

Method Statement: Installation of Vinyl Sheeting onto a Wooden Subfloor

1. Project Information

Scope:

Installation of resilient vinyl sheet and/or tile flooring including receipt, storage, conditioning, substrate preparation, moisture testing, installation, and finishing.

Applicable Standards:

- SANS 10070:2012 – Installation of resilient floor coverings
- SANS 10155:1980 – Surface regularity tolerances
- ASTM F710 – Subfloor preparation good practice

2. Responsibilities

Main Contractor

- Provide weather-tight building.
- Ensure completion of wet trades and overhead works.
- Maintain required ambient conditions.
- Provide suitable power and lighting.

Flooring Contractor

- Inspect and approve substrate prior to installation.
- Conduct and document moisture testing.
- Confirm environmental compliance.
- Execute installation in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and recognised industry standards.
- Reject non-compliant conditions before proceeding.

3. Materials Receipt & Storage

Upon delivery:

- Verify product type, colour, batch number (where single batch required), and quantities.
- Inspect for transport damage.
- Report discrepancies before installation.

Storage Conditions

- Store in secure, dry, enclosed area.
- Maintain minimum temperature of 18°C.
- Store materials for at least 48 hours prior to installation.
- Protect from moisture, direct sunlight, and physical damage.
- Store rolls vertically.



4. Environmental Conditions

Ambient temperature must be maintained between:

18°C – 27°C

For:

- 48 hours prior to installation
- During installation
- 48 hours after installation

Conditions must remain constant and stable. Sudden thermal variation may cause dimensional movement and installation failure.

5. Conditioning of Materials

- Materials must be conditioned in the exact area of installation.
- Conditioning period: minimum 48 hours.
- Increase conditioning time if materials were stored below 10°C.
- Do not cut or install until product has acclimatised.

6. Subfloor Requirements & Preparation

6.1 General Requirements

Subfloor must be:

- Dry
- Clean
- Smooth
- Level
- Structurally sound

Free from:

- Dust, oil, grease
- Curing compounds
- Old adhesive residue
- Bitumen
- Paint or sealers
- Alkaline salts and contaminants

Solvents are not permitted for cleaning adhesive residues.



6.2 Surface Regularity

Surface tolerance:

Maximum deviation: 3mm over 3m straight edge

If non-compliant:

- Apply approved cementitious self-levelling compound.
- Allow full curing.
- Mechanically smooth if required.

Irregularities will telegraph through vinyl flooring.

6.3 Mechanical Preparation

- Grind high spots.
- Fill low areas with cementitious patching self-levelling compound.
- Mechanically remove contaminants by scraping, sanding or scarifying.
- Vacuum entire area prior to adhesive application.

6.4 Cracks & Joints

Non-Moving Joints / Cracks

- Fill with approved cementitious self-levelling compound.
- Allow to dry completely.

Expansion Joints

- Must not be bridged with vinyl flooring.
- Install approved expansion joint covers suitable for resilient flooring.
- Installer to identify prior to installation.

6.5 Moisture Testing

Moisture testing mandatory prior to installation.

Test Method:

- In-situ Relative Humidity (RH) probe test.

Maximum allowable moisture level:

75% RH

Recommended equipment:

- Wagner meter
- Protimeter



All readings must be:

- Recorded
- Documented by area
- Approved prior to installation

Installation must not proceed if moisture exceeds tolerance.

7. Wooden Subfloor Requirements

7.1 Material Requirements

Approved boards:

- Marine ply (recommended where moisture risk exists)
- Shutter ply (where moisture is controlled)

Minimum thickness:

16mm – 22mm

Floor must:

- Be rigid
- Be free from movement
- Be squeak-free
- Have minimum 45mm cross-ventilated air space beneath (if suspended)

7.2 Fixing & Stabilisation

- Boards must be securely anchored.
- Close screw fixing pattern to prevent movement.
- Dowels or biscuits required between boards.
- Joints must be flush with no lipping.

Excessive movement will cause cracking in finished vinyl surface.

7.3 Unsuitable Substrates

The following are not acceptable:

- Particleboard
- Chipboard
- Masonite
- Lauan



8. Installation Procedure (Overview)

1. Confirm environmental compliance.
2. Confirm moisture compliance.
3. Confirm substrate acceptance.
4. Dry lay and check layout.
5. Apply approved adhesive per manufacturer spread rate.
6. Install flooring in accordance with product guidelines.
7. Roll flooring with appropriate weighted roller.
8. Complete welding/sealing where required.
9. Remove excess adhesive immediately.
10. Protect finished installation.

9. Protection After Installation

- Restrict traffic for minimum 24 hours.
- Prevent heavy rolling loads for 48 hours.
- Maintain stable environmental conditions.
- Protect floor with suitable non-staining protective covering if other trades remain active.

10. Quality Control & Sign-Off

Installation shall only proceed once:

- Substrate compliance confirmed
- Moisture readings documented
- Environmental conditions stable
- Materials conditioned

Completion sign-off confirms acceptance of substrate and site conditions by flooring contractor.