

Installation Guidelines for OBEX™ Tiles: CutX, Cut, Loop

Comfort Lite Cushion Backing Installation Instructions

General

These instructions are not intended as a comprehensive guide to modular tile installation, however point out areas where recommendations may differ from other methods.

The installation contractor is responsible for reasonable inspection of the product prior to installation and for maintenance of dye lot integrity during installation. Milliken will not be responsible for visible defects after the OBEX™ Tiles have been installed.

Temperature & Storage

Store materials in a clean, warm, dry and well-ventilated place, kept in original packing until conditioning commences.

The floor temperature should be a minimum of 15°C. OBEX™ Tiles should be conditioned at a temperature between 15 and 25°C for a minimum of 24 hours prior to installation. Before, during and after laying, maintain temperatures and humidity approximately at levels which will prevail after the building is occupied.

Floor Preparation

The sub floor should be flat, hard and dry. It should be free from dirt, grease or other contaminants.

There is no chemical incompatibility between Comfort Lite backing and any existing floor covering adhesive, or floor material. The only requirement is to smooth the old adhesive layer until residual trowel notches are less than 1mm. All floor preparation is the responsibility of the installer.

For installation with under floor heating, the temperature of the floor must not exceed 28°C. The heating must be turned off 48 hours before laying the OBEX™ Tiles.

When modules are to be laid on new wet-laid bases, ensure that the drying aids have been turned off for no less than 4 days. Then, test the moisture content using an accurate calibrated hygrometer in accordance with BS5325 A or BS 8203 appendix A, as recommended by the Contract Flooring Association. Take readings in

OBEX™ | Milliken™ Entrance Flooring

various points over the area being tested. Do not lay coverings until all readings show 75% relative humidity or less.

Adhesive

When OBEX™ Tiles are to be installed over raised access floors, or where it is anticipated that OBEX™ Tiles will be regularly uplifted, it is recommended to use a release adhesive or tackifier as per list below.

The release adhesive is designed to allow modules to be removed from the floor - they are not permanently adhered. The adhesive must be allowed to dry completely before OBEX™ Tiles are installed. The adhesive is dry when no transfer of adhesive to the module backing occurs when a module is firmly pressed into the floor and then removed.

In areas of heavy traffic and on ramps etc, we recommend the use of F.Ball Styccobond F40 Carpet Adhesive or an equal and approved alternative to prevent lateral movement during installation.

Adhesive should be applied using a short nap paint roller or notched trowel. In instances when the sub floor is undulating, the notched trowel method should be used. A full spread of adhesive is required for optimum performance and spread rate must be according to manufacturer's recommendations.

Use of red chalk or over-spraying lines with a clear lacquer allows adhesive to be spread over the chalk line - ensuring complete coverage of the area. Do not allow coloured chalks to come into contact with the carpet.

On access flooring, care should be taken not to allow adhesive to penetrate the access flooring joints - it is good practice to stay 25mm away from access panel joints.

Recommended adhesives to be used

Manufacture	UZIN	BOSTIK	MAPEI	F.BALL
Release bond (Glue stays soft when dry - allowing easy product release)	Universal tackifier		Ultrabond Eco 810	F41
Permanent bond (Glue becomes hard when dry - making product release difficult)	KR430 KE2000S	PowerElastic GreenFusion 2	Ultrabond G 21 Ultrabond Eco 560 Ultrabond G 19	F45 F61
Vertical bond (for use on vertical surfaces such as steps or stairway)	WK222	PowerElastic GreenFusion 2	Ultrabond G 21 Ultrabond Eco 560 Ultrabond G 19	F61

OBEX™ | Milliken™ Entrance Flooring

Note: Milliken and Company and its Flooring Division is not responsible for the use and applications of these products, and for potential direct or consequential damage that could occur during or after product installation. Please refer to the adhesives manufacturer's product and safety datasheets for information.

If you have any queries, please contact Customer Services on +44 1942 612999.

Stairs and Vertical Surfaces

A permanent contact-type adhesive should be used and applied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Water-based contact adhesives, such as F.Ball Styccobond F66 or Laybond Quickstick Green are now available. They are a significant improvement from a health, safety and environmental viewpoint (compared to solvent-based contact adhesives).

Nosings must be used when installing OBEX™ Tiles on stairs.

Method for uplifting or removing OBEX™ Tiles

When using a thin-bladed, flexible palette knife, slip the blade between the joints at one corner until you strike the floor. Slide the blade under the cushion, ensuring that the blade is between the floor and the underside of the OBEX™ Tile. Then, lift one corner (this will allow the OBEX™ Tile to be lifted without separation of the cushion).

Layout

The starting point should be near to the centre of the area and chosen to give maximum perimeter cut module size.

A chalk line should be snapped parallel to the major wall, and the second chalk line exactly at the right angles.

