

Sobella

Frequently Asked Questions about Sobella – Mannington's Fiberglass Sheet Vinyl Flooring

Q: What is “fiberglass” sheet vinyl?

Fiberglass sheet vinyl is a resilient flooring product that offers comfort, style and durability thanks to its flexible fiberglass core and vinyl backing.

Q: Where can Sobella be installed?

Sobella is intended to be installed in climate-controlled indoor, residential settings. The color and patterns available in Sobella make it an appropriate floor covering for any room in the home.

Q: What installation procedures can be used with Sobella?

Sobella can be installed loose laid or fully adhered. When fully adhered the **Permanent Bond** or **Releasable Bond** technique may be used.

Q: What is the loose lay method and when is it recommended?

When Sobella is loose laid no adhesive is used (except at the seam line) and the material is trimmed back approximately 1/8” to ¼” from all fixed vertical surfaces so the product lies completely flat. This procedure is best when the work area is not complex and no more than one seam is required.

Q: What is the difference between Permanent Bond and Releasable Bond?

The primary difference is in the application and open time of the MT -711 adhesive.

To achieve a **Releasable Bond** the adhesive is applied with a 3/8” nap paint roller and allowed to dry clear before placing the Sobella into the adhesive. The Sobella can be smoothed into the adhesive with the use of a clean soft-bristle push broom or a light weight three-section floor roller.

A **Permanent Bond** is achieved by applying the adhesive with a fine notched trowel (1/16” X 1/32” X 1/32”) and the material is placed into wet adhesive. Best results are achieved by rolling the flooring in both directions with a three-section floor roller of between 50 – 100 pounds designed for this purpose.

Regardless of the adhesion method, the Sobella should be trimmed back approximately 1/8” to ¼” from all fixed vertical surfaces so the product lies completely flat before applying the adhesive.

Q: What determines which fully adhered method should be used?

As the term implies a **Releasable Bond** provides sufficient “tack” to hold the Sobella in place and is appropriate for normal household traffic.

A more **Permanent Bond** may be desired if the work area is complicated and complex and may be subjected to heavy foot or rolling traffic.

Q: What substrates are appropriate for use under Sobella?

All clean, dry and smooth subfloors found in residential construction are appropriate when the “loose lay” procedure is used. This includes concrete and concrete-like surfaces as well as wood and wood composition panels and fully adhered, single layer existing resilient floor coverings.

Lightly embossed, thoroughly cleaned, single-layer existing resilient floor coverings can be covered without the use of an embossing leveler with Sobella when using the loose-lay or “**Releasable Bond**” fully adhered method.

When installed with either “fully adhered” method the substrate must be clean, dry, smooth and well-suited to receive a water-based acrylic adhesive, this adhesive compatibility requirement precludes certain wood composition panels such as particleboard, certain waferboards or hardboard and those subfloor panels that have been treated with a “water-proofing” substance. These types of subfloors will require the use of a compatible ¼” underlayment.

Q: What can be done to eliminate buckles and bubbles with a “fully adhered” Sobella floor?

When first positioning the sheet into the work area be certain that is laying true and straight before trimming in. Trim the Sobella approximately 1/8” to ¼” from all fixed vertical surfaces so the vinyl is laying flat before folding back to apply the adhesive. After applying the adhesive, ease the sheet back into place without trapping air and then roll (or broom) the material into the adhesive. Carefully fold back the second half and repeat the procedure.

Q: How are seams cut with Sobella fiberglass flooring?

The recommended procedure is to “double cut” all seams in Sobella. This procedure requires that the sheets are brought into exact pattern match and overlapped at the selvage edge. Using a utility knife with a new sharp blade and a metal straight edge cut along the design/grout line of the top sheet and completely through the bottom sheet. This will produce a net cut seam, not too full or open. Do not “straight edge and butt” major seams in fiberglass sheet products.

Q: How are seams adhered in a “loose lay” installation?

Only **one major seam** is permitted when using the “loose lay” procedure. In effect, since the seam is secured with MT-711 adhesive, three sides of each major sheet will be loose. After trimming in the material and double cutting the seam, fold back each edge of the sheets and center a 6” band of MT-711 adhesive at the seam line. Rake the trowel ridges perpendicular to the seam and gently position the sheets into the adhesive.

Q: Are there any restrictions as to the number of seams with either of the fully adhered procedures?

As previously mentioned the preferred method for a complex installation requiring multiple seams is the **Permanent Bond** method. Multiple seams are permitted with the **Releasable Bond** method; however, extra precautions must be taken to assure that there are no “pressure points” or fullness created at the seam line.

Q: What seam treatment is required with Sobella?

Regardless of which installation method is used the seams must be sealed with Mannington MLG-33 seam sealer. Thoroughly, mix all of Parts A and B in the supplied applicator bottle. Insert the fin of the applicator tip into the seam cut and apply a continuous bead of sealer into the cut with approximately a ¼” bead centered on the seam cut. Protect the sealed seam from all traffic for 12 hours.

Q: Can single-sided or double-sided tape be used to secure Sobella at the seam line?

We have determined that tape will not provide a long lasting bond to the Sobella backing, which is why we recommend using MT-711 anytime the product must be secured.

Q: Can Sobella be installed over in-floor radiant heat?

Yes, concrete subfloors with controlled in-floor radiant heating systems (hydroponic) are acceptable. Do not install Sobella over wood subfloor systems that have in-floor or underfloor radiant heating systems. These systems have too much temperature fluctuation and variability.

Q: What precautions should be used when replacing appliances and heavy furniture over a “loose lay” Sobella?

When moving heavy objects over any and all resilient sheet vinyl floors, regardless of loose lay or fully adhered, hardboard panels should be used to protect the flooring from cuts and gouges.

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