

In order for you to enjoy the very best possible performance from your vinyl flooring, we recommend that you adhere to the following guidelines for installation. Belgotex has a large portfolio of floor coverings with varied specifications and so it is recommended that the floor covering is chosen in accordance with the 'rating' classification shown on supporting literature. If you are unsure of the most suitable floor covering for your project's requirements please contact customer services on 0800 377 753.

Most vinyl can be used with underfloor heating systems, but there are clear guidelines that must be followed during installation. To start, the underfloor heating system must be switched off for 48 hours before and after laying (the maximum permitted surface temperature is 27°C. Once the floor has been installed and allowed to acclimatize for 24 hours, the underfloor heating must be gradually increased by increments of 5°C until it reaches the maximum operating temperature of 27°C over a period of at least 24 hours. For suitability of the system please refer to the manufacturer's instructions. All electric wire systems should be covered by an appropriate screed to ensure there is no direct contact between the underfloor heating and the sheet vinyl. Belgotex will not accept responsibility for claims arising from expansion or shrinkage caused by changes of temperature, especially during the period of the adhesive achieving full bond strength.

All vinyl must also be acclimatised for a period of 24-72 hours at a room temperature between 18 and 29°C before and after installation. Failure to do this can cause peaking and gaps and warranties will not apply.

Once the flooring has been installed it needs to be protected if there is further building work to be completed as building related products such as plasterboard, gib dust, paint, heavy furniture, etc., can damage the flooring and warranties will not apply.

1. SUB-FLOORS

Sub-floors must be adequately prepared to ensure that the floor covering can be successfully installed; this applies to timber, concrete, or a combination of both. If other sub floors are to be used (ie metal, fibreglass etc) please contact Belgotex NZ for further information.

The sub-floor must be prepared according to NZS AS 1884:2013 Floor coverings - Resilient sheet and tiles - Installation practices, or the Floor NZ Best Practice Guidelines for the NZ Flooring Industry – Resilient Floor Coverings Planning and Installation.

In particular, the subfloor must be:

- **Clean:** The floor surface needs to be clear of any existing floor coverings and all surface contaminants, e.g. old cork tiles, old asbestos-backed floor coverings, dust, paint, wax, adhesive, oil or grease residue, rubber underlay residue, etc.
- **Sound:** The floor needs to be firm in that it will not crumble, move (springiness), crack or break up.
- **Flat:** The floor surface needs to be flat or level and must be within the planeness tolerance specified in NZS AS 1884:2013.
- **Smooth:** The floor surface must be smooth with no roughness or lipping when you run your hand across it and must be within the smoothness tolerance specified in NZS AS 1884:2013.
- **Dry:** Apart from there being no visible signs of any surface moisture, the floor substrate must be dry enough to install vinyl on, i.e. no more than 75% RH for concrete and no more than 15% MC for timber substrates when tested to the hygrometer test (concrete) or electrical resistance test (timber) method specified in NZS AS 1884:2013.

New or existing timber sub-floors must be overlaid with an approved flooring grade board underlayment with a minimum thickness of 6mm. Board underlayment must be dimensionally stable and have a smooth surface so any graining or texture will not telegraph through. Board underlayment must also be resistant to both static and impact indentation and be free of any surface components that may cause staining such as plastic fillers, marking inks, sealers, etc. All joins between underlayment sheets must be flush and smooth. If you are unsure of the quality of your sub-floor, please contact Gilt Edge Industries who will be able to give appropriate recommendations.

The finished appearance of vinyl will be as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed. Any irregularities in the sub-floor will show through the finished floor.

2. INSTALLING

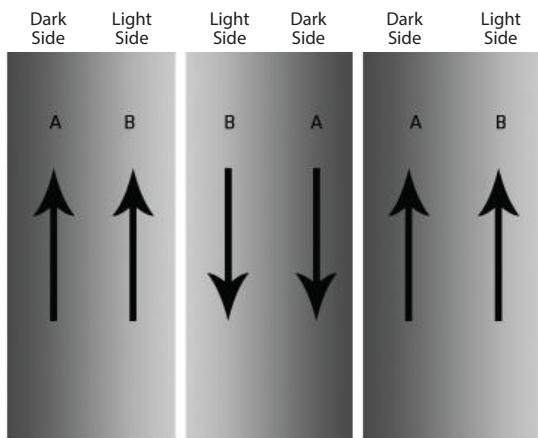
2.1. Colour Equality

During the manufacture of vinyl flooring, some slight variations in colour may occur. You can minimise any visible differences by carefully planning the installation process. If you are installing more than one roll in a room ensure that any other rolls used are supplied from the same batch. This should keep any colour variation to a minimum. An effective way to minimise colour variation on-site is to order rolls at the same time and adhere to individual roll numbers in sequence.

