

DESSO

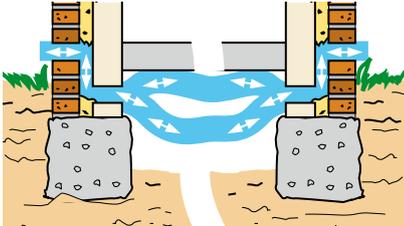
Tarkett

Desso Carpet – Installation Guide.

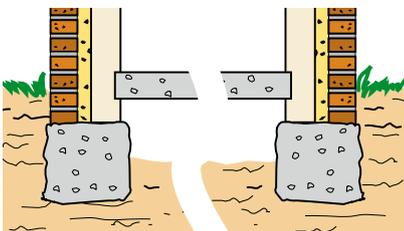


EXPERIENCE FLOORS!
SQUARE
FOOT

Preparing the subfloors



suspended, well ventilated subfloor



suspended, unventilated subfloor

2.1 Inspecting and preparing floor surfaces

When fitting carpet the subfloor always demands special attention. The subfloor quite literally forms the base on which the carpet has to display its qualities and characteristics. Aspects such as damp, levelness and compression strength are extremely important in that respect. Requirements differ with the type of subfloor involved. The various types concerned are described separately below. In general it can be said that the subfloor must comply with the relevant standards, as mentioned in the appendix, which includes several International Standards.

Note: if in your case a subfloor is involved that is not discussed here, please contact the Technical Services Department at Tarkett beforehand. We will then be able to advise you with respect to floor conditions in relation to the application options for Tarkett contract carpet.

2.2 Cement bonded subfloors

Always check a cement bonded subfloor for damp. With the standard CM-measurement the damp content should never exceed 3%. Using the alternative protimeter measurement method the damp content should never exceed 5%. Furthermore, the subfloor should also be continuously dry. Check the ventilation under the floor and in the outer walls. As a rule there should be 5 cm² ventilation per m² of floor surface.

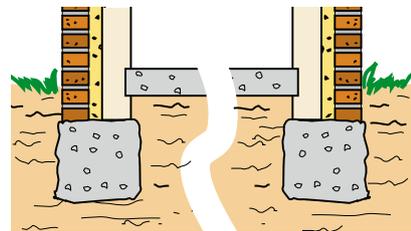
A suspended cement-bonded subfloor demands a good isolation layer. The subfloor should also be clean, flat, solid and free from grease. There should be no cracks, loose flaky areas or irregularities present. In case the subfloor is granular, rough or uneven it will require levelling. Porous and/or granular subfloors should first be prepared using an acrylic or polyurethane based primer. If applicable an acrylic based primer is preferable, but that form of preparation is the least environmentally friendly. The instructions for the product concerned should therefore be followed extremely carefully. Sand off any irregularities and level using a waterproof cement based, or latex levelling compound. Sand wherever necessary when dry.

2.3 Bitumen bonded subfloors

Level bitumen bonded subfloors and bitumen insulation layers using a cement based waterproof levelling material. Sand wherever necessary when dry. When levelling a cast asphalt floor any abrasive sand used should be removed beforehand.

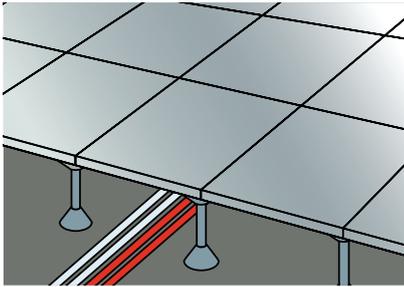
2.4 Computer subfloors

Computer subfloors usually consist of heightened floor elements measuring 60 x 60 cm, which are fastened on separate jacks. The individual floor elements can be made of wood, anhydrite, concrete or metal. The jacks have to be fixated and well-glued to guarantee the conduction of



unvented subfloor





person—charge. Considering this conduction, it is a good idea to glue every 40 m² 1,25 meter of copper band to the subfloor, making sure that this copper band is adequately earthed. Both with carpet tiles and carpets a conducting type of glue or tackifier should be used. The copper band should be installed transversely underneath the carpet material. Computer subfloors have to comply with several requirements. Differences in height between the panels may not exceed 1 mm. Also the room between the panels may not exceed 1 mm. Furthermore, the floor elements should never wobble or creak.

2.5 Anhydrite subfloors

Anhydrite floors will require sanding and vacuum cleaning before commencing the fitting of the carpet. Prior application of a primer or adhesion layer, whether or not in combination with any levelling, may also be necessary. In case of any doubt we recommend contacting the Technical Services Department at Tarkett for further information.

