Specification Sheet No	IG 26B	Description	VINYL FLOORING TO WALL CLADDING IN SHOWERS & GENERAL	Date	JUNE 2023

INSTALLATION GUIDE

RECEIPT & STORAGE

On receipt of rolls

> Check that colours correspond to those ordered, that quantities are correct and that there is no damage.

> In particular, check that rolls are from one batch, if that was requested on the order.

> On arrival at site, the rolls should be safely secured in an upright position and stored, together with the adhesive, at a minimum temperature of 18°C for at least 24 hours before laying.

> Inflammable adhesives require special storage conditions. Contact the adhesive manufacturer or see current literature for details.

> To achieve best results, site conditions should be as described in BS8203. A working temperature of between 18°C and 27°C is required for at least 24 hours prior to, and during, the laying period and for 24 hours afterwards. Conditioning areas and laying areas should be of similar temperature, to prevent thermally induced dimensional changes.

PREPARATION OF WORK AREA

FIRE RATING - The substrate should be either bare plaster or plasterboard composition to achieve a Class 'O' fire rating*.

> The wall surface must be smooth, sound, clean and dry.

> All paint, oil, grease, dust, and any other contaminants liable to impair adhesion must be removed, prior to application of the wall-cladding.

> Plaster and plasterboard are ideal substrates. * The Class 'O' fire rating as defined in the UK Building Regulations for vinyl to walls and ceilings.

KEY POINT

It is advisable to use a waterproof barrier on the floor and walls prior to installing the floor sheeting or wall cladding.

A smoothing compound should be applied over the waterproofing barrier to ensure a smooth screed/wall. *Product recommendation and application methodology to be secured from supplier.*

Once the screed is dry, the sheeting can be primed using QAN 439M to the back of the sheeting. Allow to dry. Apply BAN 523 contact adhesive to both the back of the sheeting and the floor/wall to ensure that you get a good bond. Cove the sheeting at least 5cm up the wall.

INSTALLATION

> Prime the areas of plastered wall with a primer, as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer, and allow to dry completely.

> Mark the first vertical line on the wall using a plumb line. Use only pencil for marking the wall and vinyl.

> Cut the vinyl sheet to size, allowing a small amount for cutting in.

> Apply a recommended contact adhesive 150mm wide at the top edge of the wall, adjacent to the ceiling and corresponding to all pressure points, such as external and internal angles and coved radius.

> Prior to placing the vinyl into position, and to give extra support, it will be necessary to apply a recommended contact adhesive to the back of the vinyl, approximately 150mm deep at the top edge, and corresponding to the pressure points, such as external and internal angles and coved radius. Allow to become touch dry before applying the vinyl.

> Roll up the vinyl with the face innermost, and with the decoration running either vertically or horizontally, dependent on the size of roll, wall, and application preference.

> Spread a further coat of recommended adhesive as directed by the adhesive manufacturer, to the prepared wall surface.

> When ready, and working to the vertical line on the wall, apply the vinyl to the line, ensuring there are no ripples or run outs.

> Roll the entire area using a flooring grade hand roller, from the centre outwards, to exclude air. A second rolling will be necessary.

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SUGGESTED INSTALLATION METHOD

External angles

To enable the wall covering to be formed around external corners, it will be necessary to fit and adhere 'Polyflor Ejecta EFA75' corner cap profile to all external corners.

> Fit and adhere the EFA75 corner cap profile to all external corners. Use a recommended contact adhesive to secure the EFA75 and press firmly.

> When all the corner cap profile is fixed, apply contact adhesive to the surface and to 150mm either side of the corner edge. Allow to become touch dry before applying the vinyl sheet.

> Apply contact adhesive to the corresponding area on the back of the vinyl and allow to go touch dry before installing.

Internal angles

To enable the wall covering to be formed around internal corners, it will be necessary to fit and adhere 'Polyflor Ejecta' cove former to all internal corners.

> Fit and adhere the cove former to internal corners and at the junction of the ceiling and top of the wall. Use a recommended contact adhesive and press firmly. First, fit the mitres in the corners, and at the junction of the ceiling and top of the wall. For ease of use, short lengths of approximately 300mm are recommended.