Chalk line Application

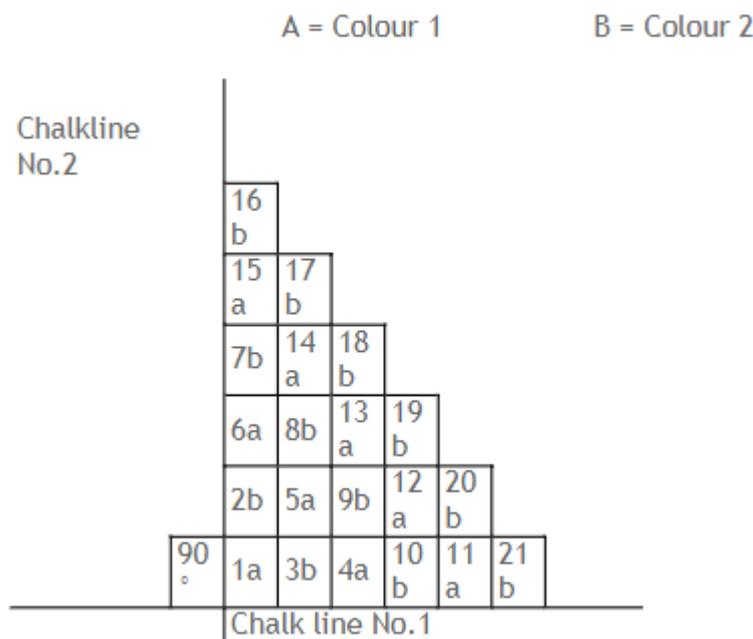
Once floor preparation is complete and the floor is thoroughly mopped, two working chalk lines must be applied to the floor to ensure a straight, square, and properly aligned installation. These chalk lines intersect at the starting point and are exactly 90° to each other.

OBEX™ | Milliken™ Entrance Flooring

Monolithic - Arrows on the back indicate pile direction. These should all be in the same direction, unless otherwise specified. Modules should be slid into position from the side to avoid trapped tufts. Tiles should be butted tightly together to ensure good seams. Wherever possible, install modules with the arrows pointing along, not across, the heaviest trafficked walkway. It is important for subsequent maintenance of OBEX™ Tile.

Modules should be installed starting from the centre, using the pyramid method. Modules must exactly follow the chalk lines.

The pyramid method is illustrated below, with colours to be installed as indicated:-



Installation - Half Drop Layout

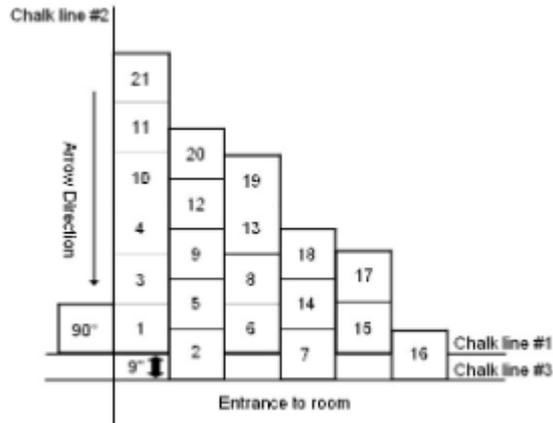
The starting point should be near to the centre of the area and selected to give maximum perimeter cut module size. A chalk line should be snapped parallel to the major wall, and the second chalk line exactly at the right angles.

Chalk line #3 should then be snapped parallel to Chalk line #1, 228mm below it.

Modules should be installed starting from the centre, using the pyramid method. Modules must exactly follow the chalk lines.

OBEX™ | Milliken™ Entrance Flooring

The pyramid method is illustrated below: -



Installation - Brick Layout

Follow the method as per Half Drop, but with arrow directions at 90°.

General Notes

Modules should be slid into position from the side to avoid trapped tufts.

OBEX™ Tiles should be butted tightly together to ensure good seams.

Arrows on the back indicate pile direction. These should all be in the same direction, unless otherwise specified.

Wherever possible, install modules with the arrows pointing along, not across, the heaviest trafficked walkway. It is important for subsequent maintenance of OBEX™ Tiles.

Milliken will not accept liability for any issues relating to poor fitting of the OBEX™ Tiles.

Post installation Protection and Clean-Up

OBEX™ Tiles should be protected by heavy plastic sheets, with joints taped. Do not tape directly to the OBEX™ Tiles, since tape adhesive residues can be difficult to remove.

Plywood or hardwood must be used to protect OBEX™ Tiles where heavy furniture or supplies are moved through the installation.

OBEX™ Tiles may be cleaned prior to handover using a rotating brush-type vacuum cleaner, such as the 360, and Capture dry soil extraction powder.

Adhesive residues may be removed from the OBEX™ Tile pile using a solvent such as Prochem Solval (used according to the manufacturer's instructions).

Installation Instructions for OBEX™ Tiles with TractionBack®

General

Except where exceeded or modified by this instruction, Milliken recognizes a comprehensive guide to subfloor preparations is contained in the Contract Flooring Association “Guide to Installation of Floor coverings.”

