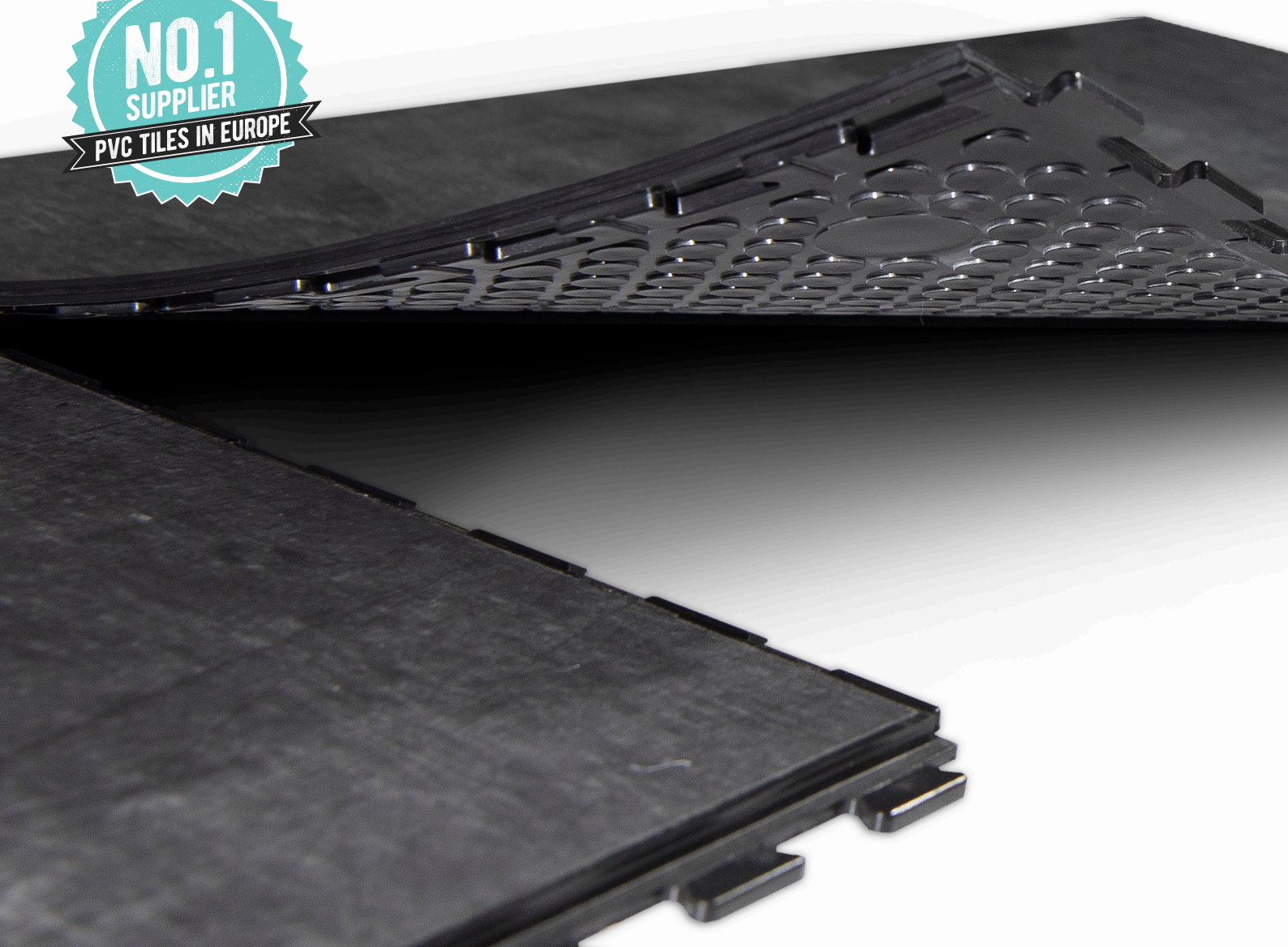




# INSTALLATION TIPS

## PVC INTERLOCKING TILES



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# INTRODUCTION

The installation of PVC interlocking tiles is fairly easy, particularly after reading the tips below. These tips are based on more than 30 years experience with synthetic interlocking tiles.

Please read the following information before commencing with the installation.

