

## FAQs Flotex Commercial Sheet F200 (HD & Classic) and Flotex Commercial Tiles (F50)

### WHAT IS FLOTEX AND WHERE IS IT MADE?

Flotex is legendary as the unique durable, practical and washable textile floor covering which has not been emulated during the 40 years since its conception. If you are thinking of using a smooth floor covering or carpet for any project, there could be a better option. For areas where durability and hygiene are just as important as appearance retention, Flotex is the preferred option. Flotex uniquely combines the benefits of a smooth resilient floor and carpet into a single solution.

Flotex is manufactured by Forbo Flooring Systems and is fully imported and distributed in Australia and New Zealand by Karndean International.

### WHAT MAKES FLOTEX UNIQUE?

Flotex is made by a process called 'electrostatic flocking' which bonds millions of straight, upright impermeable short nylon fibres into an impervious vinyl base at a super density of 80 million fibres in every square metre! That's over 3 million fibres under each footprint! Traditional carpets are not waterproof and are made of loops and twists that trap dirt and stains.

### WHY CHOOSE FLOTEX INSTEAD OF A SMOOTH FLOOR COVERING?

Because you are seeking the practicality, durability and hygiene properties of smooth flooring, but would also like the comfort, warmth and image of a textile floor. The unique product construction means that Flotex is completely impermeable to liquids – fibres included – and extremely hardwearing, so it can be cleaned using the same machines as used on smooth floor coverings.

Smooth floors are slippery, noisy and cold; but Flotex isn't. Flotex is easy to clean, hygienic and resists wear, just like a smooth floor!

### WHY CHOOSE FLOTEX INSTEAD OF A CARPET?

Because you need a floor finish which is hard wearing and more hygienic than traditional carpet, but would also like the easy to clean, durable properties and superior appearance that a smooth floor offers. The construction of Flotex is different from carpet and can support these conflicting requirements.

Carpeted floors are prone to tracking due to pile-crush, shabby soiled appearance, wear down easily and get replaced mid-life due to the "ugly out syndrome"; but Flotex doesn't. Flotex is warm, quiet and safe to walk on just like a carpeted floor!

### IS FLOTEX ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

Yes. Flotex's environmental attributes have been assessed by the internationally recognised Building Research Establishment: Environmental Assessment Method or BREEAM which sets the standard for best practice in sustainable building design. Flotex complies well within international criteria for volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and ISO 14001 Environmental Management. More information is available at [www.bre.co.uk](http://www.bre.co.uk) by following the link Approvals and Listings and searching for Flotex by brand name in the BREEAM GreenBook and RedBook links.

### IS THE ADHESIVE USED FOR FLOTEX ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

Yes. Karndean Mega-Bond (for Flotex Roll) and Karndean Hi-Tack PS (for Flotex Modular) are water based acrylic adhesives that are solvent free and low odour endorsed for indoor use. Both adhesives also comply with international standards for low volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and are used for installing Flotex into hospitals, schools, aged care, kindergartens and all other types of public buildings.

### IS IT SUITABLE FOR ASTHMA AND ALLERGY SUFFERERS?

Because of the unique construction and 100% synthetic materials used in Flotex, cleaning tests have convinced the National Asthma Council Australia and Asthma & Respiratory Foundation New Zealand to endorse Flotex. It has been accepted into their *Sensitive Choice* program – traditional carpets do not meet the program's stringent criteria. The *Sensitive Choice* program helps identify products that are better suited for people who suffer from asthma and allergies. With Flotex you are no longer restricted to smooth, cold, hard floor coverings in your home or place of work.

### WHAT IS THE FLOTEX GUARANTEE?

Flotex offers a commercial extra heavy duty 10-year wear guarantee in any indoor location, provided it is installed and maintained to manufacturer's instructions.

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FLOTEX HD & FLOTEX CLASSIC?

Two different printing techniques are employed to create Flotex's designs. Classic designs are the patterns created using well known rotary screen printing methods, whereas the more advanced digital printing technology called High Definition or HD creates the ground breaking imagery of traditional tufted and woven Axminster carpet designs.

### WHY IS FLOTEX HD A DIFFERENT PRICE TO FLOTEX CLASSIC?

High Definition digital printing is more expensive to create during the manufacturing process, but provides great value due to its realistic imagery of traditional tufted and woven Axminster carpets with all the durability and cleanability benefits of a flocked floor covering.

### WHAT MAKES FLOTEX SO PRACTICAL?

It's easy to install by simple butt joining the non-fray edges and there is no need for hot welding the seams because the Mega-Bond adhesive incorporates a polymer sealer. It's simple to clean with conventional carpet cleaning equipment such as vacuum and steam cleaning plus rapid drying times. It's suitable for a multitude of different floor applications where a hardwearing, hygienic and water resistant textile is required.

