



Installation and general maintenance
instructions IVC Home®

Installation & Maintenance

The installation of IVC Home® floors is straightforward and follows the same guidelines that apply to all quality resilient floors.

- IVC Home® vinyl can be laid on concrete, cementitious screed, anhydrite (calcium sulphate), timber (OSB, plywood) which have been suitably prepared (see Floor preparation).
- IVC Home® vinyl should be completely bonded with adhesives.
- IVC Home® floors can be used with traditional water-based under-floor heating and cooling systems. Infrared systems are not compatible with IVC Home® vinyl.
- IVC Home® floors are only suitable for in-house installation.



NATIONAL REGULATIONS

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

In Russian Federation subfloor preparation prior to IVC Home® installation, installation and acceptance of works should comply with the code of rules SNIP 3.04.01-87 and SP 71.13330.2017, SNIP 2.03.13-88 and SP29.13330.2011 in its latest edition.

TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

- IVC Home® rolls should be stored in either a flat horizontal or vertical position.
- In order to minimize the risk of pressure marks when storing in a horizontal position, the rolls should not be stacked one on another.
- Do not store the rolls in very cold (less than 2°C), very warm (more than 40°C) or humid places.
- The rolls during storage should not be exposed to direct sunlight.
- Do not store rolls together with substances containing organic solvents.
- IVC Home® cut rolls should always be wrapped design part outwards.
- Be careful when handling rolls. Falling rolls can injure people and damage surrounding objects as a result the product itself may be damaged.
- Do not bend the rolls while transportation, this can lead to creasing and damage the vinyl floors.
- The manufacturer has the right to refuse satisfaction of any claims in case the storage conditions do not comply with the abovementioned.

VISUAL INSPECTION

Please inspect the product prior to installation. Check that the colours correspond to those ordered, that the quantities are correct and that there is no visible damage to the vinyl sheet.

Do not install any vinyl that displays any imperfections. Small creases may even out if you lay the vinyl on the floor and leave it for 2-5 days.



Subfloor preparation

Good preparation is essential for a trouble-free installation and is vital for an excellent floor appearance and adhesion. The finished appearance of an IVC Home® floor will be as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed.

The subfloor must be:

- Even and smooth (irregularities in height should not exceed 2 mm for every 2 meters length);
- Dry. The moisture content of the subfloor should be:
 - Unheated cementitious screeds less than 2.0 CM%*;
 - Underfloor heated cementitious screeds less than 1.8 CM%*;
 - Unheated anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds less than 0.5 CM%*;
 - Underfloor heated anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds less than 0.3 CM%*;
- Strong (strength not less than 15 MPa / class B 12.5).

* - CM% = Concrete Moisture in %.

COMPOSITION, CONSTRUCTION AND QUALITY OF THE SUBFLOOR

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

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Any irregularities in the subfloor will show through the finished floor. Make sure the subfloor is flat and free from chemical or greasy substances. When needed, scrape off and remove old adhesives and loose-laying leveling compound with a construction vacuum cleaner. Use a primer for final dust capturing if needed.

A suitable leveling compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor.

Any proprietary materials used for floor preparation must be used in accordance with the manufacturers' recommended instructions. In all cases, the subfloor must be sufficiently dry.

Direct-to-earth concrete and stone sub-floors must have an effective damp proof membrane (DPM). Follow manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface DPM and the use of leveling compound.

The selection of suitable materials, including smoothing and leveling compounds, adhesives and any ancillary products is dependent upon the end use of the completed flooring, and must be agreed by the supplier of the preparative materials and the flooring contractor.

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Timber subfloor (OSB, plywood, chipboard) preparation. This type of subfloor must be:

- Dry, clean, with no signs of rotting / fungi.
- Even and smooth: irregularities in height should not exceed 2 mm for every 2 meters length; the heads of the screws must be recessed and puttied; the joints between boards are aligned and puttied.
- Strong. The construction should cave in under pressure.



TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER INSTALLATION

IVC Home® floors are best installed with a room temperature of between 18°C and 28°C and a floor temperature of above 15°C.

Installations in areas colder than recommended will make the sheets harder to handle and less flexible, whilst cutting will become more difficult.

For installations in areas warmer than recommended, we advise consultation with your local installer on how to create the appropriate installation conditions.

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



ACCLIMATISATION

IVC Home® floors have to acclimatize in the room where the installation takes place or an equivalent area for at least 24 hours prior to installation, or until the product has achieved an ambient temperature. Again, this is a minimum temperature of 18°C and a maximum of 27°C.