## CALCULATE THE NUMBER OF TILES REQUIRED

Width of room/width of tiles = A (round up)

Length of room/length of tiles = B (round up)

Number of tiles to order = A x B (make sure you order enough tiles)

Always allow for cutting waste when ordering. Never order the exact amount of m<sup>2</sup> calculated. If you unexpectedly need to order additional tiles, it is possible that there could be a slight colour difference if the tiles are of another batch. Upon delivery check if you received the correct number of tiles and whether the tiles are the right colour. Our warehouse staff is not infallible.

Check the subfloor for cracks, holes or other damage before installation. Repair any defects. If you would like to receive further advice as to whether repairs are necessary or not you can email us photographs of the subfloor. We will give an honest assessment of your floor and give you appropriate advice.

## TO GLUE OR NOT TO GLUE

In principle, interlocking PVC tiles can be installed without the need for adhesive. However, we recommend that you do use adhesive in the following circumstances:

- When the tiles are exposed to direct sunlight
- When the tiles are exposed to extremely heavy loads such as very heavy forklift trucks or stackers.
- Applications in the catering/food sector or other locations where copious amounts of water are used.
- If you would like to be 100% safe, we recommend a fully glued floor (this is our personal opinion). We recommend the use of 2-component PU adhesive.

## FIXATIVES

You can also attach the tiles to the subfloor with a fixative. A fixative can be compared to liquid gum. You simply roll the liquid onto the subfloor using a paint roller. This results in a sticky film on which you place the tiles. With this method the tiles will stay in place but can be picked up and moved at a later date, if necessary.

## WATER/LIQUID TIGHT

It is safe to clean the interlocking tiles system with water. Water that stays on top of the flooring for a longer period of time can theoretically seep down into the subfloor. The floor can be made watertight and becomes more stable by applying MS Polymer kit to the sealing lips of the interlocking tiles, with a hidden joint system. This is also recommended on locations where rolling materials are frequently turned. This is a small additional investment with excellent returns.

## TEMPERATURE

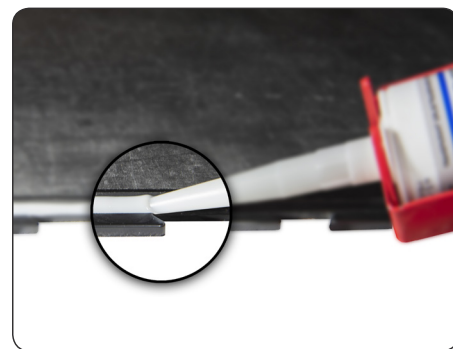
Ensure that the room temperature is at least 15° C in the 24 hours before starting the installation. This is not only a comfortable working temperature but also ensure easier installation. To acclimatise the tiles you can put the tiles in small stacks around the room.

## PLASTICIZER EXUDATION

Some rubber tyres or caps can cause staining of light or coloured PVC tiles that cannot be removed. These stains are caused by a chemical reaction between the plasticizers (commonly used in rubber products) and the pvc of the interlocking tiles. This does not cause any defects in the tiles but can result in slightly less attractive looking tiles. The stain is yellow/brown and usually not visible on dark grey (anthracite) or black tiles. For locations such as car, motorbike or bicycle parking, workshops, garages etc. we recommend you use dark grey (anthracite) or black tiles, particularly underneath vehicles. As an alternative you can put a sheet of plexiglass, or use metal, wood or special tyre protectors to prevent discolouring of the floor.

## EXPANSION/SHRINKING

Synthetic interlocking tiles may expand or shrink as a result of temperature fluctuations. This is a normal property of PVC. Please take this into consideration during installation. PVC interlocking tiles are intended for indoor use. If you are looking for tiles for balconies, terraces or galleries, we offer a range of polypropylene interlocking tiles for outdoor use.



Check the list below to make sure you have got everything you need for quick and efficient installation of your PVC interlocking tile floor.

