

Gerflor

Caralium® laying and cleaning instructions

Caralium® Customer Service: 01926 401 500

Type of surface:

Caralium® is compatible with underfloor heating systems if the temperature is no higher than 27°C.

Code of Practice:

The installation of this product is covered by BS8203 Code of Practice for the Installation of Resilient Floorcoverings.

1 RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT



Caralium®
Adhesive



A2 notched adhesive
trowel



Trimming knife
(professional quality)



Metal ruler



Caralium® grout



Caralium® rubber
spreader



Caralium® high density
foam sponge



Caralium® sponge
grout float



Polyurethane sealant



Caralium® skirting

2 PREPARATION

- The Caralium should be unpacked in the area they are to be installed 24 hours before laying
- Mix up the tiles from 4 –5 boxes to ensure even colour across the floor area
- The pre-defined joint around the tiles may have some cracked areas; this will not affect the grouting
- The floor area must be clear of contaminants and dirt/dust free
- The ambient temperature of the areas to be covered should be at least 18oC 24 hours prior, during and after installation.

3 SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- Caralium® should be installed onto either a cement screed, concrete or Flooring Grade Plywood (WBP)
- All solid subfloors must contain an effective construction damp proof membrane
- The subfloor must be: smooth, level, clean, sound, dry and hard.
- The subfloor must be level:
 - No gap greater than 5mm under a 2 metre straight edge laid on surface of floor (SR2 - BS8204)
 - No gap greater than 1mm under a 0.2 m ruler.
 - Where there is an irregularity, first resurface with a smoothing compound (min. thickness: 3 mm) or use floor grade ply wood.
- The subfloor must be clean:
 - Free of all contaminants including dust, paint traces, nibs of concrete & plaster.
 - Use: a vacuum cleaner, a dust extractor, a broom
- The subfloor must be dry
 - Relative moisture content must be less than 75% RH (as per BS8203) if in doubt
 Seek professional advice.



3 SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- If required a minimum 3mm proprietary water based smoothing compound can be applied (screed/concrete floors) or overlaid with minimum 6mm WBP plywood (wooden subfloors) fixed at 200mm centres.
- Note: Wooden subfloors must not be subject to any flexing or movement.



4 METHOD

Always dry lay before installing

1. Plan/set out tiles
 2. Measure across the width of the room and divide by two
 3. Using this measurement place a line down the middle of the area
 4. Repeat this on the length of the area ensuring the cross line is at right angles to the first line
 5. If by placing the tiles along these lines there are no small cuts along any wall or obstacles then use these as your start point
 6. If there is a small cut then mark a line half a tile width of the tile parallel the original line which will move the start point up or across the area removing the small cut
- Note: The centre of the area is not always the start point

5 ADHERING CARALIUM TILES

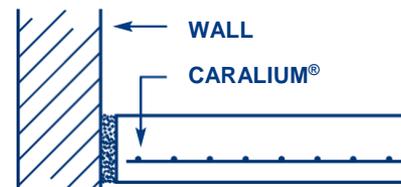
- Leave a minimum expansion gap of 3mm around the perimeter of the room when installing Caralium in a Conservatory, if the subfloor contains an underfloor heating system. The gap can be covered by replacing the skirting boards (skirting boards can also be removed prior to installation), using an appropriate colour matched polyurethane sealant or by installing a quadrant or Scotia profile.

▪ Glueing:

1. Sweep or vacuum the floor to remove all debris
2. Working from the furthest point back towards the doorway apply adhesive evenly over the entire area using an A2 notched adhesive trowel (1 Litre = 3sqm coverage)
3. Allow the adhesive to dry completely (until transparent) approximately 40 minutes depending on room conditions)

▪ Installing Caralium Tiles

1. Lay the first tile along the starting line pressing it down firmly with your hands
2. The second tile can then be placed up to the edge of the first tile aligning the sides and pressed into the adhesive
3. It is essential that the tiles are pressed down firmly from the centre out to the edges to expel any air and assist adhesion.
4. The tiles can be walked on at this stage
5. When the first row is fitted place the tiles along the cross axis line in the same manner as the first row
6. Continue to fit the rest of the floor until all the full tiles are fitted.