2.6 Extremely smooth and dense floors (e.g. Granito tiles or Terrazzo)

Levelling is also often necessary on smooth and dense floors, especially if there are any rough spots on the surface. Tiled floors often require levelling. First ensure that a good adhesion surface exists by applying a primer before levelling. In case any ‘sagging’ occurs along the joins or seams levelling will have to be repeated. Sand wherever necessary, when dry and hard.

2.7 Subfloors with an existing hard covering

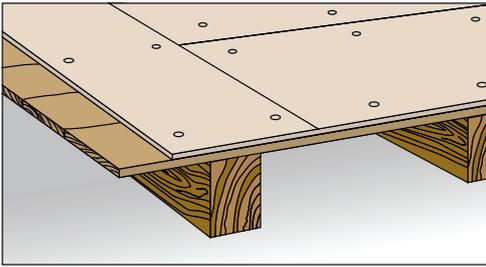
In case the subfloor has already been finished with a hard covering such as linoleum, PVC or suchlike, the following precautions should be taken. Check whether all of the existing covering is still firmly attached to the floor surface. If any areas are damaged they will have to be repaired first! Degrease the entire floor and allow it to dry thoroughly. Apply an adhesive layer for the benefit of the adhesive bed. If repair is not entirely possible throughout the existing covering should be removed completely.

Note: if you have removed the existing covering as a result of irreparable damage, before proceeding any further read the remarks in the section entitled ‘Floors on which a previous covering was adhered’. The instructions described in that section should be followed very carefully.

2.8 Wooden floors

Wooden floors in particular, despite being fitted with a hardboard finishing layer, can nevertheless cause the formation of impressions in the carpet over the course of time. That also applies to the hardboard itself as a consequence of the natural working of the underlying wood. The best solution for this problem is a subfloor constructed from e.g. plywood, hardboard or MDF. In that manner sufficient solidity can be obtained to prevent any impressions of the underlying floor from forming.

In general it can be said that a wooden floor never possesses absolute solidity by definition. All the more reason for paying the utmost attention to the finishing layer.



2.8.1 General preparations

First check the floor ventilation and take any measures considered necessary. As a rule 5 cm² per m² of floor surface is sufficient. Following that, check the floor for loose boards etc. and replace or nail them into position as necessary. Make the floor dust-free.

Note: you should make a clear distinction between old and new wooden floors. Old floors virtually always require levelling, as the floorboards become warped and sag in the course of time. Level the floor using a cement based, elastic, waterproof levelling medium. New wooden floors should not be levelled as the wood has not yet seasoned. With the seasoning of the wood the levelling medium would become loose and break up. Once the necessary distinction between old and new wooden floors as described above has been made, prepare with hardboard or chipboard. This should be performed on the basis of the applicable description on the next page.

After you have made the already mentioned distinction between new and old wooden subfloor, you apply a leveling layer from for instance plywood, hardboard or MDF, following the supplier's instructions.

2.9 Floors on which a previous covering was adhered

All floors on which some form of covering was previously adhered require a thorough inspection. Once the old covering has been removed the subfloor will almost certainly show signs of damage. Furthermore, some old adhesive will also inevitably be left remaining. Always remove any old adhesive first, thoroughly remove all dirt and dust from the floor and apply a primer or adhesive layer and allow it to dry thoroughly. The floor should then be levelled and sanded wherever necessary.

Fitting DESSO carpet tiles

5.1 Preparatory work

Acclimatisation of tiles should take place in conditions as close as possible to those of the building when occupied. Therefore the tiles should be unpacked at least 24 hours prior to installation and allowed to acclimatise at room temperature. The tiles should be installed at a minimum room temperature of 15 °C with a maximum relative humidity of 75%. A floor temperature of at least 10 °C should be maintained. If it is not possible to unpack the tiles fully, open the carton sides to allow air circulation and stack them to a maximum of 8 to 10 boxes high.

5.1.1 Ambient conditions for the installation of carpet with DESSO ProBase and DESSO EcoBase® Backing

The carpet must acclimatise for at least 48 hours in the environment where it will be installed. In this area, the temperature must be between 15 °C and 30 °C, and the relative humidity must be between 30% and 65%. These conditions must also be maintained for at least 48 hours after installation. Only after this time period is it possible to begin using the carpet.

