

Vinyl and linoleum floor coverings – Amtico, Karndean, Marmoleum, Upofloor etc.



Modern vinyl flooring provides a tough, durable surface that is supplied in many finishes, often to replicate natural products – it is a perfect partner for underfloor heating.

INTRODUCTION

Vinyl and linoleum coverings from companies such as Marmoleum, Amtico and Karndean are widely specified and can provide a high quality, luxury look for traditional or contemporary homes.

Vinyl or polyvinyl chloride flooring, is made from resin combined with plasticizers and stabilizers. In sheet form, a thin layer of material is laid over a foam to provide cushioning or compressed under high pressure.

Linoleum (e.g. Marmoleum) is made using natural materials – often linseed and/or tall oil, limestone, tree rosin, wood flour, natural mineral pigments and jute – which are then combined with a hessian or canvas backing to provide additional strength.

Both can provide a seamless finish and provide a hardwearing floor finish and are suitable for use with all of Nu-Heat's underfloor heating floor constructions.

Sub-floor preparation

Suspended timber

The suspended timber floor deck should be structurally sound, flat, level and securely fixed to the joists.

Solid screed

The sub-floor should be structurally sound, flat and contain an impermeable DPM layer to avoid moisture penetration.

Where applicable, movement joints in the screed floor should be mirrored with an expansion joint in the vinyl, which should not be filled or covered by the floor finish.

Screed and LoPro™10 gypsum panels

The surface of gypsum-based anhydrite screeds and LoPro™10 routed gypsum panel should be primed with EcoPrim T (or equivalent) before applying self-levelling compound.

Preparing the surface of LoPro™

Most vinyl coverings require a mirror-flat finish to stop irregularities in the surface showing through. The easiest way to achieve this is to use a fine levelling compound such as Latex Plan Trade to create a smooth finish – this is installed by the flooring contractor.

Moisture Content

LoPro™ retrofit floor constructions

In most cases a moisture content of 75%RH or below is required when laying marmoleum or vinyl flooring over LoPro™10 or LoPro™Max floors. This will be checked by the vinyl flooring contractor prior to installation.

New-build screed sub-floors

The moisture content of sand and cement screed floors should be checked before installing vinyl flooring. Anhydrite screed floors require specialist attention as they retain more moisture than cementitious screeds. The vinyl flooring contractor must check that the moisture level is below the recommended 75%RH prior to installation.

EcoPrim T and Latex Plan Trade are available from Nu-Heat.

Installation

Marmoleum and vinyl flooring requires acclimatisation to the environment in which it is to be installed. It should be unwrapped and laid flat for a minimum of 24-hours prior to installation. The room temperature should be between 18–26 °C but the underfloor heating should not be used to achieve this.

The underfloor heating should have been tested and switched off 48-hours before installation of the flooring and remain off during installation and for 48-hours afterwards.

Fixing

The adhesive used to fix the flooring should be sufficient to sustain the working temperature of the underfloor heating, maximum 27 °C.

Further information on installing vinyl floor finishes can be found in the LoPro™ Specification Guides and UFH Installation Manuals.

Individual product information sheets are available for Floor Primer and Latex Floor Leveller.