

General Guidelines Design Floors Dryback



Storage & transport

Cartons should be stored and transported on a flat surface in neat stacks, always store the cartons flat and never put them on-end. Do not store the cartons in very cold (less than 2C°) or very warm (more than 40° C) or humid places.

Prior to installation

Visual inspection

Please inspect product prior to installation. Check that the colours correspond to those ordered, the quantities are correct and there is no visible damage to the boxes. Check the vinyl planks or tiles during installation for any visible defects. Do not install any planks or tiles that display any imperfections.

We recommend that you always use materials from a single production batch for each installation, as we cannot guarantee a shade match between different batches.

National regulations:

Site conditions and installation must always comply with the relevant national regulations and installation standards.

Suitability

- Design Floors Dryback can be laid on concrete, cementitious screed, anhydrite (calcium sulphate), timber, plywood, particleboard and ceramic tiles, which have been suitably prepared (see Floor Preparation).
- Design Floors Dryback can be used with traditional water based underfloor heating and cooling systems. Electric wire systems are not recommended unless the system is encased in a minimum of 9mm of suitable

levelling compound. Direct contact with wired heating systems must be avoided. If in doubt seek further advice.

- Design Floors Dryback is only suitable for indoor installation.
- Seasonal temperature conditions: Design Floors Dryback can be used in any indoor situation, such as temperature controlled conservatories and holiday homes. Keep under all conditions the temperature between 6C° and 35C° . Avoid rapid temperature increases of more than 5C° per 12 hours.
- For commercial applications where roller castor chairs or heavy rolling loads are to be used we strongly recommend the use of Design Floors Dryback. However, if you do want to use Design Floors Dryback, please contact the Design Floors Technical Support Team.

Composition, construction and quality of the subfloor

Knowledge of the composition and construction provides valuable information that allows you to correctly check the acceptable humidity, compressive and tensile strength of the subfloor. In addition it tells you what type of floor preparation, levelling compound, and possible moisture barrier you may need during the installation process. When there is ambiguity or doubt about the quality or composition of your subfloor check with your floor preparation, levelling compound manufacturer/supplier.

Subfloor preparation

Irregularities in the subfloor

Good preparation is essential for trouble-free installation. It is vital for an excellent Design Floors Dryback finish. The appearance of Design Floors Dryback will only be as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed. Any irregularities in the subfloor will show through the finished floor and must be suitably prepared before installation.

The subfloor must be hard, smooth, clean and dry, as well as being free from defects and fit for purpose. When required, scrape off and remove old adhesives and loose laying levelling compound. Make sure the subfloor is flat and free from chemical substances and other contamination.

Unevenness of the subfloor may not be greater than 2mm measured over a width of 200cm.

A suitable plywood/levelling compound should be selected to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. However, the selection of suitable materials, including plywood, smoothing/ levelling compounds and any ancillary products, is dependent upon the occupational use of the area and must be agreed by the supplier of the preparative materials and the flooring contractor. All floor preparation materials used must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and in accordance with the national standards for resilient floorcoverings.

The moisture content of the subfloor

- Unheated cementitious screeds less than 2.0CM% - 75% RH (UK)
- Underfloor heated cementitious screeds less than 1.8CM% - 75% RH (UK)
- Unheated anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds less than 0.5CM%
- Underfloor heated anhydrite (calcium sulphate) less than 0.3CM%

Direct-to-earth concrete and stone subfloors must have an effective damp proof membrane (DPM) in accordance with the national standards for the installation of resilient floorcoverings. Follow manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface applied DPM and the use of levelling compound. An overview of recommended manufacturers and suppliers can be provided by Design Floors.



Important

Floor installation should not begin until the installer has assessed and approved the subfloor and installation conditions

Acclimatisation

Design Floors Dryback must acclimatise in the room of installation, or an equivalent area for at least 24 hours prior to installation, or until such time as the product has achieved an ambient

temperature. Again, this is a minimum temperature of 18° C and a maximum of 27° C.

- Unpack the Design Floors Dryback and check all planks or tiles in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour.
- Stack the plank or tiles in straight piles away from heating, cooling or windows with direct intense sunlight. This is to achieve a gradual acclimatisation.

Temperature condition before installation

Design Floors Dryback should be installed with a room temperature of between 18° C and 27° C and a floor temperature of above 15° C.



Installations in areas colder than recommended will influence the installation properties of Design Floors Dryback. The planks or tiles will be less flexible, cutting will be harder and small pieces difficult to cut out. The lower the temperature, the more difficult the installation. For installation in areas warmer than recommended, we advise consultation with your local retailer/ installer on how to create the appropriate installation conditions.