During the installation of DESSO project carpet, a working temperature of at least 15 °C is also necessary. The carpet tiles should be installed with a well-binding tackifier as directed by the relevant supplier. (Ideally carpet tiles should be acclimatised at the temperature and relative humidity at which the carpet will be used.)

5.2 The subfloor

Carpet tiles can be installed on any floor that is smooth, dry, pressure-resistant, clean and protected from damp. Any remnants of previous carpet, felt or underlay must be removed as should any adhesive, dust, grease or polish. Any holes or indentations, joins, cracks or uneven floor areas should be levelled with a good floor filler. Follow the instructions of the manufacturer.

5.2.1 Concrete floors

New concrete must be dry when tested with CM-meter or protimeter: the CM-value may not exceed 3% and the protimeter-value may not exceed 5%. The relative humidity in the room may not be higher than 75%.

5.2.2 Anhydrite floors

The relative humidity in the room may not be more than 75%. Anhydrite floors must be dry. Tested with a CM-meter the value should be no more than 1% and tested with the protimeter the value may not exceed 2%.

5.2.3 Wooden floors

All loose parts must be removed and the surfaces must be levelled. Wooden floors in a poor condition should be re-surfaced using plywood or hardboard sheets. Hardboard sheets (always install rough side up) should be fastened at 15 cm (6") centres, i.e. 15 cm (6") apart, using a spot nailer/stapler. The same method can be used for plywood up to 6 mm thick. Plywood over 6 mm thick should be screwed to the floor at ± 23 cm (9") centres, i.e. ± 23 cm (9") apart. The same goes for chipboard and MDF.

5.2.4 Dusty floors

Dusty surfaces should receive a sealer treatment with a primer and this must be allowed to dry before the application of the recommended tackifier system.

5.2.5 Others floors

Vanished and polished surfaces should be degreased and then roughened by light sanding.

Note: For floors not mentioned refer to the relevant paragraphs in the section *Preparing the subfloors for DESSO Contract carpet*.

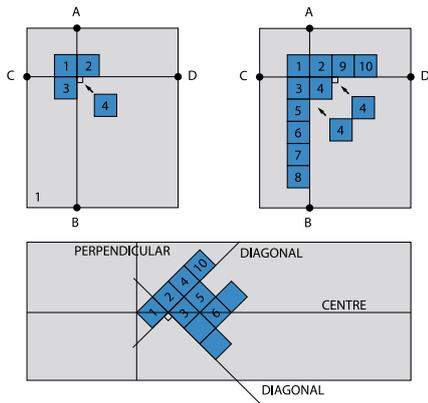
5.3 Important considerations concerning the floor

- All floors should be dry, clean, solid and resistant to compression
- Never install tiles on a sub-carpet or on an existing carpet
- On all floors use 100% anti-slip
- Make sure the anti-slip is well dried before installing the tiles
- When using tape, apply the tape diagonal to the walking direction. If possible, every 2nd row, according to the kind of use and the demands made.
- On computer floors always use conducting anti-slip, so the static electrical personcharge can be led away horizontally/vertically. If necessary lay within every room till max 40 m² a copper band of 1.25 m. transversely underneath the carpet tiles and make sure the copper band is well earthed. In larger rooms use a 1.25 m. copper band for every 40 m².

5.4 Recommendation

Carpet tiles do not require the use of a permanent bond adhesive, gripper or underlay. We recommend the use of an approved tackifier system or anti-slip (which is applied to the whole of the surface area, especially underneath all seams; see the illustration.) Once the tackifier has been allowed to dry the carpet tiles can be placed in position with a hand or knee stretcher. Small areas and individual offices less than 20 m² can be laid with the use of double sided tape underneath all the seams. Consult Tarkett Technical Services about this. Particular attention should be paid to cut tiles forming the perimeter of the area and also to doorways where partial tiles may also feature.

Note: All cut and end tiles should be laid tightly fitting c/q fitting to the wall.



5.5 Guarantee

The installer should notify the manufacturer of any defective material before proceeding with the installation. The manufacturer will be responsible, within the scope of the product guarantees for any defective materials. This refers to material defects identified prior to or during the installation. Tarkett will not be responsible for poor workmanship or problems due to improper installation (see the Appendix with Terms and Conditions).

5.6 Protection during and after installation

Until the area being tiled is completed with all perimeter tiles adhered in position, there should be no walking on, or movement of heavy furniture over the partly completed installation. Once the installation has been completed the surface should be protected particularly if the area is to be used by other trades during final finishing. If heavy use is anticipated prior to occupation, the area should be protected with hardboard suitably taped at the joins and also a flexible sheet material which will prevent the ingress of dust.

