: Application of a skim coat of patching material over the existing resilient flooring may cause more problems than it resolves, such as bonding failures, cracking and indentations.

Always conduct adhesive bond tests prior to the installation to ensure the integrity of the flooring system, and to ensure that a secure bond can be achieved.

The responsibility for determining if the existing resilient flooring is suitable to be installed over rests solely with the installer and flooring contractor. If there is any doubt as to its suitability, the existing flooring should be removed or an acceptable underlayment installed over it.

WARNING!

DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST, OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT OR ASPHALTIC "CUT-BACK" ADHESIVES. THESE PRODUCTS MAY CONTAIN EITHER ASBESTOS FIBERS OR CRYSTALLINE SILICA. AVOID CREATING DUST. INHALATION OF SUCH DUST IS A CANCER AND RESPIRATORY TRACT HAZARD. SMOKING BY INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS FIBERS GREATLY INCREASES THE RISK OF SERIOUS BODILY HARM. UNLESS POSITIVELY CERTAIN THAT THE PRODUCT IS A NON-ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL, YOU MUST PRESUME IT CONTAINS ASBESTOS. REGULATIONS MAY REQUIRE THAT THE MATERIAL BE TESTED TO DETERMINE ASBESTOS CONTENT. THE RCFI'S RECOMMENDED WORK PRACTICES FOR REMOVAL OF RESILIENT FLOOR COVERINGS ARE A DEFINED SET OF INSTRUCTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IF YOU MUST REMOVE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING STRUCTURES.

Forbo's Installation Guide contains additional information and is available for download at www.forboflooringna.com. For a hard copy, or for additional information, contact Forbo Technical Services at +800 842 7839.