Starting installation

Temperature condition during installation

A constant temperature, fluctuating no more than 5° C per day, not below the required 18° C room temperature and 15° C subfloor temperature, should be maintained 24 hours before, during and 72 hours after installation.

Underfloor heating

Design Floors Dryback can be used with traditional water based underfloor heating systems, provided there is a constant room temperature of 18° C for the acclimatisation period, installation and for 72 hours after installation. 24 hours after installation the underfloor heating must be gradually increased by increments of 5° C per day until it reaches the standard operating temperature conditions, with a maximum operating temperature of 27° C. For the suitability of the system please check the manufacturer's instructions.

Underfloor cooling

Design Floors Dryback can also be installed over floor cooling systems. However, the supply temperature of the cooling water must not be reduced below the dew point temperature. Temperatures below this point will produce condensation and can therefore damage the floor covering. Thermostats in the room must never be

set at a temperature which is more than 5° C lower than the room temperature.

Recommended adhesives

Please seek further advice regarding Xtrafloor® Adhesives or Design Floors approved adhesives for your country. Adhesive recommendations may differ by country or continent due to the composition of the adhesive, local climatic conditions and national installation regulations/standards.

For any special conditions, including installation suitability, underfloor heating and specific adhesive selection, please contact the Design Floors Technical team.

Recommended underlay

Xtrafloor™ Flex Pro: Heavy Duty Use

- Improved sound insulation ($\Delta L_w=10$ dB with 2.5 mm Design Floors)
- Protective foil and pressure sensitive adhesive film for easy installation.
- Suitable for underfloor heating and cooling
- Provides excellent dimensional stability
- Suitable for Roller Castor Chairs & rolling loads up to 250kg

Xtrafloor® Flex Pro can smooth out small irregularities of a maximum 5mm wide and 2mm deep. This allows for installation over existing floor coverings, such as ceramic tiles, linoleum, compact PVC floors and wooden floorboards.

Design Floors installed on Xtrafloor® Pro is a “floating” floor. Therefore, a 3mm expansion gap must be incorporated at the perimeter of the room/area. For smart solutions to cover the expansion gap, see ‘finishing your floor’.



For the installation of Xtrafloor® Flex Pro: lay the sheets butted, edge-to-edge, at a 90 angle to the laying direction of the new floorcovering. Xtrafloor® Base and Xtrafloor® Flex-Pro is to be laid PET Film side up and Xtrafloor® Silent is to

be laid anti-slip side up. There is no need to fix one sheet to another. A section at a time, separate the PET-film from the underlay sheet and begin laying your new floor according to the fitting instructions. Do not use primer or other adhesive.

Installation step by step

1. Determine the installation direction of the Design Floors flooring. Calculate how the partition of plank or tiles will be across the width of the room/area and mark a 100% straight line on the floor.
2. Highlight the second line so creating the section (for example, 5 rows wide) to be glued with the correct type of adhesive. Prior to using the adhesive read the manufacturer’s instructions.
3. Spread the right amount of adhesive evenly over the subfloor and let it tack-off (open time) until it reaches its initial bonding strength. For more information consult the specifications of the adhesive being used and the Design Floors bonding PVC floor instructions.
4. Lay the planks or tiles, observing the direction of the arrows of the backing, into the tacked-off adhesive, in order to transfer the adhesive fully onto the backing (working time).
5. Cut the planks or tiles, free of tension, against the wall or skirting.
6. Do not spread adhesive on a section greater than can be processed within the working time.

7. To ensure full contact with adhesive, immediately press every plank or tile with a rubbing block or hand roller.
8. Wipe excess adhesive with a damp cloth.
9. Immediately roll each section with a (minimum) 50kg flooring roller. Roll several times, in different direction, during the adhesive working time.
10. Repeat steps 3 to 9 until the entire installation is completed.

Protection

Design Floors should be protected from heavy traffic for 72 hours after installation so that the tiles and adhesive can stabilise at constant temperature between 18-27° C.

First contact with water

Prevent the floor from coming into contact with water for the first 72 hours after installation. Hereafter the adhesive is sufficiently resistant to water so that the bonding strength will not be affected.



Recommended tools:

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Chalk line
- Adhesive and trowel
- Damp cloth
- Set Square
- Utility knife
- Hand roller
- Roller minimum 50kg



Finishing your floor

Xtrafloor offers a range of smart flooring solutions to your finishing needs. The offer combines unique functionality with style: a hardwearing solution that ensures smooth transitions at all times.