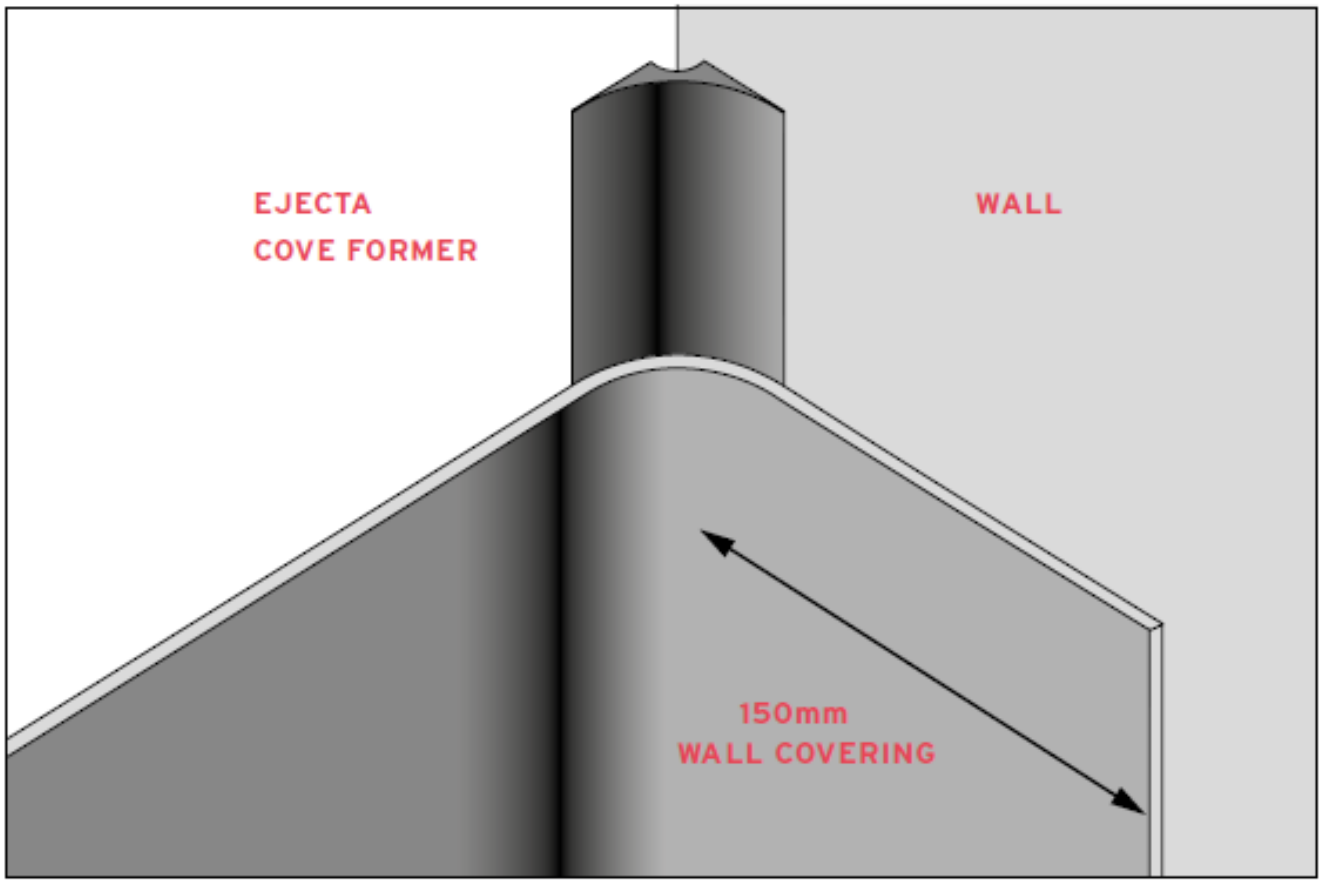
> When all corners are completed, fit, and adhere the longer straight lengths, using the same method. When all the cove former is fixed, apply contact adhesive to the face of the cove former and 150mm either side of the corner edge. Allow to become touch dry before applying the wall covering.

> Apply contact adhesive to the corresponding area on the back of the sheet and allow to go touch dry before installing.

> All joints should be heat welded on completion, allowing at least 24 hours after fitting for sufficient moisture to dry out of the adhesive. Finally, trim welds when cold to prevent sunken welds.

KEY POINT

Do not attempt to take large pieces of wall covering around corners. The walls may not be vertical or square and can cause a runoff or possible rucking of the vinyl at the next seam. In these instances, work to 150mm around the corner.



Overlap method

In addition to the traditional method of abutting the wall covering to vinyl flooring we are now able to recommend the overlap method of installation for Polyflor wall cladding in conjunction with 2mm barefoot and shod Polysafe floor coverings. This method of installation ensures a watertight finish from floor to ceiling in areas where levels of hygiene may be critical.

