



AU | Installation Instructions - **tretford** | INTERLIFE TILE

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Quarter turn installation

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31st January 2020

### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

### tretford INTERLIFE TILE – Quarter-Turn Installation

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the Australian Distributors for tretford INTERLIFE TILE, we confirm that the recommendation for installation of tretford INTERLIFE TILE is quarter-turned and that the Manufacturer can only provide formal written instructions for this installation method.

Because of its unique construction, tretford INTERLIFE TILE's Manufacturer has developed a very specific, highly technical process to cut precisely between the ribs. For this reason, the resulting finish means that the tile may not be exactly square, which is why 4 tiles quarter-turned resolves any inconsistency.

The edges of the tiles are also designed to be undercut on alternate sides so that they 'lock' into the opposing sides of the adjoining tile. Whilst this works effectively in a quarter turn installation, when attempted in brick, ashlar or monolithic, the edge cutting process removes the ability to achieve a 'seamless' finish. The contractor will also find that the tiles will run out. For this reason, tretford will not recommend these methods.

tretford is aware that these methods may have been used – but very rarely. However, the Manufacturer would not be responsible for warranting the finished installation as their concern is always meeting client's expectation of tretford installed.

Should the installation depart from their recommendation, tretford could only give its relevant "wear warranty".

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ainsley Gibbon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ainsley Gibbon  
Managing Director  
Gibbon Architectural



# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**These instructions must be followed to retain Manufacturer's Warranties.**

Installation guidelines on tretford architectural folders and the international website do not apply to Australian tretford installations. For the latest published guidelines, please refer to [www.gibbonarchitectural.com.au](http://www.gibbonarchitectural.com.au).

## General Information

The following instructions are to be reviewed in conjunction with AS/NZS 2455.1:2019 prior to installing tretford TILE carpet. The information supplied in these instructions are general and may not cover all subfloor conditions. For subfloor conditions not covered by these instructions please contact your local representative for guidance on how to proceed.

Gibbon Architectural will not be held responsible or warrant any tretford product that is not installed in accordance with these instructions and procedures.

**All tretford products delivered should be inspected prior to installation to ensure the following:**

- The correct style and colour have been supplied
- The correct quantity has been delivered
- That where applicable the correct dye lot has been delivered
- No transport damage has occurred. Please note that if there is any sign of transport damage, please photograph the damage before opening packaging and send the photos to your local representative as soon as possible.

**DO NOT install any tretford TILE products if any of the above issues are noted.**



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### Pre-Installation Requirements:

**CROSS CHECK:** Installers must remember to check colour, quantity, and batch against your order before use.

### Acclimatisation:

At times of extreme humidity changes it is recommended to allow the TILES to acclimatise on site for a period of 24 hours before installation in the area in which it is to be laid. **Please be aware that tretford is a natural fibre. Ambient humidity (RH) levels >75% at the site are to be avoided and can be mitigated by mechanical extraction if required.**

**SEQUENTIAL BATCHING:** Please note, in accordance with Australian Standards, tretford TILES and/or Roll must be laid in sequential order. If TILES or Roll are not installed sequentially, colour variation may occur.

We recommend that the tiles are secured using a low VOC pressure sensitive adhesive – Modutak has been specifically recommended for tretford tile application.

### General Requirements & Information:

tretford TILE is to be installed on dry, clean, and properly prepared subfloors as per AS/NZS 2455.1:2019. Gibbon Architectural are not responsible for any failure of a tretford product which is caused through moisture related issues, poor or incorrect floor preparation, incorrect installation techniques or any other failures which arise through the installer not following these instructions in conjunction with Australian / New Zealand Standards.

A primer may be required is installing onto a high porosity sub-floor. Please contact **Gibbon Architectural** for direction.

# SUB FLOOR PREPARATION

Excessive moisture and/or high alkalinity (i.e., high pH) in a concrete substrate can cause the floorcoverings, adhesives, leveling compounds, etc. to fail and therefore all concrete slabs, regardless of age, should be correctly tested for moisture and alkalinity prior to the installation of any tretford carpet.

Even 20-year-old concrete substrates have been known to have moisture issues later in life through changes in the surrounding environment. This includes, but is not limited to, new gardens installed which sit level with or higher than the existing slab thus supplying a potential water source to the existing concrete slab, leaking pipes in or near the slab, new construction work undertaken by the builder during refurbishment of the site where water can be used by numerous different trades.

It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to ensure the substrate is correctly moisture tested and properly prepared prior to installation of any tretford products and that the floor companies with AS/NZS 2455.1:2019.

