INSTALLING RESILIENT FLOOR COVERINGS (BBKL 1)

INTRODUCTION

Resilient floor coverings are floorings produced from elastic binding agents with different chemical structures, material compositions and manufacturing processes, and for special applications. Resilient floor coverings were developed at the end of the 19th century/beginning of the 20th century (linoleum around 1860, rubber around 1930, PVC around 1935). The floor coverings can be distinguished by their top layer material and their structure (homogeneous or heterogeneous). They are offered as sheet material, in the form of tiles, panels or planks. A definition of terms can be found in DIN EN 14266, 1998-06 "Resilient floor coverings: Terms". The most commonly found resilient floor coverings mainly include:

- ✔ PVC
- ✔ Linoleum
- ✔ Cork
- ✔ Elastomer or rubber coverings

SPECIAL FEATURES

The various forms in which they are supplied also differentiate between the type of installation. While sheet material is usually bonded over its entire surface, there are now also tile, panels or plank floor coverings which have a click connection familiar from laminate or engineered parquet flooring. As an alternative to bonding, some manufacturers recommend that you "only" fix your floor coverings or a few of them even lay them as floating floors.

NOTES ON BONDING RESILIENT FLOOR COVERINGS

Installers must comply with their inspection obligations in accordance with DIN 18365 "Floor covering work". The substrate must be inspected for planarity, sufficient strength and suitable substrate moisture. The ambient climatic conditions must also be checked.

Suitable substrates are all common types of screed, old substrates (free of old adhesive and levelling compound residues) and wood-based panels. As a rule, substrates should be prepared by sanding, priming and leveling before bonding. Our product range includes suitable laying materials such as STAUF primers and levelling compounds.

After proper installation of the primer and levelling compound, installation work can begin. It is recommended that after applying the levelling compound, it is sanded with a single-disc grinder with a suitable grit size, usually 40 to 80. On the one hand, this results in a better absorption effect of the levelling compound (thus better adhesion of the dispersion adhesives), on the other hand, any inclusions formed during filling are removed and a very even and optimum levelling compound surface is obtained.

The floor coverings should be stored in the room where they are to be laid for about 24 hours before installation so that they can adapt (acclimatise) to the conditions there. To do so, sheet material is roughly laid out in the room, while panels, tiles and planks are preferably placed in the centre of the room. After acclimatisation, the sheet material is roughly cut with a suitable floor laying knife. Seams are always re-trimmed, and factory edges should never be butted together (for detailed information, refer to the installation instructions supplied by flooring manufacturers). After rough cutting, the adhesive is applied.

Depending on the type of flooring, you will find a suitable dispersion-based adhesive, as well as STAUF universal dispersion-based adhesives and special adhesives for specific requirements (see technical data sheets at www.stauf.info). The sheets are now folded over parallel to the seam approximately into the centre of the room. The adhesive is applied to the levelling compound with a suitable STAUF notched trowel. In the centre of the room, care should be taken to ensure that the adhesive ends at a straight line so that overlaps of the adhesive applied are avoided when bonding the second half of the room. For this purpose, it has proved useful to draw a straight line (chalk line) or to apply adhesive tape to the levelling compound, which is then removed again after the adhesive has been applied. Voids and globs of glue are to be avoided. After the flash-off time of the adhesive has passed (depending on the product used), the flooring can be placed in the adhesive bed. The flooring must be rolled on with a section roller or rubbed down with a cork block under suitable pressure. Finally, the flooring is fine-cut. The other half is bonded using the same procedure. The adhesive is applied up to the existing clean adhesive edge. After a period of about 45 minutes after the first rolling on or rubbing down, the floor should be rubbed down or rolled on again. The joints must not be welded or fused until approximately 24-48 hours after bonding.

Panels, tiles and planks should be installed in individual rows or areas. The orientation of the materials laid in the room should be taken into account. The adhesive must be applied so that the bonded surface can also be laid within the specified open times. Voids and glue globs must be avoided. After the flooring has been laid in place, taking into account the specified flash-off time, the flooring must also be rolled on or rubbed down immediately and

again approximately 45 minutes later.
In areas such as conservatories, with increased thermal stresses, or wetrooms, with increased exposure to moisture, it is necessary to use 2-component reactive adhesives such as STAUF R 105. In this case, please decide on products after consultation with STAUF applications engineers.

SUBFLOORS

- ✔ Cement-based (floating) screed
- ✔ Calcium sulphate (self-levelling) screed
- ✔ Sanded mastic asphalt
- ✔ Pre-mixed screeds, installation panels, (V100,OSB)

PRIMER

- ✔ Dispersion primers: STAUF VDP 130, STAUF VDP 160, STAUF D 54
  Reactive primers: VPU 155 S sanded, VEP 195 sanded or with VDP 160 primed, WEP 180 sanded or primed with VDP 160 (barrier against residual moisture only for cement screeds)

LEVELLING COMPOUND

- ✔ Cement-based levelling compounds: STAUF XP 10, STAUF AS, STAUF XP 20, STAUF XP 40, STAUF SSP Rapid
- ✔ Gypsum-based levelling compound: STAUF GS

FLOORING ADHESIVES/ FIXATIVES

- ✔ Universal adhesives: STAUF D 6, STAUF D 20, STAUF D 37
- ✔ Special adhesives: STAUF D 5, STAUF D 8, STAUF D 11, STAUF D 50
- ✔ Fixatives: STAUF D 70, STAUF CT-Fix

Special products: STAUF R 105, STAUF D 3-L