Using a Cove Former (A), cove the Polysafe flooring (B) 150mm up the wall.

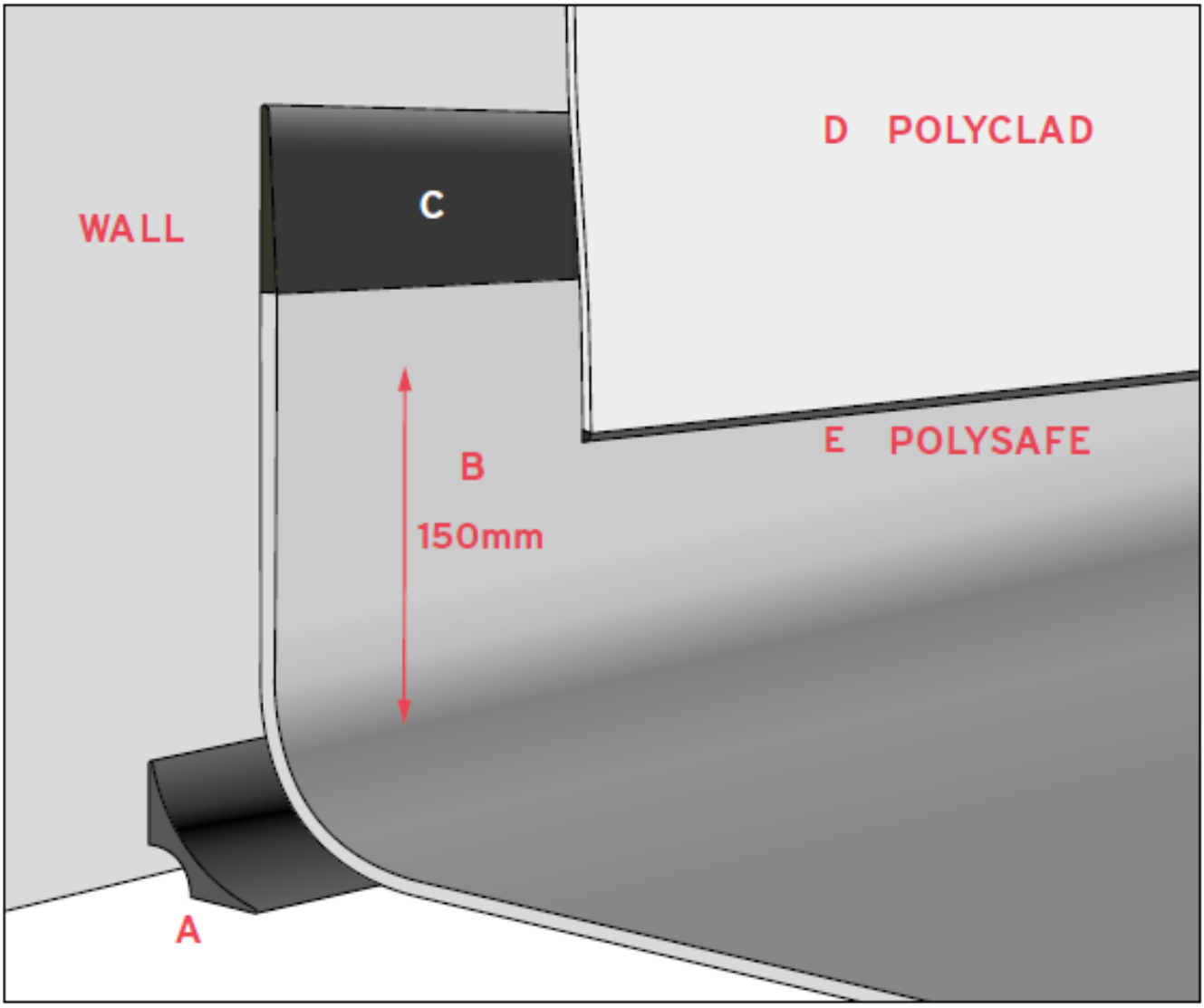
> Using a Diminishing Strip (C), abut the top of the floor covering.

> Stick the diminishing strip to the wall with a contact adhesive.

> The wall covering is adhered to the diminishing strip with a contact adhesive and over the floor covering to the required height.

> A minimum overlap of 50mm is recommended.

> Double sticking the product ensures a strong bond. The bottom edge is sealed with a heavy-duty silicone sealant (E).



