

## Sheet vinyl

Read through these instructions carefully a couple of times before you begin so as to familiarise yourself with the installation procedure.

### You will need:

- dust pan and brush
- broom
- notched trowel or old cement trowel
- angle grinder with thin metal grinding wheel
- tape measure
- straightedge
- Stanley knife and blades
- pen or pencil
- toolbox
- sheet vinyl adhesive
- clean cloth
- mineral turpentine
- brickie's bolster (cold chisel).

### **Sub floor preparation**

When installing sheet vinyl, the most important thing to concentrate on is your sub-floor preparation. If your sub-floor is smooth and clean, the job will progress easily, and your finish will be satisfying.

Concrete sub-floors should be scraped and/or sanded to remove paint, old glue, plaster etc. Pits or holes should be filled with a satisfactory filling compound. See our do-it-yourself instructions on floor-leveller.

Timber sub floors may need Masonite underlay. See our do-it-yourself instructions on Masonite underlay.

### **Installing over particle board or ply wood sub-floors**

If you are installing over a particleboard sub-floor the joins in-between the particleboard sheets are the most important issue to concentrate on. Ideally there should be no movement between one sheet and the next. If you notice movement when you apply weight then you should nail or screw the sheets to the supporting frame until movement is eliminated or negligible.

Next make sure that every nail or screw is below the level of the surface of the sheets this can be done by swinging a flat trowel back and forth over the screws. If a screw head catches on the trowel then it needs to be screwed in deeper or reduced with an angle grinder.

Next apply a suitable leveling compound. (feather finish, base coat 45, ardit or similar). Mix to a moderate consistency, not too runny or dry and apply with a flat trowel and allow to dry. It is more important to make sure that all depressions are filled than to worry about a perfectly smooth application.

Ok, now sand the dried leveling compound. A polivac sanding machine is ideal they can be hired quite easily however a belt sander will work or just a piece of sandpaper and a lot of elbow grease will suffice. The more attention that you pay to the sub-floor preparation the more satisfying the final result will be.

### **Installing the vinyl**

Now lay the vinyl in place and use a tape measure to check that the pattern is running square. If joins are necessary, lay all the sheets in place. Most sheet vinyls have a machine cut joining edge. (Check it for yourself. You may have a pattern that requires you to overlap the two sheets and double-cut.) Run each sheet in the same direction that it came off the roll and butt them together.

Carefully fold back the two sheets away from where they will join then give the sub-floor a final sweep and vacuum (you'd be surprised how much you'll pick up at this stage) and also sweep the back of the vinyl. Don't let the vinyl move, otherwise it won't fall back in the same place.

Spread the adhesive with a 1.6mm notched trowel. You can notch up an old cement trowel with a very fine angle-grinder wheel or a triangular file.

**Tip:** *If you decide to make your own notched trowel, it is easier to make regular, consistent groves if you hold the angle grinder in a secure stationary position with one hand and then move the trowel as you notch with the other.*

Spread the adhesive neatly and **LET IT TACK OFF** for 15-20 minutes. If you can wipe the glue off the floor with your finger, then it's not ready.

Fold the vinyl into the glue and push out the air bubbles with a broom and or on your knees using a wet rag. If there are lots of little bubbles everywhere, then you didn't let the glue tack off enough.

**Tip:** *Bright lights, especially flood-lights will help you see any bubbles. (If you are left with some small stubborn bubbles, don't worry. They will settle as the air creeps down into the sub-floor).*

Trim in against the walls as you go. Crease the vinyl into a tight right-angle against the wall using a brickie's bolster or any smooth, hard tool. Then place a thin straightedge on the floor against the wall and use a sharp Stanley knife to cut the vinyl.

**Tip:** *Practice in a place that won't be seen until you are confident. It's easy.*

Run a small bead of vinyl seam weld (it's clear) along each join. These will take about 20 minutes to harden. (If you skip this stage, your vinyl may shrink back from the join after some time.)

All done! Now be careful replacing the furniture. If you've got heavy appliances to put back in place, lay some Masonite sheets down to protect your new floor as you move the appliances across it. It'll take up to 48 hours to fully harden.

You are now all set and ready to go, enjoy your installation. And enjoy your new floorcoverings. If you get into any trouble, give me a call – 0412 269 495.

Kind regards, David Fisher