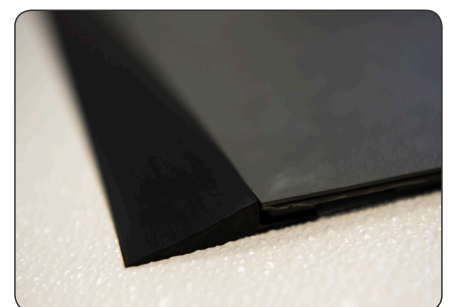
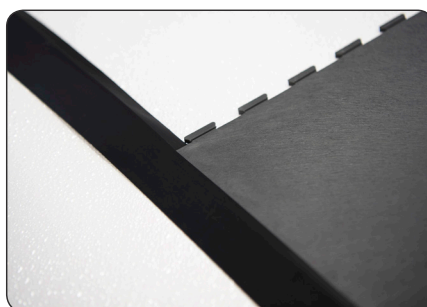
Broom or vacuum cleaner	To clean the floor before installation
PVC interlocking tiles	This is what it is all about
Rubber mallet (white)	For easier interlocking of tiles
Rising edge	For a trip-free transition at doors and archways
Hightack-kit	To securely glue the rising edge to the subfloor
MS Polymer kit	1. If you want to make/install the floor watertight 2. To seal the edging and wall junctions 3. To fix and seal skirting
Spatula and soapy water	For easy finishing of sealing joints
Sealant gun	For use with High tack or MS Polymer
2K-Pu adhesive	If you intend to glue the entire floor
Trowel	For even distribution of the 2K-PU adhesive
Adhesive mixer	For proper mixing of the 2K-Pu adhesive
Tape measure	For measuring
Marking pencil	Essential and therefore included
Chalk line	For marking straight lines as a guideline
Stanley knife	Always handy
Circular saw	With an ordinary blade for sawing wood, nothing special
Jigsaw	For slightly more complicated sawing work
Core drill	For drilling nice round holes for pipes etc.
Cleaning cloths	To clean up any mess
Safety goggles	Always work safely and protect your eyes when using the saw

## INSTALLATION

Now we know what we need to know and we have got everything to hand, we are ready to start!

Empty the space where the floor is to be installed as much as practically possible. It is easier to work in an empty space rather than a space where things are in the way. If it is not possible to empty the space completely, clear one area, install the floor, finish and then put the equipment on the newly installed flooring before continuing with the rest of the installation. This is only possible with interlocking tile floors as there are no drying times and these floors can be walked or driven upon during installation. This is a huge advantage of interlocking tiles compared to other flooring systems.

Thoroughly clean the subfloor, ensure it is free of dust and preferably dry by sweeping or vacuum cleaning the floor. If you intend to use a transition profile at doors or archways (which is always a good idea), you will start by fitting this PVC rising profile. Measure the right length of rising edge and use a Stanley knife to make a clean straight cut. Mark the location on the floor where you are going to place the rising edge and glue the profile to the subfloor with High tack-kit. Press down firmly! High tack is a fast drying sealant but please be careful with the profile when it has just been glued.