Abutment of flooring vinyl to wall cladding:

Cut in the top and bottom edges of each strip to suit the adjoining material. A choice of three methods is recommended.

Method 1

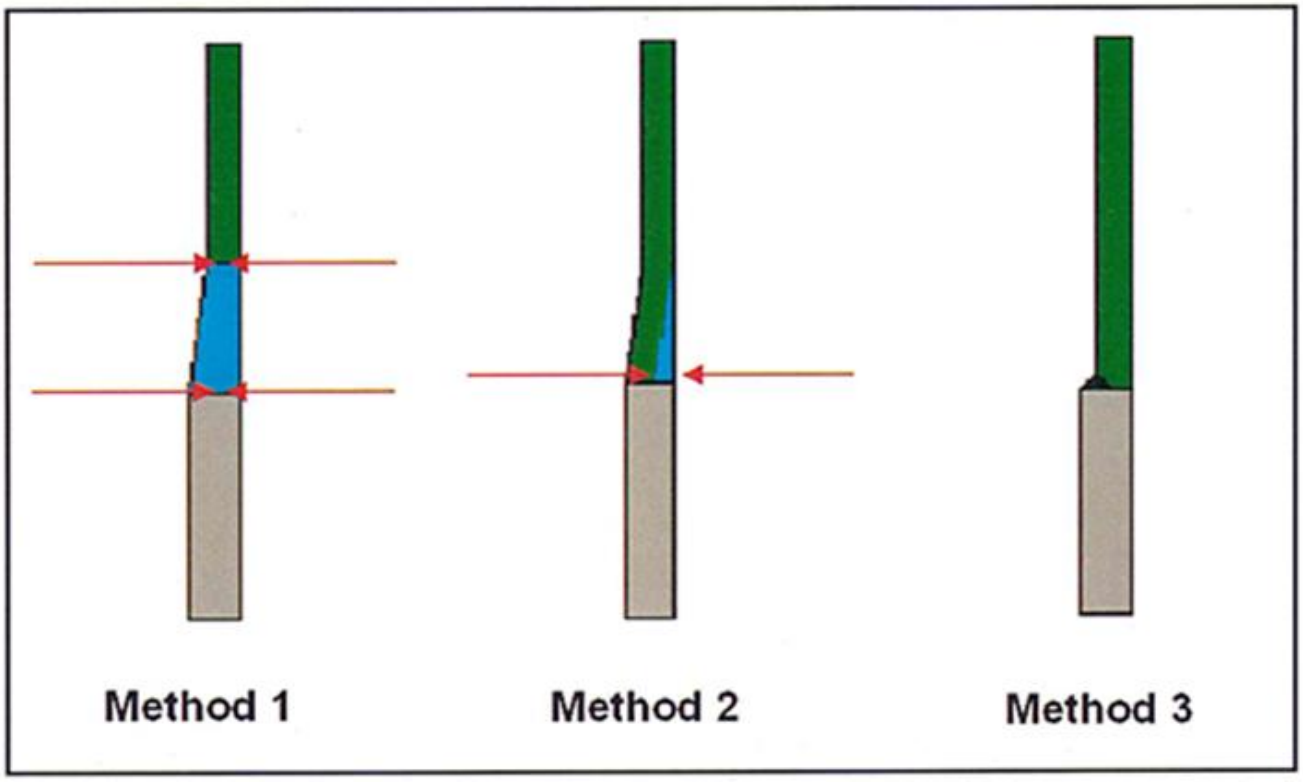
Using a diminishing strip, cut off the toe to reduce to the required gauge. The diminishing strip can then be stuck to the wall with contact adhesive. The Polyclad is then cut to abut the top edge of the diminishing strip.

Method 2

Using a diminishing strip, cut off the heel so that the thickest part of the section is the required gauge. Stick this to the wall, sitting on top of the vinyl, with a contact adhesive. The Polyclad can now be stuck over the strip using contact adhesive and the bottom edge cut to abut to the vinyl. This joint can now be grooved and welded as described in the section below.

Method 3

The Polyclad and vinyl are simply butted together. The joint can then be grooved and welded. Trimming must be carried out with an “Exacto” tool as the normal spatula trimming knife will remove some of the vinyl sheet.



Welding

HEAT WELDING

Heat welding of vinyl floor coverings has been used successfully for many years and employs the technique of heating both the vinyl flooring and the vinyl welding rod to a sufficient temperature to melt and fuse them together. The procedure is the same for both sheet and tile installation with the exception that the edge of the tiles do not require cutting in prior to grooving.