IVC Home® recommends cutting take place 24 hours before installation. Unpack the IVC Home® floor and check all sheets in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour. If you see some small creases, you should lay the vinyl sheet flat on the floor and leave it for at least 2 days for those creases to even out.

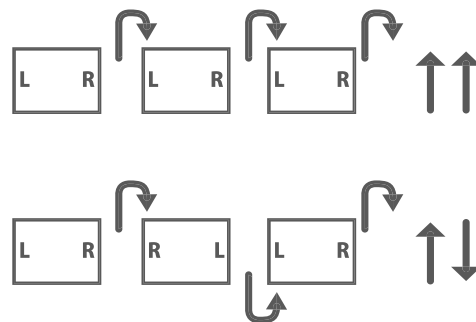
For two-meter width floor coverings, the sheets should then be rolled loosely and stored in an upright position for acclimatization.

Two and a half to four-meter width sheets should be cut to size and laid flat to acclimatize.

When cutting to size please consider the nature of the design and pattern. In the case of wood and tile styles IVC Home® recommends that every

sheet is installed in the same direction (a). In the case that the design is one all-over colour or design (microgranite, salt and pepper), IVC Home® recommends that every sheet is rotated through 180° (b).

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UNDERFLOOR HEATING

IVC Home® floors can be used with traditional water-based and electric underfloor heating systems, provided they are integrated in the screed, the thickness of the screed above the tubes/cables is more than 10 mm, there is a lower constant room temperature of 15–18°C for the acclimatization period, installation and 72 hours after installation.

72 hours after the installation is finished the underfloor heating must be gradually increased by increments of 5°C until it reaches the standard operating temperature conditions with a maximum temperature of 27°C.

Use of electrical floor heating systems with direct contact with cables and the vinyl is prohibited! For instance, infrared heating systems, electric mats with thinner than 10 mm screed above the cables.

UNDERFLOOR COOLING

IVC Home® can also be installed over floor cooling systems, integrated in the screed.

However, the supply temperature of the cooling water must not be reduced below the dew point temperature. Temperatures below this 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 tools:

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Adhesive and trowel
- Damp cloth
- Utility knife with hook and straight blades
- Steel line for cutting straight and/or seams
- Roller minimum 35kg
- Cold welding kit



Step by step fitting instructions, using adhesives:

- Place the sheets in position, cut seams with the double-cut method and trim to size.
- Fold back half of the sheet to reveal the subfloor ready for the application of the adhesive. Prior to using the adhesive read the supplier instructions. Spread the right amount of adhesive, with a notched trowel, equally over the subfloor. After applying the adhesive and in accordance with the instructions, allow the adhesive to partially dry (open time) until it reaches its initial bonding strength, before returning the floor covering into place.
- Install the floor covering sheet avoiding bubbles, compressions, and tensions. Check that the seam junctions are closed tightly together. Do not try to compress seams that cause curling. This curling is an indication that the sheets are not placed together correctly.
- To remove any bubbles, rubbing from the inside out should even out the floor. Use a rolling motion to level out the adhesive; this should be done before the adhesive has fully dried.
- Repeat steps 1 to 4 with the second half of the sheet;
- Check all seam junctions and repeat the rolling motion as described in 3.
- Welding the seams together is recommended with a cold welding kit. This should be done after the adhesive has completely dried, normally 24 hours after the installation is completed.

RECOMMENDED ADHESIVES

IVC Home® floors recommend to install with solvent free adhesives for effective and efficient installation. When choosing the appropriate adhesive, you must follow its manufacturer's recommendations, which will depend on the specifications of your subfloor: adhesives for absorbent and non-absorbent subfloors will be different.

Having decided on the manufacturer / brand of glue and its type, follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions on the packaging or documents from the official website of the manufacturer.

INSTALLATION FROM ONE COLOUR BATH

Sheet vinyl design printing is made directly on the material in large batches, and the hue of the color depends on many factors: the accuracy of the colour formula of the inks, the batch of the inks, other factors.

IVC Home® is produced on the state-of-the-art production lines, with the maximum level of automation. Nevertheless, different production lots may have slight deviations in shades. We recommend that you always use materials from a single colour bath in one room, as we cannot guarantee a 100% match between different colour baths. The rolls, selected within one colour bath, should be installed in the sequence of increasing roll number, with respect of the reverse laying direction if the design requests it.

