

Altro Ensemble™

Textile backed modular vinyl flooring Installation and maintenance instructions

October 2018

General points

Before installation, make sure that the floor supplied is in good condition. Check the flooring to ensure colour and batch uniformity and that it matches the sample material. If there are any inconsistencies or issues with the modular flooring, please contact us before cutting or installing. Only in these cases will a complaint for faulty material be recognised. Upon receipt of the modular floor, it should be checked to ensure that the quantities and items supplied are correct and reported to Altro if not. Any transport damage should be reported immediately. Cut or installed flooring cannot subsequently be made subject of a complaint.

All relevant national regulations must be complied with when working with Altro floor coverings. When installing modular flooring, the generally recognised rules of the trade must be adhered to and the techniques applied. These can be found in valid standards, for the UK refer to BS 8203:2017, Code of practice for installation of resilient floor coverings and for Australia refer to AS 1884 Floor Coverings - Resilient sheet and tiles – installation practices. For other countries please refer to relevant national standards. Observe the application guidelines issued by the adhesives industry when handling the adhesives and auxiliary materials. Only use installation materials from one and the same manufacturer and product series. Before using any adhesive, users should refer to the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) for correct safety advice and to determine the level of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and RPE (Respiratory Protective Equipment) that is required. A COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) assessment and risk assessment should be carried out before using the adhesive. In the case of contact with eyes or skin, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.

1. Climatic conditions and examination of the subfloor

A room temperature of at least 18°C, a floor temperature of at least 15°C and humidity of between 40 and 65% are necessary for proper installation of the modular flooring. These climatic conditions must be maintained for 3 days before installation work is started, during the work and for up to 7 days following installation.

Subfloors must conform to BS 8203:2017, AS1884 or other relevant national standards. The construction regulations applicable in the respective country of installation must be complied with. The installer must ensure that the subfloor is suitable (dryness, evenness, strength, cleanliness, etc.). Absorbent subfloors and an even surface are prerequisite to proper installation.

2. Installation

The modular flooring is suitable for use in residential and commercial/public buildings (e.g. shop construction, hotels, offices, doctors' surgeries, homes and facilities for senior citizens). This does not apply to installation in wet rooms and certain medical areas that are subject to stricter hygiene requirements, e.g. operating theatres. The modules must be bonded across their entire surface. Depending on the format, different modules may be combined during installation. You can choose from a very wide range of different design options, e.g. herringbone or chessboard pattern.

The stone designs have directional arrows on the back and it is essential that these products are laid in the same direction.

The modular floor must be acclimatised at least 24 hours before installation. For the correct choice of AltroFix™ adhesive, refer to the Altro adhesives data sheets. Excess adhesive should be removed with a cloth and a neutral detergent in the case of acrylic adhesive or with alcohol for two component adhesives. Removal of excess adhesive should be carried out as work progresses and whilst the adhesive is still wet. Do not use contact adhesives that contain solvents under any circumstances. If such adhesives are used, there is a risk that the adhesive will seep through and discolour the flooring surface. If there are any areas where a contact adhesive has to be used, ensure that the flooring is bonded using a solventfree adhesive.

For general areas we recommend the use of a water based acrylic adhesive such as AltroFix 15.

We recommend use of a 2 part polyurethane adhesive such as AltroFix 19 Plus when installing in areas which could be subject to spillages.

The modular floor **MUST** be placed into the adhesive while the adhesive is wet, ensuring there are no gaps and then rolled using a 50 kg roller. The installed flooring surface is rolled once more after approx. 30 minutes.

The modular flooring can be installed over underfloor heating. The temperature at the adhesive line must not exceed 27°C.

The installed surfaces should not be subjected to loads until the adhesive has set completely.

3. Important information

3.1 Wheels, rollers and slides

When used on resilient flooring, office chairs with castors must be fitted with castors of type “W” in accordance with EN 12529. Protective caps / ferrules should be affixed to the underside of the feet of chairs and other items of furniture in order to protect the areas of flooring on which they stand. Make sure that the protective caps / ferrules are perfectly flat and smooth, clean them regularly and replace when worn.

3.2 Sun radiation / sunblinds

In areas subject to higher temperatures (e.g. conservatories), the modular floor must be bonded across its entire surface with a two part polyurethane adhesive. High air and surface temperatures can lead to changes in the adhesive drying times and may also lead to dimensional and colour changes in the modular flooring. These climatic conditions require special measures (ventilation, shading, air conditioning). Areas exposed to intense sun radiation should be fitted with effective sunblinds.

3.3 Residual indentations

Residual indentations can be reduced significantly by selecting appropriate adhesives, use of the recommended quantities of adhesive, choosing the right time to move furniture in and through the use of suitable protective caps / ferrules.