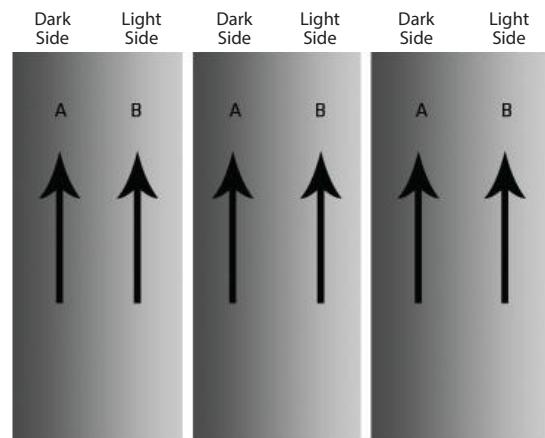
Plain, granite or patterned vinyls will either need to be reverse laid or a wider width should be used to allow for colour inequality, an additional allowance may have to be made for the pattern repeat.

In the case of designs that are a single colour, Belgotex recommends that every second sheet is rotated through 180° and then installed in the usual method (see diagram below).

CORRECT INSTALLATION (1m x 1m pattern repeat)



INCORRECT INSTALLATION (1m x 1m pattern repeat)



Some minor differences of colour are unavoidable, but it is still recommended that each roll be inspected before installation. Complaints to colour equality received after the floor has been installed will not be accepted.

2.2. Indoor Climate Recommendations

When installing vinyl it is recommended that the room temperature should be approximately 18°C and that the subfloor temperature should be a minimum of 15°C. Humidity within the room must be between 55 and 65%.

2.3. Cutting and Adhering – Step by Step Guide

- a) Prepare the subfloor according to the guidelines above and those set out by the supplier of the smoothing compounds and adhesives. It will be necessary to install an absorbent self-levelling underlay substrate.
- b) For two-metre width floor coverings, Belgotex recommends cutting takes place 24 hours before installation. The sheets should then be rolled loosely and stored in an upright position for acclimatisation. Four-metre width sheets should be cut to size and laid flat to acclimatise for 24 hours prior to installation.
- c) When cutting to size please consider the nature of the design and pattern. In the case of styles that are one colour or design, Belgotex recommends that every sheet is rotated through 180°.
- d) Place the sheets in position, cut seams with the double-cut method and trim to size.
- e) Fold back half of the sheet to reveal the subfloor ready for the application of adhesive. We recommend the use of a bright acrylic adhesive. Prior to using the adhesive read the supplier instructions. Adhesive should be evenly spread with a suitable notched trowel. Use a linear motion to avoid over-application. After applying the adhesive and in accordance with the instructions, allow the adhesive to partially dry before returning the floor covering into place.
- f) 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 have not been placed together correctly.
- g) To remove any bubbles, the floor should be evened out by rubbing from the inside outwards. Use a rolling motion to level out the adhesive and this should be done before the adhesive has fully dried.
- h) Repeat steps e) to g) with the second half of the sheet.
- i) Check all seam junctions and repeat the rolling motion as described in g)

- j) Welding the seam together is strongly recommended but should only be carried out after the adhesive has fully dried. Allow a minimum of 24 hours before performing seam welding. (see section 2.6)
- k) During the drying time, the floor coverings should not be subjected to any foot or vehicular traffic.

2.4. Adhesives

Please contact Gilt Edge Industries for adhesive recommendations and detailed instructions on proper application. Always adhere to their guidelines to ensure correct usage. All Gilt Edge adhesives have been thoroughly tested with Belgotex vinyl coverings and deemed suitable for use.

2.5. Alternative Installing with Release Bonding Systems

If you are installing vinyl on a release bonding system, please read sections 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4

2.6. Welding

Welding must be done to ensure closed and tight seams. For vinyl floor coverings used in commercial locations, Belgotex recommends a hot welding procedure. Belgotex offers a large range of matching and suitable welding rods and does not recommend the use of products from other manufacturers. Cold welding, using fluid, is suitable for domestic, commercial and industrial use. Belgotex recommends cold welding fluids from Gilt Edge Industries. Please read the manufacturer's instructions before applying.

2.7. Installing in sanitary areas

Under Clause E3 (Internal Moisture) of the NZ Building Code, flooring in sanitary areas such as kitchens, laundries, toilets, and bathrooms must be impervious to moisture and easy to clean. Belgotex sheet vinyl satisfies this requirement under E3/AS1 3.1.1, provided all joints are sealed and edges are either sealed or coved where they meet doorways and walls, or within 1.5 metres of any sanitary fixture or appliance in open-plan spaces.

Ensure that any floor waste is designed to securely clamp the surrounding vinyl, creating a watertight seal between the vinyl and the waste fitting.

2.8. Post-Installation

After installation, keep the floor surface protected from foot traffic for at least 48 hours. Do not move furniture or heavy items until 72 hours have passed. Underfloor heating should only be turned on 48 hours after installation.

Clean the floor according to the Care & Maintenance guide. Before allowing any foot traffic, thoroughly vacuum or sweep to remove dust and debris.

3. SPECIAL NOTES

Products that may cause bleaching or discolouration should be removed immediately. Chairs should be equipped with castors (Type 'W' in accordance with EN 1259). If any points raised within this document need clarification, please contact the customer services team on 0800 377 753. Belgotex will not accept responsibility for any claims arising from installation and maintenance not in accordance with these guidelines and recommendations.

Cove Fillet is recommended on installation but pencil cove is also acceptable and does not nullify material warranty. Belgotex reserves the right to make changes or recommendations that do not adversely affect performance or quality. If any of these guidelines are not followed, a warranty claim may not be accepted.