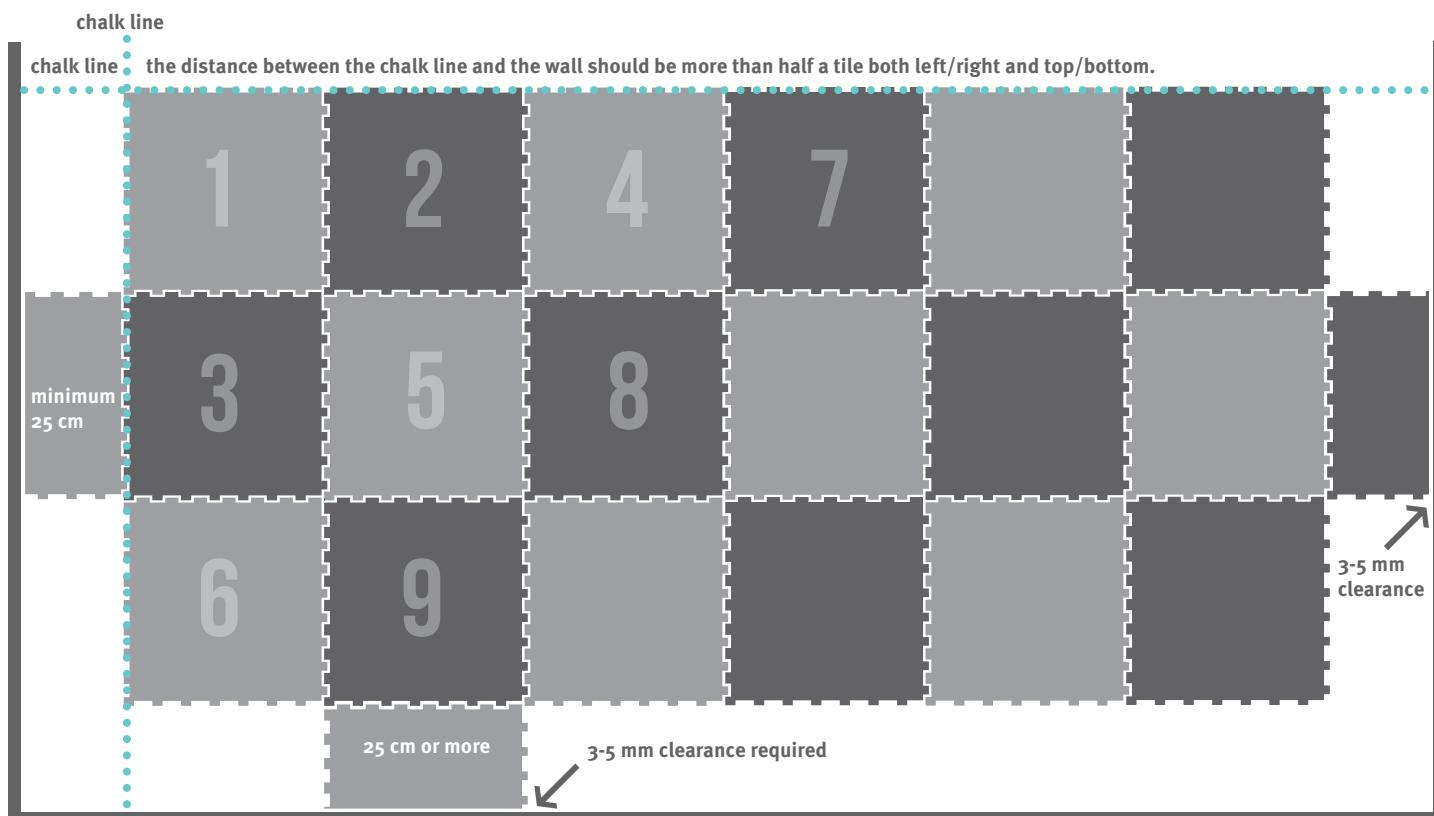


## DECIDING WHERE TO START

First, we have to decide where to start. This requires a little bit of planning. If you are not sure, email a drawing with dimensions to [info@bofloor.biz](mailto:info@bofloor.biz), and we will do the calculations for you. It's all part of the service!

Measure the width of the room so that the left perimeter tile will approximately have the same dimensions as the right perimeter tile (both perimeter tiles should be at least 25 cm or more), draw a chalk line at this point. Do the same with the length of the room. The first tile is placed at the point where the two chalk lines cross.

Adhere to the diagram below when placing the interlocking tiles.



## GLUING TIPS

The PVC tiles are always glued with the waterproof adhesive BoFloor 2K-PU. As the name suggests, this adhesive consists of 2 components that have to be mixed together before use. Pour the hardening agent (small bottle) in the bucket and mix for at least two minutes until it forms a homogenous mass.

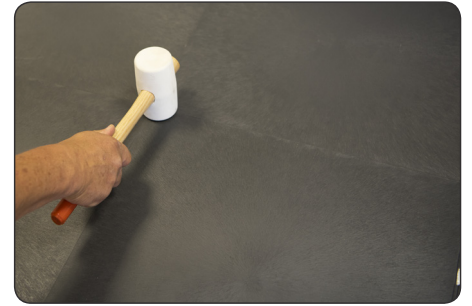
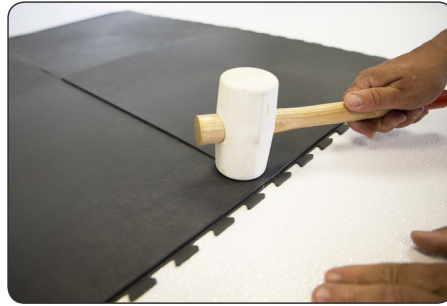
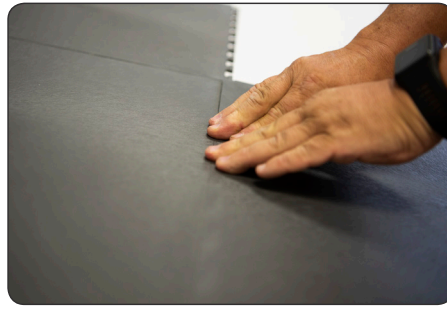
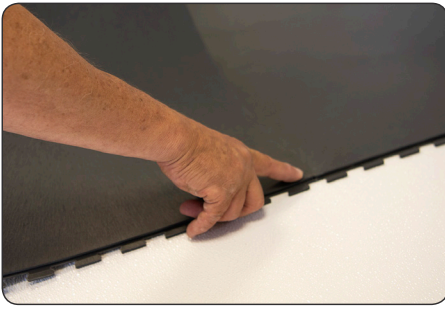
The adhesive has a very short pot life, i.e. do not mix any more adhesive than you will use at the time (also read the information on the bucket). You can glue between 10 and 15 m<sup>2</sup> with a 7,5 kg bucket, dependent on the nature and condition of the subfloor.