5.7 Laying DESSO carpet tiles

Never start installing carpet tiles against a wall. Always start from a calculated point in the room along a perpendicular line or chalk line. In offices start with the corridor and install the rooms afterwards, in order to obtain a good connection. Apply a recommended tackifier to an area convenient in size and once the tackifier has become completely dry, the carpet tiles can be installed in accordance with the illustration. The tiles should be firmly fitted together with a hand stretcher. Be sure that the underbackings are closely together to limit the appearance of joints to a minimum. Care should be taken with cut pile products to avoid trapping edge tufts between the tile joints. The use of hand-knicker ensures that the tiles be butted firmly together: joints will be less visible that way.

5.7.1 Cutting to skirting boards

To ensure a good fit to skirting boards cut the tile using the methods shown in the diagram, and place the cut edge against the skirting board. When calculating the starting point, check to ensure that tiles can be installed without the need for narrow cuts, minimum 10 cm. It may therefore be necessary to adjust the starting point.

5.7.2 Effects

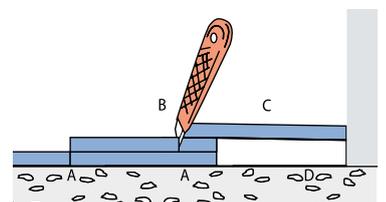
The majority of carpet tiles may be installed to give four different appearances as shown in the diagram; arrows on the back of the tiles indicate lengthwise. On the samplecards and on the tile boxes you find the useable possibility for each type of tile.

5.7.2.1 Quarter-turn appearance

For this effect the tiles should be installed with the pile direction at right angles to the adjacent tile. This type of installation may be necessary for carpet tiels with a short (loop) pile and needle felt or fiber bonded tiles. This type of installation should not be used with cut pile products.

5.7.2.2 Monolithic appearance

Tiles should be installed with the arrows on each tile pointing in the same direction. This type of installation is necessary for most cut and loop pile tiles and for printed qualities. Install the tiles as much as possible traverse to the light or with the arrows in the traffic direction of the room.



5.7.2.3 Brick wise appearance

Tiles should be installed with the arrows on each tile pointing in the same direction, but started at the half of the width of the adjacent tile. This type of installation may be necessary for carpet tiles with a structural design

5.7.2.4 Ashlar appearance

Tiles should be installed with the arrows on each tile pointing in the same direction, but started at the half of the length of the adjacent tile. This type of installation may be necessary for some loop pile carpet tiles.

5.7.3 Raised flooring systems

Raised access flooring systems are normally 600 mm panels. Tarkett is able to supply carpet tiles in the 500 mm format and certain products can be made available in 600 mm. The installation technique will vary dependent on whether 500 mm tiles are laid conventionally as with a normal floor or whether a 600 mm tile is placed over the access floor panels. Either size of carpet tile can be installed over a raised access flooring system using a recommended tackifier. The tackifier should be applied with a roller and care should be taken to ensure that the tackifier stops before the edge of the raised panels. This enables panels to be lifted freely as and when the need arises.

5.7.4 Underfloor heating

Carpet tiles can be installed on floors with underfloor heating, providing the floor surface temperature does not exceed 28 °C. The heating should be reduced at least 48 hours prior to installation. Only 48 hours after installation the heating system slowly may be turned up to the maximum of 28 °C.

5.7.5 Castor chairs

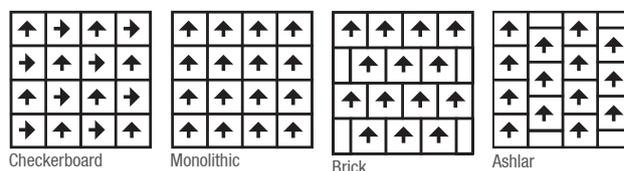
In areas where office furniture has castor wheels it is imperative that the tiles are installed on an all over tackifier system. To prevent damage occurring to the tiles, the castor wheel should have a minimum diameter of 50 mm and be at least 20 mm wide.

5.7.6 Stairs

Carpet tiles are suitable for installation on stairs, if fitted with nosings. The tiles and sections of tiles must be secured with a tackifier system on the treads. The risers can be secured with either a single coat of tackifier applied to the riser or with a second coat applied to the back of the tile which, when allowed to dry, will act like a contact adhesive.

5.7.7 Skirting board

When carpet tiles are used in the vertical plane as a skirting board, the application may need to be approved by a local fire officer.



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