You can use the material from different colour baths for installation in different rooms.

Some designs are specially created for maximum authentic reproduction of natural wood, meaning there are no two completely identical wooden planks. The pattern repeat is an integral part of the production process. The idea of some designs is combining planks of different tones / shades within the pattern repeat. This visual effect is a design element and cannot arouse quality claims.

FULLY BONDED OR LOOSE-LAY INSTALLATION

A fully bonded installation is recommended in a room with any surface to achieve maximum lifespan.

A loose-lay installation may result in claim denial.



WELDING

Cold welding is the only option for ensuring closed and tight seams. IVC Home® recommends cold welding tapes A and C for vinyl with PVC-backing, and type T – for felt-backed vinyl. Please read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before applying and strictly follow them.

PROTECTION

IVC Home® should be protected from heavy traffic for 72 hours after installation, in order to allow the adhesive to stabilize at consistent temperatures between 18–27°C.

FIRST CONTACT WITH WATER

Prevent the floor from coming into contact with water for the first 72 hours after installation, or until such time as all seams are welded. Hereafter the adhesive is sufficiently resistant to water so that the bonding strength will not be affected.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Appropriate maintenance procedures will help preserve the appearance and extend the life of an IVC Home® floor. The frequency of maintenance will depend on the amount and type of traffic, degree of soiling and the floor colour and type. Some IVC Home® floors have a PU lacquer on top of the resistant wear layer. This lacquer protects against soiling and makes the overall maintenance easier. A PU lacquer also makes a prior treatment with protection polish unnecessary.

For IVC Home® floors without a PU lacquer, a gloss starter coating can be applied for extra protection of the surface. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when applying the gloss starter coating. Follow the cleaning instructions for IVC Home® floors which may be implemented 72 hours after installation. Try to prevent the floor from coming into contact with water during this time, as the adhesive is not completely dry.

EXTERNAL CONDITIONS

The appropriate management of external conditions can help protect the flooring, which saves time and expense 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 is strongly recommended. It will reduce the soiling of the flooring by as much as 70%. Entrance mats, when properly serviced, can effectively remove any abrasive and foreign materials from foot traffic and cut down on tracked in water.

IVC Home® 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 and make maintenance easier.

Regularly clean the clean-off zone so that it functions optimally. Prevent fibres from the clean-off mat from running or adhering together with dirt. As far as possible, remove sand and adherent dirt such as chewing gum using a spray or gum remover. Replace the clean-off mat in time to ensure an optimally functioning dirt entrapment zone.

Avoid rubber or latex backed mats as these may leave stains.

FURNITURE CAPS

High-quality protective furniture caps are made of non-absorbent materials to prevent moisture and dirt from entering them. They have larger surface to protect the floors from residual indentation.

REGULAR CLEANING

Remove daily dirt

- Sweeping
- Dry mopping
- Vacuum cleaning

Spot and stain removal

- Damp cloth
- Handpad

Damp mopping

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

OCCASIONAL CLEANING

Mopping

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

Stain removal

IVC Home® recommends the use of non-abrasive, non-aggressive products compatible with PVC flooring. The compatibility information is indicated on the packaging of cleaning products.

Detergents containing soap or substances like dishwashing detergents can leave residues on the floor and make it slippery.



Important note from the warranty

- IVC Home® is water resistant. However, depending on the temperature, salts and other impurities, water remaining on the surface of vinyl for a long time may interfere with its wear layer, changing its optical and physical properties over time.
- Take care to immediately wipe up any spillages on the vinyl flooring to minimize the risk of permanent staining occurring.
- If the use of a neutral detergent is necessary, then follow the rules and mixing proportion quantities 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.
- Vinyl flooring can be slippery when wet.

IMPORTANT NOTE 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, bitumen, 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 by using wide free-moving castors, glides, rollers or felt pads. Use furniture caps under heavy items or appliances to prevent indentation.
- Heavy furniture may cause unrecoverable indentation on the surface of vinyl with 21-22-23-31 wear class. For 32 and above classes vinyl, residual indentation is within the parameters of EN 24343-1 and EN 24343-2.
- In case of loose lay installation, or use of inappropriate adhesive, or inadequate subfloor preparation, 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.
- A reversible local discoloration of vinyl floor may happen in areas with limited access to daylight, e.g. under furniture, rugs, etc. This local discoloration will recover over the period of several weeks if the discolored area is exposed to daylight.