3.4 Discoloration

If Altro floor coverings are in contact with certain types of rubber (e.g. certain types of doormat backing, the feet of chairs or other items of furniture) over a longer period of time, irreversible discoloration of the surface of the flooring may occur. It is therefore essential that nonstaining types of rubber are used.

Cleaning and maintenance

Basics

The contractor must provide the customer with cleaning and maintenance instructions. You can download these from www.altro.com. Correct cleaning and maintenance have a decisive influence on the service life and preservation of the value of the installed flooring. We recommend that the amount of water used for cleaning is kept to a minimum (using only a slightly damp mop) and that leaving puddles of water on the flooring be avoided.

Preventive measures

Soiling can be greatly reduced by providing suitable “walkoff areas” with appropriate door mats at the entrances to buildings. These should have a length of at least 4–6 strides.

Please note: A distinction should always be made between adhesive and nonadhesive dirt. Nonadhesive dirt should be removed using a dry method of cleaning. Loose dust, for example, can be removed simply by brushing or using a vacuum cleaner with a hard floor brush.

1. Final cleaning after installation

Final cleaning after installation must not take place until the flooring adhesive has hardened completely, and no earlier than after 48 hours. This measure is intended to remove all dirt introduced during the construction phase. Red pads and JuliPads can be used with single disc machines.

Please note: Initial treatment is not necessary.

Altro surface finishes are 100 % systems whose polymers are bonded with the wear layer below. This thick layer permanently protects the flooring. Provided proper ongoing maintenance and proper use are ensured, treatment of our floor coverings is not necessary.

The exception to this is pretreatment in hairdressing salons, car dealerships, etc., where the flooring must be sealed with a suitable polyurethane sealant or some other coating such as “Altrogloss 211™”. In the case of hairdressing salons, this prevents hair from damaging the surface and increases the flooring’s resistance to substances that could stain or bleach the flooring material. The application guidelines of the sealant manufacturer must be complied with.

2. Routine cleaning

Routine cleaning should be conducted with a neutral detergent, thoroughly rinsed with warm water and vacuumed dry. It is not recommended that a cleaner / maintainer is used. Alternatively, routine cleaning can be carried out using another certified cleaning agent in accordance with the guidelines as given by the cleaning agent’s manufacturer. These products should not contain any substances that form a film. Switching to a different detergent can have negative repercussions for the cleaning effect. We recommend aligning the cleaning cycles to the accumulation of dirt. The standard technique recommended is two-stage wiping, in which dirt and dust are removed without residue or streaks.

Machine cleaning

The use of a scrubbing / vacuum machine is particularly effective in large buildings. We recommend the use of cleaning machines in combination with microbrush pads to deal with outside areas and hallways. For smaller areas, please use machines with a high suction capacity; they should also be equipped with a constant suction mode when moving forwards or backwards.

Please note: Routine cleaning should be carried out using a microfibre mop in accordance with the manufacturer’s guidelines. As a rule, we recommend using a mop with a working width of 40 cm.

3. Basic cleaning

In the event of basic cleaning becoming necessary due to an excessive introduction of dirt, it can be carried out without further ado in accordance with the instructions of the respective cleaning agent manufacturer.

Removing stains

Stains and scuffs from the soles and heels of shoes that cannot be removed by routine cleaning can be dealt with using suitable stain removers and cleaning techniques.

4. List of cleaning agents

A list of the specific products available from the respective manufacturers for final cleaning, routine cleaning and basic cleaning can be found at www.altro.com. If you have any questions, please contact Altro for technical advice +44 (0) 1462 707600

We accept no liability for the cleaning and care products recommended by the manufacturers as regards effectiveness and fulfilment of expectations. If you have any questions, including regarding sources of supply, please contact the manufacturers directly.

Measures to maintain condition and value

Under certain circumstances, it is possible to apply coatings to the high-quality, UV bonded surface of Altro floor coverings. However, you should always contact the respective cleaning agent manufacturer prior to applying a coating in order to discuss potential options with regard to the products and technologies. In individual cases, the use of coatings can lead to changes in the factory guaranteed properties, such as the slip resistance class, cleaning characteristics and gloss level. Altro will deem any claims arising from such changes to be invalid.

1. Maintaining value in the event of micro-scratches

If the high-quality surface coating applied at the factory exhibits signs of wear (e.g. micro-scratches), suitable measures can be taken to restore the surface and preserve the value of the flooring. In such cases, the surfaces can be restored using suitable coatings.

You can find the latest issue of these “Installation and cleaning instructions” at www.altro.com

Errors and omissions excepted.