



# Installation and general maintenance instructions Itec®

# Installation & Maintenance

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

## NATIONAL REGULATIONS

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

## STORAGE

Itec® rolls should be stored in either a flat horizontal or vertical position. In order to minimise 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.

## VISUAL INSPECTION

Please inspect 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 sheet. Do not install any vinyl that displays any imperfections.

## SUITABILITY

- Itec® vinyl can be laid on concrete, cementitious screed, anhydrite (calcium sulphate), timber and ceramic tiles which have been suitably prepared. (see floor preparation)
- Itec® floors can be used with traditional waterbased under-floor heating and cooling systems. Electric wire systems are not recommended.

- Itec® floors are only suitable for in house installation.

## 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 levelling 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 levelling compound supplier.





## FLOOR PREPARATION

Good preparation is essential for a trouble-free installation and is vital for an excellent floor appearance and adhesion. The finished appearance of itec® floor 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. The sub-floor must be hard, smooth, clean, dry, free from defects and fit for purpose. When needed, scrape off and remove old adhesives and loose-laying levelling compound. Make sure the subfloor is flat and free from chemical substances.

A suitable levelling compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. However, the selection of suitable materials, including smoothing and levelling compounds 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.

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



### Important:

Floor installation should not begin until the installer has assessed and approved the sub-floor or conditions.

## THE MOISTURE CONTENT OF THE SUBFLOOR

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

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. An overview of recommended manufacturers and suppliers can be provided by IVC group.

## TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER INSTALLATION

Itec® floors are best installed with a room temperature of between 18° C and 27° C and a floor temperature of above 15° C.

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

For installation 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

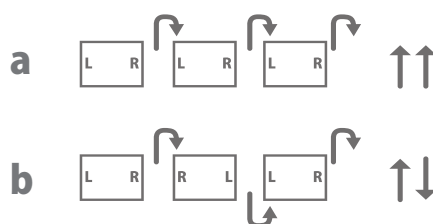
Itec® floors have to acclimatise in the room where the installation takes place or an equivalent area for at least 24 hours prior to installation, or until the product has achieved an ambient temperature. Again, this is a minimum temperature of 18° C and a maximum of 27° C.

Itec® recommends cutting take place 24 hours before installation. Unpack the Itec® floor and check all sheets in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour.

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

Four-metre width floor coverings should be cut to size and laid flat to acclimatise.

When cutting to size please consider the nature of the design and pattern. In the case of wood designs and tile styles itec recommends that every sheet is installed in the same direction (a). In the case that the design is one all-over colour or design, Itec® recommends that every sheet is rotated through 180° (b). If there is doubt, we advise to check with your local installer.



## UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Itec® floors can be used with traditional water-based under-floor heating systems, provided there is a lower constant room temperature of 18° C for the acclimatisation period, installation and 72 hours after installation.

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. For suitability of the system please refer to the manufacturer's instructions.



Be careful when stacking rolls. Falling rolls can cause harm to people and the surrounding environment, and this may also result in damage to the product.





## UNDERFLOOR COOLING

Itec® 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 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

Itec® floors recommend to install with solvent free adhesives. IVC provides Xtrafloor adhesives, appropriate for effective and efficient installation. If you use other adhesives, please contact Itec® or your retailer, who can provide a list of those appropriate.

**Please also take note of the itec floor covering bonding instructions.**

## INSTALLATION FROM ONE COLOUR BATH

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.

## Recommended tools:

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Adhesive and trowel
- Damp cloth
- Utility knife
- Hook blades
- Straight blades
- Combi scribe
- Long scribe
- Steel line for cutting straight and/or seams
- Roller minimum 50kg
- For hot welding
  - Hand or electric groover
  - Hot air welding gun with appropriate tools
  - Quarter moon set or skiving knife
- For cold welding
  - Cold welding kit



## STEP BY STEP FITTING INSTRUCTIONS, USING ADHESIVES

1. Place the sheets in position, cut seams with the double-cut method and trim to size.
2. 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 in to place.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Repeat steps 1 to 4 with the second half of the sheet.
6. Check all seam junctions and repeat the rolling motion as described in 3.
7. Welding the seam together is recommended, but only after the drying process is complete. Generally, no less than 24 hours should be given before seam welding occurs.

## WELDING

Welding is the only option for ensuring closed and tight seams. For floor coverings used in commercial locations, Itec® recommends a hot welding procedure. Itec® offers a large range of matching and suitable welding rods and does not recommend the use of products from other manufacturers. Cold welding is suitable for domestic, commercial and industrial use. Itec® recommends cold welding tapes from Werner Müller Kaltschweißtechnik. Please read the manufacturer's instructions before applying.

## 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.

## PROTECTION

Itec® should be protected from exceptional walking conditions for 24 hours - and for heavy traffic for 72 hours after installation, in order to allow the adhesive to stabilise 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 itec® floor. The frequency of maintenance will depend on the amount and type of traffic, degree of soiling and the floor colour and type. Itec® floors have a Hyperguard PU lacquer on top of the resistant wear layer. This lacquer protects against soiling and makes the overall maintenance easier. Hyperguard also makes a prior treatment with protection polish unnecessary.

## 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. Itec 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.

## PROTECTION OF SLIDING FURNITURE

Good protective caps have a sufficiently large support surface, possibly a hinge to ensure a straight contact between the furniture item and the flooring, and are made of a non-absorbent material to prevent the ingress of moisture and dirt.







## 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)

### Combine machine

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

## XTRAFLOOR CLEANER MAINTAINER

Our range of cleaning products has been specially formulated for use with itec floors. Our concentrated cleaner is suitable for daily and weekly cleaning and can be used with all cleaning methods such as damp or wet mopping, combine machine, spray cleaning and scrubbing.

## XTRAFLOOR SPOT REMOVER

A ready to use cleaner formulated for removal of spills and other deposits, Xtrafloor supplies a range of maintenance products that are recommended for cleaning itec floors. Products containing soap or unsuitable detergents such as washing up liquid may leave hard-to-remove film or residue on the surface. These can detract from the appearance and may be slippery. Xtrafloor maintenance products are carefully manufactured to produce the highest performance when used in accordance with the instructions on the box.

Detailed information about regular cleaning, mechanical and occasional maintenance, applied in commercial environment, can be consulted in the 'Itec® Cleaning and Maintenance Instructions'



## MAINTENANCE:

### Spray cleaning

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

### Scrub and wet vacuum

- Low speed (180 tpm)
- Red scrub pad
- Neutral detergent
- Wet vacuum
- Rinse by damp mopping with clean water without detergent

### Recover gloss different

- High-speed (450 tpm)
- Red and with dry buff pad

### Camouflage minor scratches

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

## Note:

Contact your Itec® floor representative if you are unsure about any part of the installation instruction.

## Important:

- Take care to immediately wipe up any spillages on the vinyl flooring to minimise the risk of permanent staining occurring.
- Vinyl flooring can be slippery when wet.
- 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.

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**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 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 can't 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.
- Do not allow cigarettes, matches and other very hot items to contact the floor as this causes permanent damage.

Contact your itec floor representative/retailer for complete warranty conditions.

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