

## COREtec® Plank & Tile Glue Down Installation Instructions and Install Instructions Over In-Floor Radiant Heating

(For the purposes of install in New Zealand these glue down install instructions supercede any other install instructions, including instructions in flooring cartons; for New Zealand conditions COREtec Plus requires a full glue down install)

### ATTENTION! READ BEFORE INSTALLING! FOR BEST VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF YOUR FLOOR

This flooring replicates the look of a natural product which has natural variations in color, texture, and sheen/gloss. For best visual effect, shuffle planks or tiles from several cartons and do not install similar planks or tiles next to one another.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloor must be dry, flat and level to BRANZ requirements of 3mm over a 3m radius for best installation results.

## Glue Down Installation Instructions for COREtec Plus® Brand Floors

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION

If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call COREtec's toll free at 0800 326 387

### FLOORING MATERIAL MUST BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Responsibility for the suitability of USFloors® flooring and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by USFloors, since USFloors has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank or tile be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. USFloors will send a replacement in a timely fashion.

NOTE: USFloors COREtec Plus floors may be installed with a direct glue-down method on approved wooden (or) concrete substrates that are on or above grade only. Use only USFloors Cork Underlayment Adhesive (or) comparable premium multipurpose flooring adhesive. *Please consult with adhesive manufacturer to determine if suitable for use with this material.*

### READ BEFORE INSTALLING

*While COREtec Plus is waterproof, it's not a moisture barrier. It's still a good idea to make sure concrete is cured and tested for moisture and that a moisture barrier is installed in the crawl space. Moisture won't damage COREtec Plus, but it can get in the walls and structure of the home. A couple of extra dollars and a few minutes is a small investment for the added protection and peace of mind. Use good common sense installation practices, and you'll have a successful installation that results in a beautiful floor.*

### PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

USFLOORS cannot be held responsible for site conditions.

Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for color, finish, sheen, and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. **If flooring is not acceptable, contact your supplier immediately and arrange for a replacement. USFLOORS cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects.** Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these instructions. USFLOORS is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project.

Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 46 cm from the ground to the underside of the joists. A ground cover of 6–20 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier. Joints must be lapped 15 cm and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.

Room temperature and humidity of installation areas should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week before installation of flooring. Maintaining an optimum room temperature of 21° C and a humidity range of 30-50% is recommended.

## PRE-INSTALLATION SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

All Subfloors must be:

- Dry
- Structurally sound, level and flat
- Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris
- Level: Flat to BRANZ standards of 3mm over a 3m radius

Wood subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 10 to 15cm along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a levelling compound suitable for wooden substrates. Wood substrate must be sanded before installation to lift all impurities to ensure adhesion of adhesive.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 90 days old. Subfloor should be flat and level within BRANZ requirements of 3mm over a 3m radius. If necessary grind high spots down and level low spots with a suitable leveling compound. To ensure adhesion of glue, substrate must be lightly grinded before install to lift impurities and open pores. The supplier recommended Moisture Barrier must be applied and allowed to cure as per product instructions. Adhesive forms part of a 'system' and requires the Moisture Barrier film on the concrete for adhesion purposes.

Ceramic tile, resilient tile and sheet vinyl must be well-bonded to subfloor, in good condition, clean, and level. Do not sand existing vinyl floors, as they may contain asbestos. Please ensure adhesive used for any of the surfaces is suitable to bonding to such surface.

## INSTALLATION TOOLS

- Tape measure
- Chalk Line
- Hammer
- Pull Bar
- Adhesive Supplier Recommended Notch Trowel minimum 1.6mmx1.6mmx1.6mm
- Pencil
- Crosscut Power Saw
- Tapping Block
- Cork Underlayment Adhesive

## ACCEPTABLE SUBFLOOR TYPES:

- Concrete: above or on grade
  - APA registered plywood underlayment
  - Hardboard
  - Association grade particleboard
- NOT** recommended over existing vinyl flooring.

## STARTING YOUR INSTALLATION

**Work from several open boxes of flooring and "dry lay" the floor before permanently laying the floor.** This will allow you to select varying textures, colors, and sheens, and to arrange them in a harmonious pattern. Remember, it is the installer's responsibility to determine the expectations of what the finished floor will look like with the end user first and then to cull out pieces that do not meet those expectations. Begin installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank or tile. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks or tiles to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of straight.

You may want to position a few rows before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line. When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 20 cm for planks, and equal to 51 cm or a half piece for tiles. For plank installations, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row when cutting the last plank in a row to fit. If cut-off end is less than 20cm, discard it and instead cut a new plank at a random length (at least 20cm in length) and use it to start the next row. For tile installations, always begin a row with either a full tile or a half tile so that the joints are consistently staggered in a "brick work" type pattern. **Always begin each row from the same side of the room.**

## GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**Inspection:** Prior to installation, inspect material in daylight for visible faults/damage. Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied, do not install, and contact your supplier.

**Before laying:** Measure the room at right angle to the direction of the flooring. For the best visual effect, planks or tiles in the final row should be at least at least 1/3 the width of the plank or tile. For this purpose, planks or tiles in the first row can be cut to smaller size. Shuffle boards in order to obtain a pleasant blend of shades. Lay boards, preferably following the direction of the main source of light. We recommend laying on wooden floors crossways to the existing floorboards.

When installing COREtec Plus floors milled with the angle/tap profile using the glue down method, Cork Underlayment Adhesive should be used and applied to the subfloor using adhesive manufacturer's recommended trowel. Surfaces must be clean, dry and smooth, free of voids, projections, loose materials, oil, grease, sealers, and all other surface contaminants.