How to finish your floor at the wall

1. Xtrafloor® standard skirting: the perfect transition

- The identical connection for your Design Floors Dryback floor
- Water-resistant
- Wear-resistant
- Perfect water-resistant corner solution



2. Xtrafloor® paintable skirtings: style by choice

- Unique water-resistant material
- Colour coordinate your pre-primed skirting boards & walls
- Use our renovation skirting on top of existing skirting boards



How to connect your floor with higher or lower level floor surfaces

Xtrafloor Multifunctional profile

- Sleek aluminium profile for a minimalistic design that lends a smart and modern look
- Connect the floor with any other type of higher or lower lying floor surface, with a height difference up to 12.3mm



How to fill small joints to perfectly finish your floor and to protect it from dirt & moisture

Xtrafloor® joint sealant:

- Specially developed for LVT
- Available in different colours to perfectly match the floor



⇒ For specific installation instructions on Xtrafloor skirting, profiles and nosings, please consult www.Xtrafloor.com

Maintaining your floor

Appropriate maintenance procedures will help to preserve the appearance and will extend the life of a Design Floors. The frequency of maintenance will depend on the amount and type of traffic,

degree of soiling, the floor colour and type. Design Floors have a Protectonite-PU lacquer on top of the resistant wear layer. This lacquer protects against soiling and makes overall maintenance easier. Protectonite also makes any post-treatment with protection polish unnecessary.

External conditions

The appropriate management of external conditions can help to protect the flooring, which saves time and expenses on cleaning and maintenance, and also extends its lifespan. Most soiling comes from an external source and is transported indoors by foot and rolling traffic. If dirt lodges under sliding furniture, the flooring will not only be soiled but will also suffer (light) damage in the form of scratches.

Entrance mats

A proper clean-off zone/mat is strongly recommended. It will reduce the soiling of the flooring by as much as 70%. Entrance mats, when properly serviced, can effectively remove abrasive materials from foot traffic and reduce the amount of transferred water. Design Floors recommends a minimum of two full strides of entrance matting. Where possible, prevent dirt from reaching the floor. A suitable barrier matting system will help prevent soiling and abrasive material from entering a building, assisting cleaning and maintenance.

Regularly clean the clean-off zone matting so that it functions optimally. Replace the clean-off mat when necessary..

Avoid rubber or latex backed mats, rubber furniture feet and castors, as these may leave permanent stains.

Important

- Take care to immediately wipe up any spillages on the vinyl flooring to minimize the risk of permanent staining occurring.
- Vinyl flooring can be slippery when wet.
- If the use of a neutral pH detergent is necessary then carefully follow the dilution recommendations of the manufacturer
- After cleaning, the floor should be dry within 1 or 2 minutes so there is no residual water with cleaning detergent and dirt remaining on the floor.

Protection of sliding furniture

Place good quality protective felt pads under chair and table legs. Furniture cups should be used to avoid high point loading

Regular cleaning

Remove daily dirt

- Sweeping
- Dry mopping
- Vacuum cleaning

Spot and stain removal

- Damp cloth
- Hand pad

Damp mopping

- Microfibre damp mop
- Traditional mop (as dry as possible)



Occasional cleaning

Mopping

- Damp mopping
- Traditional mopping (as dry as possible)

Combine machine

- Red scrub pad
- Neutral detergent
- Low amount of water!

Maintenance

Spray cleaning

- High-speed (450 rpm)
- Red drybuff pad
- Spray bottle with neutral detergent

Camouflage minor scratches

- High-speed (450 rpm)
- PU refresher
- Red drybuff pad
- Cotton cloths



Recommended maintenance products

Choose Xtrafloor's maintenance products, specially developed, and prolong the life of your Design Floors.

www.xtrafloor.com

Important part from the warranty:

- Almost all flooring will vary in colour over time when exposed to UV light. Avoid this by using curtains or sunscreens when the sun is very bright.
- Avoid rubber or latex backed mats as they may leave stains. Also rubber and latex castors (we advise castors type 'W' in accordance with EN 12529) or protection caps under furniture cannot be used.
- Protect against scratching from furniture feet by using wide free-moving castors, glides, rollers or felt pads. Use furniture caps under heavy items or appliances to prevent indentation.
- In case of loose lay installation, damage of the vinyl flooring caused by heavy overload or sliding activities is not covered by the warranty conditions.
- Do not allow cigarettes, matches and other very hot items to contact the floor as this causes permanent damage.

Important: Cleaning or maintenance may only take place if the Design Floors are correctly installed and there are no visible imperfections.

Contact your Design Floors representative / retailer for the complete warranty conditions

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