Apply the adhesive evenly with a trowel. Try to apply a thin and even layer without any lumps to ensure optimum adhesion. Immediately place the tiles on top of the wet adhesive and continue placing tiles until the glue bucket is empty. There is no time to take a break since the adhesive will continue to harden and a bucket full of hardened adhesive is useless. Use a cleaning cloth to immediately wipe away any adhesive that comes up through the tile joints. This is also a sign that you have applied too much adhesive or that you did not distribute the adhesive evenly over the subfloor surface. Please be aware of this! Do not apply any adhesive to areas where you are going to place the perimeter tiles. You will only glue these areas once you have cut all the perimeter tiles and they are ready to be installed.



## ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR THE PERFECT INSTALLATION OF INTERLOCKING TILES

Almost everyone tends to start in the middle and places the tiles from the inside to the outside. There is nothing wrong with this method but with more than 30 years experience in the production and installation of interlocking tiles we have discovered that there are better ways of doing things. We start at the outside and then work inwards. We first lay tiles on outside 1 followed by outside 2 and use the rubber mallet to tap the tiles into place. This method results in perfectly tight connections between the tiles. Make sure that all the joints are properly connected before placing the next tile. Always use a white rubber or synthetic hammer.

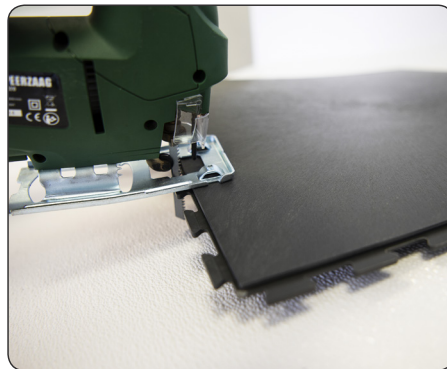
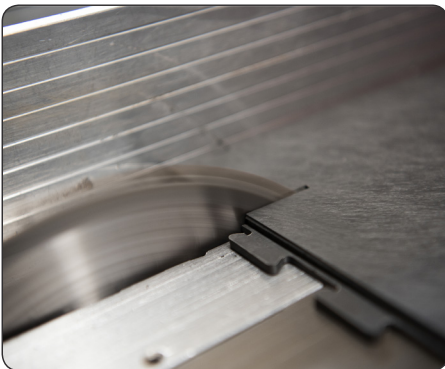


Apply a small amount of sealant on the tile joints if you want to make them waterproof. Please note: use as little sealant as possible to prevent excess sealant coming up through the tile joints when you click them together.

### MAKING PERIMETER TILES

Once you have installed all the whole tiles it is time to start cutting the perimeter tiles. Maintain a clearance of between 3-5mm between the tiles and all fixed points (walls, machines, etc.) to allow for expansion caused by temperature fluctuations. Take accurate measurements and mark the tiles properly before sawing the tiles to avoid measuring 3x and ending up with tiles that are too short anyway.

Use a circular saw with a normal blade to saw the straight pieces, i.e. the same blade you use for sawing wood. It is easiest to use a jigsaw for sawing corners or curves. You can also use the jigsaw for sawing holes for pipes but you will get a more professional and more attractive result if you use a hole saw or core drill.



