

# LooseLay Installation Instructions

## General Information

LooseLay is a versatile floor covering and is particularly suitable for use in temporary installations or where tiles may need to be removed to allow access to floor panels. It is recommended for use over correctly prepared concrete, wooden floors, raised access floors, metal and other suitable substrates. It is designed for interior use only.

A separate underlayment is not normally recommended.

## Acclimatisation of Material

At least 48 hours prior to installation, LooseLay must be removed from packaging (product may be stacked, but must be rested flat) and allowed to acclimatise in the room where the installation is to take place. Room temperature should be kept between 18°C - 27°C.

## Subfloor Preparation

Subfloor preparation must comply with ASTM F710, AS/NZS 1884, BS 8203, DTU 53.2, DIN 18365 (Teil C) or other applicable National Standards and Building Codes for the installation of Resilient Flooring and in strict accordance with these installation guidelines. The subfloor must be smooth, level, free from undulations, clean and dust-free.

Note: Solvents and corrosive chemicals should not be used to clean or remove subfloor contaminants as they can damage the backing of LooseLay and affect product performance.

- **Damp Subfloors:** LooseLay can be installed on subfloors with a moisture reading up to 95%RH. For any subfloor showing a moisture above 95%RH, then a suitable damp proof membrane / moisture suppression system must be used.

(If using the calcium chloride test procedure ASTM 1869-11 the reading must not be above 5lbs per 1000sq ft. per 24hrs. For the 'carbide bomb' test construction moisture must not exceed 3% for cementitious screeds and 1.4% for anhydrite screeds.)

Note: some National Standards require the pH of the concrete slab to be controlled.

- **Old Adhesive residues:** All adhesive residues from previous installations must be completely removed.
- **Concrete Floors: Subfloors/Screeds:** All cracks and joints must be filled using a cement based patching compound and the floor needs to be level in accordance with the applicable Standard.  
All Gypsum (anhydrite) based concrete floors must be sealed with a compatible sealing compound.
- **Mosaic/Terrazzo/Ceramics/Quarry Tiles:** Ensure the floor is sound with no loose tiles. Then level any grout lines with a suitable smoothing compound.
- **Timber Floors:** These should be solid with minimal flexibility. All loose boards must be firmly fastened, gaps filled, and undulations removed. Where

necessary, overlay floorboards with flooring grade plywood or similar.

- **OSB (Oriented Strand Board):** This should be first overlaid (ASTM F1482) with a flooring grade plywood because the quality, moisture content and smoothness of OSB can vary.
- **Woodblock/Parquet/Thermoplastic tiles:** Make sure these floors are solid; fix any loose tiles and remove any surface polish/sealer.

We recommend the removal of these products if installed directly to earth, bitumen/ cutback / ATA or pitch. Then prepare floor to applicable Standard.

- **Resilient: - Linoleum/ sheet vinyl:** LooseLay can be installed over these products provided the surface is securely fixed and cleaned to remove all contamination including dressings.
- **Metal and Painted Floors:** Fully remove any loose paint or other finishes.
- **Raised Access Floors:** Ensure raised access panels are firm, level, smooth, clean and free from defects/contaminants. Raised access panels should be in accordance with EN 12825 or equivalent: -Gaps between panels should not exceed 1 mm; overall floor to be level within +1.5 mm over a 5 m radius; unstable, uneven or poor-quality panels should be suitably repaired prior to installation; tiles should be set out such that their edges do not fall on or close to the edge of the raised access panel. No responsibility will be accepted for any joint telegraphing through the tile either as a 'ridge' or a 'valley'.
- **Other Floors:** Consult your supplier.

## Underfloor Heating and Services

LooseLay is suitable over underfloor heating systems, provided it is insulated such that the temperature from between the underside of the tile and subfloor does not rise above 27°C.

- **Electrical underfloor heating:** please consult manufacturer to ensure that their system is compatible with this flooring. Mesh/wire systems must be embedded into a basecoat of reinforced fibre smoothing compound. Then a second coat of primer and reinforced smoothing compound should be applied. Refer to manufacturer's guidelines for the required depth. The room temperature must be between 18-29°C prior, to and during installation.

Note: The system must be switched off 48 hours before, during, and for 48 hours after the installation; then the temperature should be gradually increased (typically 2°C/day) to the desired temperature.

Important: - care must be taken to avoid damage to the floor caused by localised "hot spots/thermal blocks". In particular, consideration must be given in placing rugs, and items of furniture which do not allow hot air circulation. No responsibility for damage to floor tiles can be accepted under these circumstances.

## Installation

Before starting the installation remove all debris and/or dust, ensuring that the floor is clean.

Looselay must always be fitted tight to the wall and to each adjacent tile/plank, using one of the following three options:

### 1. Rooms smaller than 16 m<sup>2</sup>

Check that room edges are solid. Then all thresholds, openings, kick boards under kitchen units (i.e. areas where tight fitting is not possible) should be edged with a 10cm (4") strip of tackifier/ tape. Then install the tiles/planks.

### 2. Rooms larger than 16 m<sup>2</sup>

In rooms with any wall longer than 4m (13') the perimeter of the room requires a 10cm (4") strip of tackifier/ tape applied to the subfloor, and at 4m (13') distances parallel to each perimeter wall, covering the floor in a grid system. (Apply tackifier/ tape to edges of areas where tight fitting cannot be achieved – see 1. above)

Alternatively, a full spread of tackifier can be used. This is advised when installing 914.4 x 914.4 mm (36 x36 ") tiles.

Where the subfloor is 75-95% RH the tackifier/tape referred to above must be moisture tolerant.

### 3. Heavy Traffic Areas:

In areas of high traffic (e.g. high footfall- entrances, high frequency wheeled traffic) tiles/planks should be installed with a full spread tackifier.

Exclusions:

High Spillage Wet Areas/Extreme temperature fluctuations (e.g. Sun Rooms/ Conservatories/ Panoramic Windows):

Where RH < 75%: - the use of a full spread epoxy or Universal adhesive must be used.

Where RH is 75-95%: - LooseLay is not recommended, unless a full DPM (Damp Proof Membrane) is used together with a full spread epoxy/Universal adhesive.

## Taking Care of your floor

- Regularly sweep the floor to remove loose dirt or grit as these can cause fine scratches.
- For a thorough clean, a range of cleaning products is available (Clean, Remove and Refresh). Avoid the use of regular household cleaners and bleach-based detergents. These could make the floor slippery or cause discolouration.
- Always mop up spills as soon as possible, to reduce the risk of slipping and possible staining.
- Use entrance mats to protect against grit and moisture. Ensure they are of non-staining variety (not rubber-backed) to prevent any discolouration of the floor.
- Avoid sliding or dragging furniture or other objects across the floor - use floor protector pads to prevent scratching. Use castor cups to protect against indentation from heavy furniture.
- Maintain room temperature between 18 °C – 27 °C (64 °F - 81 °F) for optimum performance.
- Do not subject LooseLay to standing water as this will present a slip hazard.