Installing Valbonite Hardboard Underlay

Prior to Starting

- Valbonite Hardboard Underlay is a wood based product that complies with the recommendations within the Australian Standards AS 1884 - Floor Coverings - Resilient sheet and tile - Installation practices. Always refer to Australian Standards AS 1884 for confirmation of correct installation procedures.
- Valbonite Hardboard Underlay must be allowed to achieve equilibrium with the ambient conditions of the job site 24 hrs prior to be installed.
- Good ventilation is essential under floors to prevent distortion, possible decay and excessive movement of the sub-floor, frame supports and underlay. If inadequate ventilation exists, subsequent damage to the floor covering material or adhesive system may occur.
- Check the sub-floor moisture content.
  Timber, Plywood & Particleboard must be between 9%-14%
- Any structural issues or damage to the sub-floor must be repaired or replaced prior to underlay installation.
  Valbonite Underlay levels out most minor uneven surfaces.

Sheet Layout

- Install underlay smooth side up
- Mark out the underlay and start along a straight wall with the horizontal edges at right angles to the longitudinal direction of the sub-floor. Use an ashlar/brick pattern.
- Leave a 3mm expansion gap around the perimeter walls and fixtures and a 0.4mm expansion gap between the panels.

Cutting

- Valbonite Underlay can be cut using different tools such as a circular saw (33mm tooth), a jig saw (fine tooth timber blade), a hand saw (fine tooth), panel saw, or a utility knife (heavy duty blade - not break away type).

Spacing of staples or nails

- Fasten all staples or nails 0.4mm below the underlay surface.
  - Staples 22mm resin coated staples or staples 3mm longer than the thickness of the existing Sub-floor.

- Avoid nailing into sub-floor joints.
  - Nails 25mm x 2.5mm head ring grooved buttress type underlay nails.

- Recommended spacing when fixing to timber sub-floor
  - 10mm in from the panel perimeter.
  - 75mm around the panel perimeter.
  - 150mm through the panel body

Fixing

- To a plywood or particleboard sub-floor: adhesive and staples is best practice.
- To a timber sub-floor: staples or nails are recommended

- To a concrete sub-floor: prepare the concrete sub-floor as per the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations and ensure the concrete is dry.
- Lay the underlay allowing the recommended expansion of 0.4mm between sheets and 3mm around the perimeter.
- Up-lift Valbonite Underlay sheet and apply adhesive to sub-floor using a V2 trowel.
- Place the Valbonite Underlay sheets onto the adhesive and roll with a 40kg roller weight.
- Allow the adhesive to cure.
  NB: Weight is required if changes in relative humidity delays adhesive bond time or causes the underlay to lift around the perimeter.

Adhesives for wooden sub-floors

- The adhesives to be used when Valbonite Underlay is fixed to plywood, particleboard or soft solid pine sub-floors (with nails and staples) are elastomeric (flexible polyurethane) adhesives
  NB: Always follow adhesive manufacturer's specifications.

Adhesives for concrete sub-floors

- A premium grade flexible polyurethane adhesive is suitable for this application. When structural or relative humidity changes occur, the filling of expansion joints in the underlay is not recommended.
  NB: Always follow adhesive manufacturer's specifications.

Finishing

- Use a flat based sanding machine (Polyvac or similar) or sanding block.
- Carefully sand the Valbonite Underlay joints to a level plane. Light sanding of the fixing points will remove any fibre build up.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor so that all dust and loose fibre is removed.
- Valbonite Underlay is then ready to receive the floor covering material.

Handling and Storage

- Carefully handle sheets to avoid damaging corners, edges or surfaces.
- Stack panels flat on pallets or timber runners in a dry area with a moderate temperature and reasonably constant relative humidity.
- **Do not** store in direct sunlight.