# FAQs Flotex Commercial Sheet F200 (HD & Classic) and Flotex Commercial Tiles (F50)

## WHAT MAKES FLOTEX HYGIENIC?

It's completely waterproof – monofilament fibres and impervious backing in combination – so liquid spills and soiling only dry on the outside of the smooth, upright nylon fibres awaiting easy removal compared to the loops and twists in traditional carpets trapping the dirt: whilst nothing penetrates the subfloor. Antimicrobial protection called *Sanitized* is integrated into the backing which permanently migrates into the base and the flock zone for the life of the product. This offers consistent protection against bacteria and the development of stale odours, even after multiple cleaning cycles.

## WHAT MAKES FLOTEX SO DURABLE?

Its super dense pile construction of 80 million fibres per square metre (which equates to over 3 million under a footstep!) prevents unsightly pile crush, plus fibre glass for dimensional stability, sandwiched in a strong waterproof backing that protects the subfloor. Unlike traditional tufted carpets there is no secondary backing weakness which means Flotex cannot delaminate under any circumstances. This combination in manufacture guarantees maximum appearance retention because dirty Flotex flooring can be restored to its pristine condition by cheap 'flood & scrub' water extraction cleaning.

## WHY IS FLOTEX SO VERSATILE?

A wide range of colours and designs in two formats – 200cm wide roll and 50cm x 50cm modular – are available. This is complimented by plain coloured Flotex Artline to add non-fray edged borders, logos, crests and traffic flow patterns to create bespoke floor designs. For example a kindergarten can literally create pictures in their floor!

## WHY IS FLOTEX SAFER?

Its unique construction ensures dimensional stability – in other words you'll never experience rucking, curling or shrinking; just a safe short piled surface for feet and wheels alike, regardless of wear or volume of traffic. Flotex complies with AS/NZS 4586: 2004 *Slip resistance classification of new pedestrian surfaces* with a class R12 under the Oil-wet ramp test and is an outstanding choice for public ramps in shopping centres and public transit buildings (always specify that the arrows on the back of the sheets point UP each ramp).

## CAN I USE FLOTEX IN COMMERCIAL WET AREAS?

No. Because Flotex is a textile – irrespective that it is slip resistant to R12 – the building regulations will only allow a suitably slip resistant smooth surfaced floor covering. You can however use Flotex in the wet areas of domestic homes – see it's sister product Flotex HD & Classic.

## WHY DOES FLOTEX STAY CLEANER?

Because it's easy to clean by simple vacuuming. Being completely waterproof with monofilament (non-hollow impermeable fibres) it is the only textile floor covering that can be washed and scrubbed just like standard vinyl. Drying times are rapid by evaporation since no liquids can absorb anywhere into Flotex. Stain resistant to a remarkable degree, even chewing gum presents no problem to the dirt and grime properties of Flotex.

## DO I NEED TO SEAL THE SUBFLOOR IF I USE FLOTEX?

No. In fact this is not only unnecessary but undesirable. Flotex Roll is installed to the Resilient Sheet Standard – AS 1884:1985 – where the subfloor must be left porous in order for the moisture release in the adhesive to absorb thus allowing the adhesive to tack-up and finally cure. Water cannot penetrate the 200cm wide Flotex sheets and the Mega-Bond adhesive incorporates a polymer acrylic which seals the tightly butted joints.

## CAN FLOTEX BE INSTALLED WITH A CUSHIONED UNDERLAY?

Flotex lays flat and needs no underlay because its backing is a built-in expanded PVC foam underlay. But you have the option of adding one of two approved additional 'double-bonded' cushioned underlays called Dunlop 'Modulay' or Bridgestone Airstep 'Suporta Pad'. Full details are available from each of these suppliers or direct from Karndean International.

## HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN FLOTEX?

Vacuum regularly, preferably with a motorized brush type, spot clean stains as required and periodically use water extraction (steam cleaning). Instead of carpet detergent use instead *Flotex Clean-It* either in the solution tank or pre-sprayed, diluted 30mm to 5 litres of water making it a very low-cost option. Flotex Clean-It is a surfactant containing 20 times less chemical detergent than a traditional carpet shampoo. Brush action water extraction units are more efficient than hose & wand in isolation. A Flotex maintenance guide, instructional DVD and details of where you can obtain Flotex Clean-It locally are available upon request to Karndean International.

## WHAT IF FLOTEX RE-SOILS OR OSMITS ODOURS?

This is a result of mis-cleaning when traditional carpet chemicals are used and have been diluted too strongly or were not rinsed out sufficiently. Because the Flotex fibre is impermeable the resultant residual detergent has dried on the outside of the fibres, attracting new soiling and hugging the old! The dirt and smells are actually in the residual chemical, not in the Flotex. Overuse of chemical detergent can be easily reversed by using *Flotex Fix-It* which is a special rinse aid for Flotex. After agitation (scrubbing) the residual offending matter homogenizes with the Flotex Fix-it and is extracted whole, leaving Flotex in a pristine condition. Flotex Clean-It (see above) is not then required until the next scheduled clean. A Flotex Trouble-Shooting chart, instructional DVD, details of where you can obtain Flotex Fix-It and your nearest Flotex Cleaning Technician are available upon request to Karndean International.