The Installation contractor is responsible for reasonable inspection of the product prior to installation and for maintenance of dye lot integrity during installation. Milliken will not be responsible for visible defects after the OBEX™ Tiles have been installed.

OBEX™ TILES WITH TRACTIONBACK® ARE DESIGNED TO BE INSTALLED WITH NO ADHESIVE.

To be functional, this backing system requires very stringent floor preparation guidelines to be followed. This makes it even more important for a qualified installation contractor to install this product. As a first preference, Milliken strongly recommends the use of a Milliken Certified Installation Contractor to install its products.

When working with TractionBack it is necessary to move across the newly placed modules very carefully until the installation can be locked in at the perimeter. Some Milliken products require specific installation methods (quarter turned etc.) to achieve the desired appearance. Always consult your Milliken representative or contact customer services if there are questions.

Floor Preparation

The following are guidelines:

Financial responsibility for bringing any floor into conformance with these guidelines must be determined prior to beginning work. The installation contractor cannot be held responsible for structural problems with the sub floor.

Sub-floor must be structurally sound, clean, dust-free, smooth and level. Cracks and holes in excess of 3.2mm should be filled with a floor patching material, such as Latex screed from an approved supplier, or Ardex “Featherfinish” (or similar). Gypsum based compounds are not recommended.

Milliken modular TractionBack is non-reactive and contains no P.V.C. or plasticizers. This greatly simplifies the floor preparation process, and in the vast majority of cases, eliminates the necessity of old adhesive removal.

OBEX™ | Milliken™ Entrance Flooring

No chemical incompatibility exists between Milliken modular tiles with TractionBack and any existing floor covering adhesive. This includes “cutback”, asphalt emulsion, general-purpose adhesive, epoxy, and any other commonly found flooring adhesives.

The only physical requirement for existing adhesive films is that they be smooth, non-tacky, and that residual trowel notches be reduced to 0.8mm or less. In most cases, the removal of the existing floor covering accomplishes this. For TractionBack to effectively prevent lateral movement, it is NECESSARY for ALL dust to be removed from the floor.

A thorough mopping is required prior to the installation of TractionBack.

In cases where modular carpet is removed prior to installing OBEX™ Tile with TractionBack, very little preparation is required. The existing film of pressure-sensitive adhesive will not interfere with the TractionBack®. Pre-test several tiles to ensure they will release from the old adhesive prior to installing large areas. If smoothing of the residual adhesive layer is required and the adhesive is black (cutback or asphalt emulsion) smoothing must be accomplished by applying a very thin layer of one of the above patching compounds.

NEVER scrape, sand or mechanically abrade any exposed black adhesive or any existing resilient floor. These may contain asbestos.

If residual adhesive is not black, scrape or sand until smooth and non-tacky, as required above, and follow with a thorough mopping. Some new towelled sand cement screeds may require sealing prior to installation of TractionBack - we recommend a small trial to determine suitability.

Protruding objects must be removed. Floor must be flat (not undulating) to within 6mm across 3.5m with no abrupt changes. This is crucial when it comes to TractionBack, as there can be no differential adjustment of corner alignment, which is possible when a general coverage of adhesive is present.

OBEX™ Tiles must be conditioned to between 15°C and 32° for a minimum of 24 hours prior to and during installation.

Floor temperature should be at least 15°C for optimum performance of TractionBack.

If your sub floor is contaminated with an oily residue, either from removal of “cutback” during asbestos abatement or from a previous end use such as metal fabrication, this residue MUST be totally removed or covered prior to applying modular adhesive and OBEX™ Tile. If residual adhesive (“cutback” or general purpose) has been damaged/reactivated by previously installed PVC backed

Transitions and Stairs

Appropriate transition strips **MUST** be installed wherever there is potential for an edge to be exposed, or where Milliken product finishes to another flooring type. The total thickness of Comfort Lite backed products requires a transition treatment capable of accepting the tiles without the necessity of modifying or adapting the edge. A proprietary nosing will be required for edge protection for Comfort Lite backed products. These are available from Gradus, equivalent products from other manufacturers are also acceptable.

For best long-term performance on stairs, a nosing should be applied to each step with modules cut to fit on both the tread and the riser. This method of installation on stairs protects OBEX™ Tiles from receiving the impact present at the nose and helps in holding the riser piece in place. Generally, a permanent adhesive is also used to adhere the riser piece to ensure that the tiles stay in place.

Use of improper and/or inadequately installed transition treatments will result in edge failure. Selection and installation of these products is the responsibility of the installation contractor.

Should Comfort Lite/TractionBack be installed in areas over which heavy wheeled equipment is used, we would recommend that modules be fully bonded under such circumstances.

The above instructions represent the best available data and are deemed to be correct and complete, however, Milliken assumes no liability for installation related problems.