CUTTING IN THE SEAMS

Factory edges should never be butted together but should be overlapped and cut by one of the following methods:

Using Seam Cutters

>>Polyflor recommends that the sheet is overlapped at the seams by a minimum of 25mm.

>>Set the first cutter to the thickness of vinyl sheet. Using the factory edge as a guide, trim off 6mm along the length. Where it is not possible to use the seam cutter against the wall, or in other areas of restricted access, use a straight edge and straight bladed knife held squarely to the floor.

>>Set the second cutter to the thickness of vinyl sheet. Using the edge previously cut on the top sheet as a guide, cut through the bottom sheet. Remove the scrap piece of material.

Using a Recess Scriber

>>Prior to overlapping the vinyl sheet, trim off the factory edge on the bottom sheet. This is best done by striking a chalk line, then – using a utility knife and straight edge – cut through to remove the scrap piece.

>>Overlap the top sheet and then trace the bottom edge onto the top sheet with a correctly set recess scriber.

>>To highlight the scribed line, rub some chalk dust into the surface. Trim the top sheet to the scribed line.

Double Cut

>>Using a straight edge and keeping the utility knife upright, cut through both layers to ensure there is a tight seam.

>>Once the seam is cut, discard the waste material, and check the final appearance.

GROOVING THE SEAMS

Prior to welding, some of the material must be removed from the seam, creating a groove profile that will accept the vinyl welding rod. We recommend the 'U' shape profile. This leaves a semi-circular groove in the vinyl and should extend into the vinyl for 2/3 of its thickness.

MANUAL GROOVING

KEY POINT: The groove on foam backed ranges such as Acoustic and Sports flooring should only be cut in the vinyl wear layer; NOT cut through to the PVC foam backing.

>>Place the centre of the grooving tool over the centre of the seam.

>>Bring up the straight edge to touch the side of the grooving blade and align the straight edge, maintaining an even distance from the seam.

>>Pulling the tool towards you, groove to the required depth. Move the straight edge as required and repeat until the whole seam is grooved.

>>Sweep well to remove any dust and trimmings from the groove.

POWERED GROOVING

>>Set the blade to the correct depth of cut.

>>Align the guides with the cut seam. Press the cutter into the full depth of cut and then move forward following the cut seam.

>>Use hand tools to complete grooves next to walls, skirtings etc.

>>Sweep well to remove any dust and trimmings from the groove.

>>Never use a powered grooving machine with a standard blade on Polysafe safety vinyl sheet ranges. The silicon carbide and aluminium oxide particles will destroy the blade. A diamond blade is commonly used on Polysafe floor coverings.

PRIOR TO WELDING THE SEAMS

Before commencing heat welding Polyflor recommends leaving the adhesive to set for a minimum of 24 hours. This should ensure the adhesive does not bubble up when heat is applied; bubbling will adversely affect seam strength.

WELDING THE SEAMS

KEY POINT: Ensure a constant rate of welding. Moving slowly will 'burn' the vinyl and moving quickly will not fuse the welding rod. The finished width of the weld may also vary and detract from the appearance.