## WHEN DO I NEED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FLOTEX ROLL AND FLOTEX TILES?

In practical terms you really only need Flotex Tiles (50cm square modular flooring) if you have access flooring, otherwise Flotex Roll is a "one-fits-all" option. This is because all the other features of modular flooring – replacement due to damage, take up to clean and replace the same tile if dirty, rotation in heavily worn areas – are all fulfilled by Flotex Roll called *Flotex 200 Commercial*. Roll material is cleaned in situ without the need to remove anything, does not require rotation because the piled surface is crush-proof (will not show tracking) and can be invisibly patched just like a vinyl floor if permanently damaged. The colourway selections are greater with Flotex 200 Commercial too.

## IS FLOTEX ANTI-STATIC?

Yes. Branded carbon impregnated fibres are mingled with the nylon flock at manufacture providing a lifetime antistatic warranty for sensitive electronic environs. Flotex complies with AS2834.2.1: 1995 *Computer accommodation*.

# FAQs Flotex Commercial Sheet F200 (HD & Classic) and Flotex Commercial Tiles (F50)

## WHAT ABOUT UNSIGHTLY JOINS?

No such thing with Flotex. Because of its exceptionally dense pile and non-fray fibres, the Flotex 2 metre widths join together to an exact pattern match with seams that are virtually invisible.

## DOES FLOTEX BURN?

Obviously all things burn at some point. However Flotex has an exceptionally high resistance to fire and heat. For instance, hot fat (200 degrees centigrade) melts or shrivels all other carpet types, yet leaves Flotex unscathed – and you cook chips in burning oil at 150 degrees centigrade! Should any permanent damage occur, Flotex can be invisibly patched, just like a sheet vinyl floor.

Flotex Roll and Flotex Modular both conform to AS9239.1: 2003 *Reaction to fire tests for floorings determination of the burning behaviour using a radiant heat source*. Flotex Roll obtains a Critical Heat Flux (CHF) – also known as Critical Radiant Flux (CRF) – of 8.0kW/m<sup>2</sup> whilst Flotex Modular is 5.7kW/m<sup>2</sup> and Flotex Roll has a smoke value of 161% mins whilst Flotex Modular is 553 % mins.

The above results allow you to use Flotex in public lift cars, Class 9A patient care areas and even in fire isolated stairs, ramps and passageways.

## CAN FLOTEX BE LAID OVER UNDERFLOOR HEATING?

Yes. The heating will be turned off 24 hours prior to installation and will not be turned back on again until 24 hours afterwards when the adhesive has cured.

## CAN FLOTEX BE USED OUTSIDE?

No. Whilst Flotex is completely waterproof it is not designed to be used outdoors in direct sunlight. However Karndean International can offer complimentary waterproof outdoor carpets in the Karndean Pedigree Carpet range.

## CAN FLOTEX BE USED ON STAIRS?

Yes, but because Flotex is not a floor-covering that you can stretch, stair nosing must be used at the front edge of each step. Your flooring contractor or builder will be able to provide the advice you need once the type of staircase is sighted.

## IS FLOTEX RATED UNDER THE AUSTRALIAN CARPET CLASSIFICATION SCHEME (ACCS)?

This is not applicable to Flotex because the ACCS values are written only for “yarn system” carpets (tufted, woven etc) whereas Flotex is classified as “flocked print system” flooring. However alternative independent testing for grading our type of floor covering under BS EN 1307: 2008 judges Flotex as Wear Class 33 Commercial Extra Heavy Duty.

## HOW DO I SPECIFY FLOTEX AND SIGHT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS?

*The floor covering shall be nylon flocked carpet, Flotex or similar, in 200cm wide roll branded “Flotex 200” (or Flotex Modular branded “Flotex Tiles”) installed using “Karndean Mega-Bond” adhesive (or for Flotex Modular “Karndean Hi-Bond PS” adhesive) in colourway ref \_\_\_\_\_. The subfloor should be prepared to AS 1884: 1985 Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles – Laying and maintenance practices. (Not AS/NZS 2455.1: 2007).*

A copy of the Flotex Installation Guide can be requested direct from Karndean International.

## WHERE CAN I SEE SAMPLES OF FLOTEX OR OBTAIN TECHNICAL LITERATURE?

Flotex sampling and sales literature is available from a network of flooring contractors across Australia or from the Karndean International commercial sales representative in your local area. Call Karndean Customer Service on 1800 33 11 70 (free call) or submit your enquiry now.