***Dryness shall be considered satisfactory when the relative humidity does not exceed 75%.***

Modutak Adhesive must be used for all tretford installations, and all moisture testing must be carried out in accordance with Modutak installation instructions. Moisture meters that comply with Australian Standards are available for purchase through Gibbon Trade, [Gibbon Trade Moisture Meters](#), and all testing is to be carried out in accordance with the instrument manufacturer's instructions or the moisture test results could be considered to be non-conforming.

## Testing the alkalinity of the concrete subfloor:

Testing the alkalinity of the subfloor is to be done using either pH test strips or a pH meter, and the manufacturer's instructions should always be followed.

Ensure the concrete surface is porous and free of any old adhesives, primers, curing compounds, surface contaminants, etc. Care is to be taken to ensure the surface is not over cleaned. However, if the surface is burnished or non-porous the surface will need to be removed to allow a mechanical key between the subfloor and the adhesive or leveling compound.

In all cases pH testing must meet Australian Standards and should be done just prior to the installation of the tretford carpet so that the pH readings are taken on the concrete surface that the adhesive or leveling compound is to be installed over.

Undertaking pH testing using distilled or deionized water that is beading on the surface of the concrete substrate or testing a substrate that has just been mechanically prepared, may result in inaccurate pH test results.



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### **Please note the following:**

- All RH and pH test results should be documented and photographed for your records in case there is a moisture related problem in the future.
- RH and pH test results only indicate the RH and pH of the concrete substrate at the time of testing. The RH and pH of the concrete can increase or decrease over time due to outside influences, so it is critical that all test results are documented and photographed at the time of testing.
- Experience has shown that the RH and pH test results tend to be more accurate when the HVAC system has been in operation 24/7 for 2 weeks prior to testing.

### **Determining the dryness of timber substrates prior to installing tretford TILE**

The moisture content of timber, plywood and particle board subfloors shall be considered sufficiently dry when the moisture content is between 10% - 14%. Suitable testing procedures for timber and particle board subfloors may be found in AS/NZS 1080.1:2012 and suitable testing procedures for plywood subfloors may be found in AS/NZS 2098.11:2015

**It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to ensure the substrate is correctly moisture tested, properly prepared prior to the installation of any tretford products and complies with Australian Standards.**

### **Surface Preparation:**

1. All subfloors must be structurally sound, solid, well-fastened, dry, clean and free of dust, oil, grease, tar, paint, wax, curing agents, primers, sealers, loosely bonded toppings, loose particles and any other substance or condition that may reduce or prevent adhesion.
2. Painted surfaces must be sanded and scarified completely to expose the substrate, using appropriate safety precautions.
3. Various underlayments:
  - a. Concrete subfloors must be dry.
  - b. All wooden floors must be well-ventilated from below.
  - c. Cement terrazzo must be sound, solid, flawless, stripped clean and free of any contaminants or conditions that may prevent or reduce adhesion. Roughen surface by sanding or scarifying using appropriate safety precautions.



# RECOMMENDED ADHESIVE

## **Specified Adhesive: Modu-Tak PS Adhesive:**

Modutak is a pressure sensitive adhesive that is formulated to have high levels of resistance to concrete substrates that exhibit high levels of alkalinity – up to pH 12. Please refer: **Modu-Tak Tech Data Sheet**

### **Adhesive Surface Preparation:**

Floors must be clean, dry sound and smooth in accordance with AS/NZS 2455.1:2019. When adhering to highly absorbent sub-floors, the use of a suitable floor primer is strongly recommended. Modu-tak adhesive can be applied to concrete substrates with moisture contents up to 85% RH and falling when tested with an In-Situ probe method. For concrete substrates with Hydrostatic Pressure, we recommend a suitable 2-part epoxy membrane.

### **Adhesive Application:**

“V1” 1.6mm notched trowel to the sub-floor for tretford felt backed carpet tiles.

**SPREAD RATE: approx. 5m<sup>2</sup>/litre**

Allow Modu-tak adhesive film to become “clear”. Once clear, the adhesive is in a dry tack mode and floor coverings may be placed in position. Tack up time will be dependent upon room temperature, humidity, airflow and the substrate absorbency. Always ensure no contaminants come into contact with the adhesive film prior to installing carpet tiles.

### **Storage and Clean up:**

Modu-tak adhesive should be stored between 10° C and 30°C in well ventilated areas. Shelf life is 12 months in a sealed container.

Modu-tak adhesive should be cleaned off any surface and tools immediately with a well dampened cloth. Do not allow to dry. Dried adhesive may be softened using a suitable solvent cleaner.

# CARPET TILE INSTALLATION

**\* These instructions must be followed to retain Manufacturer's Warranties.**

Laying Should commence as near as possible to the centre of the room, with a square of 4 tiles. All tile should be tesslated i.e – laid at right angles to each other. Tiles should appear to be offset against tiles laid in the same direction (see diagram below). **The outside of the square must however be straight and measure 1m on all 4 sides.**