6 CUTTING CARALIUM TILES

- Note: a professional style trimming knife must be used. (Do not use a knife with a retractable blade)

1. Place a full tile on top of the tile next to the wall/obstacle
2. Place a tile up to the wall/obstacle, hold in place and score a line with a trimming knife along the front edge.
3. If required score a second time
4. Lift scored tile and apply pressure to scored edge to break along the line
5. If tile requires cutting into L or U shapes score the tile and then drill at the corners. This will avoid breaking the tiles at the corners (deeper scoring will also be required)
6. Any rough edges can then be trimmed smooth with a trimming knife
7. A jigsaw can be used for awkward/tricky shapes
8. All final cuts should be carried out on a cutting board to avoid damage occurring to the fitted tiles
9. Pressure must then be applied over the entire area of the floor. This can be done using a clean garden roller or weighted floor roller
10. Cut & install door profile

7 GROUTING BETWEEN THE TILES

- **Note:**
 - The joints can be grouted as soon as all the tiles and cuts have been installed and the floor rolled.
 - Check that all the tiles are firmly stuck down paying particular attention to the corners of the tiles. If they are not stuck down correctly then lift the corner gently and lightly heat using a heat gun or hairdryer and stick them down again. Apply pressure and re-roll.
 - Allow sufficient grouting and cleaning time. We recommend that you grout up to 1 to 1,5 sqm at a time and then clean any excess grout. (Reduce area if the grout starts to dry quickly on the surface of the tiles)
 - There may be some breaks on the self-spacing edge around the tile. This will not have any detrimental effect on the use of the self-spacing edges.

- **Grout Application**

1. Ensure the gap to be filled is clean and dry
2. Prepare Caralium Grout as per instructions given on the packaging
3. Fill the joints using the scraper provided ensuring that you apply sufficient pressure to force the grout into the spacer
4. Remove any excess by running the scraper diagonally over the joint



- **Important:**

- Do not grout the whole tile. This will make cleaning easier and reduce the amount of grout you use.

- **Finishing the joints**

Caralium Cleaning Kit consisting of:

- 1 x Bucket (fill with water just above the tray)
- 1 x Float Sponge (to clean off any excess grout)
- 1 x Float applicator (to apply grout)
- 1 x Small Sponge (for small areas)
- 1 x Bottle Cleaning Fluid (for cleaning the floor 24 hours after grouting)
- You will also require a rough backed cleaning pad or a rough brush to use with the cleaning fluid



- **Cleaning Procedure**

1. Start at the opposite end of the room and work out of the room towards the doorway grouting 2 sqm at a time
2. After the joints are grouted and the scraper used to remove the excess grout take the sponge float from the bucket and remove any excess water using the rollers
3. Rub the sponge float across the surface of the floor using circular motions being careful not to hollow out the grout by applying too much pressure
4. Avoid getting water into the non-grouted areas
5. Clean the sponge float out using the tray and rollers provided with the bucket and repeat the process across the area until all residue has been removed
6. Any traces of grout visible on the surface of the tiles must be removed

- **Important:**

- Rinse the sponge and change water regularly
- Once this process has carried out over the entire area leave floor to dry for 24 hours and avoid walking on the grouted areas before carrying out the final clean.

- **Final Clean:**

1. Take a rough pad or bristle brush and clean the floor using the cleaning solution provided to remove any residue left from the grout
2. Repeat process if required

- **Note**

- The tiles must be subjected to their final clean within 7 days of the grout being applied. After this time it will be impossible to remove any residue
- The room can be used and furniture put in place 48 hours after the joints have been grouted and the final clean has been carried out.

9 MAINTENANCE

- Dust daily with either a broom or vacuum
- When required wash using a mop and clean water to which a neutral agent has been added (dilution rates must be strictly adhered too), rinse with clean water and dry either naturally or with a cloth
- Wash when required dependant on use
- Please contact Gerflor Technical Department should further information be required
- Stain removal:

Ink, tomato, mustard, blood or beetroot	Diluted bleach or white vinegar. Let it act without rubbing then rinse with throughghly
Rust	Oxalic acid or textile rust remover (rinse throughghly)
Food fats, ball-point or felt pens	White spirit (rinse throughghly)

10 PRECAUTIONS

- It is vital that suitable barrier mattings are used to prevent any dirt and grit being trafficked onto the floor and that these mattings are themselves maintained correctly.
- Warning:
 - Rubber can permanently stain PVC floorcoverings. Avoid using rubber backed mats, rubber furniture feet or rubber wheeled castors.
 - Do not use acetone or chlorine solvents
 - Do not use wax products or varnish
 - Use felt pads/cups under the legs of heavy furniture

11 TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Open 9am—12pm & 1.30pm—5.30pm Monday to Friday

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