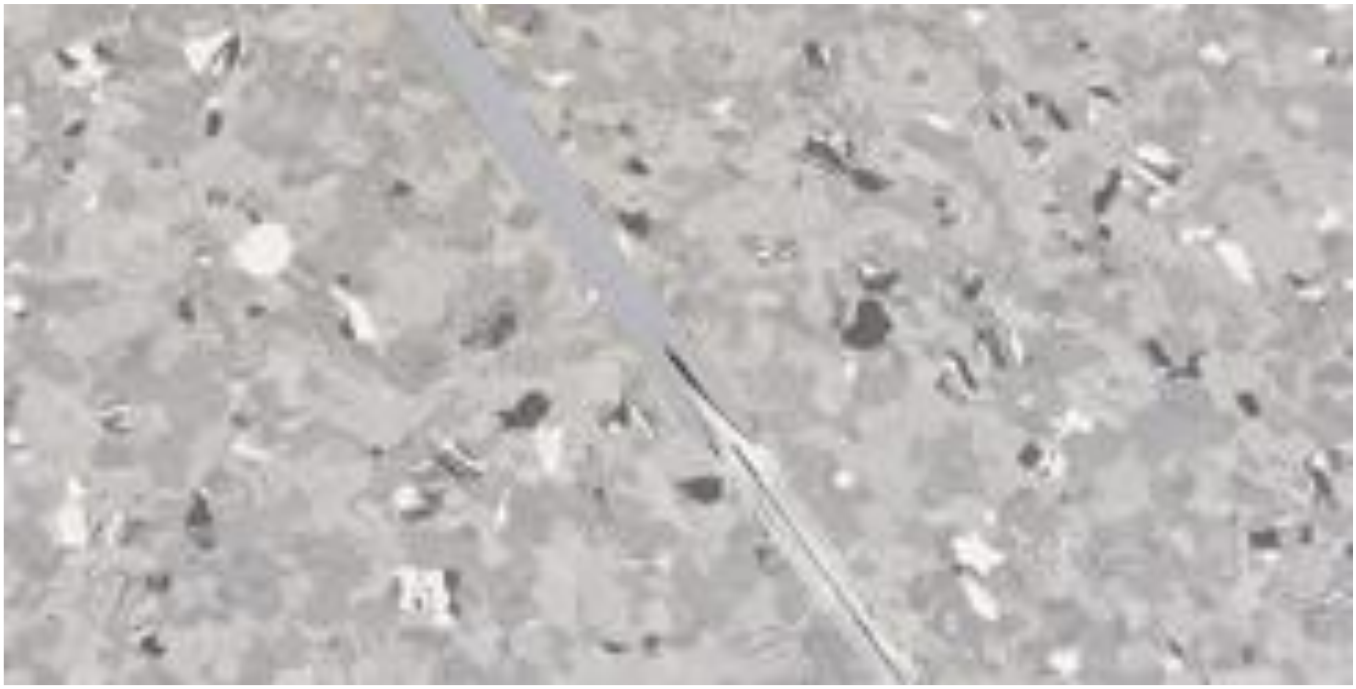
>>Ensure nozzle attachment is free of debris — clean with a wire brush.

>>Pre-heat the welding gun to a setting appropriate to both the material and the site conditions ensuring that the nozzle is pointing upwards during this pre-heat period.

>>Try out the welding rod on a scrap of material to ensure the temperature is correct and that fusion is taking place. Adjust accordingly. When you are satisfied that the temperature is correct, you can proceed to weld the joint.

>>Place the welding rod into the nozzle aperture. Starting as close as possible to the end of the room, press the welding rod down into the groove with the nozzle attachment, the toe of which should be parallel to the vinyl surface. Pull the gun towards you whilst maintaining the downward pressure. Ensure the gun is kept square to the floor. With your spare hand, alternately check the weld security and that the welding rod is feeding freely.

>>Typically, you would start welding from the edge of the room towards the centre. At this stage, pull the gun away from the groove and cut off the welding rod. Using a trimming tool and guide trim off the excess welding rod. Commence welding as before, from the opposite end of the room. Run out the weld into the pre-cut 'V' and cut off the excess welding rod.



>>Where Ejecta set-in skirtings are used, the horizontal seam between the skirting and the Polyflor sheet should be hot welded as described previously however the vertical joints and mitres should not be hot welded; simply neatly abutted/scribed.

TRIMMING THE WELD – Spatula or Mozart Tool

KEY POINT: Polyflor foam backed vinyl sheet flooring is liable to compression and sometimes, even after the final trim, the weld is proud of the floor. In this case using a Mozart trimming tool in preference to a traditional spatula is advisable.

Prior to commencing, it is advisable to ensure that your preferred trimming tool has a sufficiently sharp and properly defined blade profile. This keen edge will make trimming easier and minimise the risk of damaging the product. Trimming of the weld must be carried out in two stages. Failure to follow this procedure will result in welds which are prone to dirt pickup.

>>Place the trimming guide and blade over the welding rod and push the knife forward and trim off the top layer of welding rod. This can be done whilst the weld is still warm. Trimming the weld speeds up the cooling time.

>>Wait at least 10 minutes for the remaining weld to cool to room temperature, the excess weld should be trimmed using the trimming blade with the guide removed. Keep as shallow an angle as possible between blade and floor to avoid the risk of damaging the product.

GLAZING THE WELD

Should a glazed finish be required this can be achieved with the nozzle attachment removed but still on the same heat setting; play the standard gun nozzle over the trimmed weld. Repeat over the entire length of the weld, keeping the gun moving constantly to prevent burning.

We recommend installing a specialised ACO drain/channel for vinyl fitted with a special nylon holding clamp to secure Polyflor sheet vinyl.

If further information is required, please contact Polyflor on (011) 609 3500 or marketing@polyflor.co.za