*Wood subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 10 to 15cm along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a levelling compound suitable for wooden substrates. Wood substrate must be sanded before installation to lift all impurities to ensure adhesion of adhesive.*

*Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 90 days old. Subfloor should be flat and level within BRANZ requirements of 3mm over a 3m radius. If necessary grind high spots down and level low spots with a suitable leveling compound. To ensure adhesion of glue, substrate must be lightly grinded before install to lift impurities and open pores. The supplier recommended Moisture Barrier must be applied and allowed to cure as per product instructions. Adhesive forms part of a 'system' and requires the Moisture Barrier film on the concrete for adhesion purposes.*

*Ceramic tile, resilient tile and sheet vinyl must be well-bonded to subfloor, in good condition, clean, and level. Do not sand existing vinyl floors, as they may contain asbestos. Please ensure adhesive used for any of these surfaces is suitable to bonding to such surface.*

**Adhesive manufacturer's instructions should be followed completely.**

**When employing the direct glue down installation method, DO NOT include a 6-mil polyfilm vapor barrier on the substrate in the assembly. Flooring material must be adhered directly to the subfloor. Flooring should NEVER be glued to a polyfilm vapor barrier.**

### **In-floor Radiant Heat:**

COREtec Plus can be installed over 1.3cm embedded radiant heat using the glue down method. When gluing floor, ensure to use only USFloors recommended multipurpose adhesive over manufacturer's recommended substrate.

- **Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors** • Failure to turn the heat off may result in significantly shortened working time of the adhesive.
- Floor temperature must not exceed **27°C**.
- Once the installation has been completed, the heating system should be turned on and increased gradually (5 degree increments) until returning to normal operating conditions.
- Failure to strictly follow adhesive manufacturer's guidelines may result in failure and void the warranty.

**Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not suitable for use underneath COREtec Plus floors. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath COREtec Plus floors could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install COREtec Plus flooring over embedded radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the guidelines listed above.**

### **FLOOR PREPARATION FOR INSTALL**

Floor must be clean, dry, flat and level to BRANZ standards of 3mm over a 3m radius. Remove all foreign substances such as wax, grease, dirt and any substance or chemical that would interfere with a good bond. Test concrete subfloor for alkalinity (pH of floor should be between 5 and 9). Take corrective measures if concrete surface pH is outside these limits. Moisture tests should be performed using an anhydrous calcium chloride test according to ASTM F-1869 test method. Moisture emissions should not exceed 2.27kgs per 92.9 square meters per 24 hours (2.27 kg/92.9m<sup>2</sup>/24 hours). Relative Humidity readings according to BRANZ should not exceed (RH) 70%. If both tests are performed the RH test is the qualifying standard. Fill all holes and cracks with a suitable cement based patching compound. Sand high spots, install underlayment grade plywood or particleboard underlayment over tongue and groove flooring to eliminate the possibility of telegraphing. For best results, the room, floor covering and adhesive should be between (18°C) and (35°C) and at a relative humidity between 30% and 60% for 24 hours before, during and after the installation.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

**Ensure preparation of subfloor as per instructions on page 1 and 2 ie. "STARTING YOUR INSTALLATION" and "GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS." If installing on a wooden substrate, ensure wood substrate is prepared according to requirement and if installing on a concrete substrate, substrate is prepared to requirement and Moisture Barrier applied – then:**

1. Apply adhesive to substrate with the recommended notch trowel Minimum trowel size for COREtec is 1.6 mm x 1.6 mm x 1.6 mm V-notch. Lay most floor coverings into wet adhesive. Open time will vary from 15 minutes to one hour, depending on the dryness of the floor, thickness of adhesive application, temperature and humidity.
2. Lay in flooring, lifting occasionally to be sure of making 100% contact with backing.
3. Roll COREtec immediately after installation with a 45.4 kg roller. Work from the center towards the edges to expel trapped air.
4. Clean up: use soap and water if adhesive is still wet. If dried, use recommended Adhesive Remover from Adhesive Supplier.  
CAUTION: DO NOT take internally. If swallowed, DO NOT induce vomiting. Call a physician immediately. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

## **AFTER INSTALLATION**

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup and turnover to the owner, use rosin paper and only use 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape to hold the rosin paper to the floor (other blue tapes may damage the finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. **DO NOT USE** plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.
- Dust-mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- It is suggested that you clean the floor using a recommended pH neutral cleaner such as BONA Tile and Laminate Cleaner.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, etc.).
- Permit light foot traffic on the new floor after 3-4 hours giving the adhesive time to set up.
- Keep furniture, fixtures and rolling traffic off the new floor for 48 hours.
- Wait 72 hours (3 days) before wet cleaning the new floor - this will allow the adhesive to fully cure.
- The floor must be allowed to set overnight for 24 hours before resuming normal usage of the room.

## **Protection and Maintenance of Your COREtec Floor**

### **Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance**

- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways;
- **Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight.** Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Floor covering subjected to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Use appropriate precautions to minimize potential effects on the floor covering;
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile-oil drips onto the vinyl floor covering;
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters - protective mats are required under office chairs;
- Use non-staining mats - rubber may discolor the floor;
- Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with casters or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do NOT use ball type casters as they can damage the floor;
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor;
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Do NOT use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off;
- Do NOT use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding;
- Stea Mops are not recommended – best avoided;
- Clean up spills immediately;
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do NOT use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor. Do NOT use abrasive scrubbing tools. Do NOT use detergents, abrasive cleaners or “mop and shine” products;
- It is recommended to use the BONA Tile & Laminate Cleaner (obtainable from your COREtec flooring supplier) at most once a week and mostly just wipe your COREtec floor with a damp mop;
- Vinyl flooring, like other types of smooth floors, may become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after cleaning. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substances or wet feet.