### FINISHING

#### Option 1: Sealing edging and wall junctions.

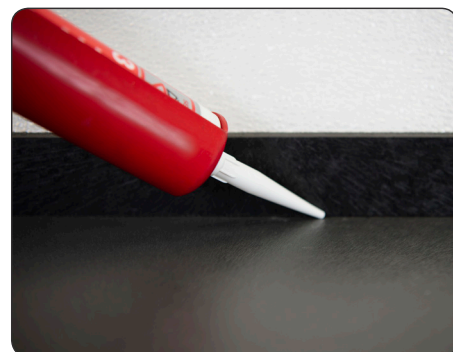
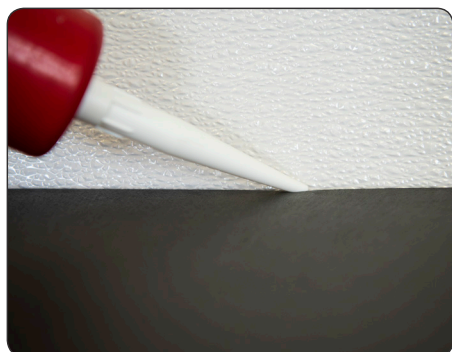
A properly sealed floor is not only easier to maintain but looks good as well. Therefore, it is important to ensure that you do a proper job of sealing the floor. You can put masking tape around the edges first or apply the sealant freehand. It is up to you.

- First cut off the top of the sealant tube with a Stanley knife.
- Tighten the nozzle onto the tube and cut diagonally so that the nozzle opening is the same size as the required width of the sealant strip.
- Put the sealant tube into the sealant gun and press the handle until you see a sealant drop appear from the nozzle.
- Place the nozzle at the start of the edge you are going to seal, press the handle and pull the gun in an even motion along the edge. Move the nozzle towards you. This gives more accurate results than working away from you.
- It is better to use too much sealant rather than too little. It is easy to remove excess sealant whereas not enough sealant results in insufficient adhesion.
- When you have finished, press the button on the gun to stop the flow of sealant.

- Wipe away any excess sealant with a spatula which you have moistened in a bowl of soapy water. Remove the sealant off the spatula with a cleaning cloth.
- Dip de spatula into the soapy water every time you wipe away any excess.
- Allow the sealant to harden for approximately 24 hours before putting any “loads” on the sealant joints or before cleaning or mopping the floor.

### Optie 2: Placing and sealing skirting.

If you want to protect your walls or make sure that your floor looks its best, you can finish the floor with skirting made out of the same material as the tiles. Visit our online shop for readymade 10 mm thick PVC skirting strips. You can order the skirting when ordering your tiles. You can also use your cutting waste to saw skirting strips yourself. That way you can kill two birds with one stone: you save money and end up with less waste. Put the skirting close to where you want to fit them. Apply some MS Polymer-kit to the back of the skirting strip and firmly press the strip against the wall. Fit all the skirting in this manner. Seal the joint between the skirting and the wall as described under option 1.



Congratulations! Your new PVC flooring is ready to use. It is now time for a cup of coffee or tea or a well-deserved drink!

### QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

If you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on telephone number: 0031-455322277 or send us an email with your questions: [info@bofloor.biz](mailto:info@bofloor.biz).

**And before we forget: we always appreciate it when our customers leave a review on our website [www.pvctegelshop.nl](http://www.pvctegelshop.nl) with pictures of the end result.**

### EXTRA TIPS

Some more tips to make sure you continue to get the most out of your new floor:

- Try to avoid your floor coming into contact with dirt, dust and moisture as much as possible. We recommend you use a mat at the entrance. Even better: use a “logo mat”, a mat with your company logo, favourite car model or a personal picture. We can supply this for you. Just send an email with picture or logo and the required mat dimensions to [info@bofloor.biz](mailto:info@bofloor.biz). We will send you a design and quote without any obligation.
- Regularly sweep, mop or vacuum the floor to remove dust and dirt. (You can find more maintenance tips under the heading Maintenance Advice on our website)
- Avoid moving or dragging objects, furniture or tools with sharp sides as much as possible. It may be simple to replace any damaged tiles but prevention is better than cure. Chairs and table legs can easily be fitted with protective caps or felt protectors.
- Hot or glowing objects can leave permanent marks on coloured tiles. You can prevent this by using dark coloured tiles in locations where there is a risk of this happening or protecting the floor with welding blankets.

### Some additional information for the professionals among us.

Some interlocking tiles with hidden joint in the BoFloor collection are thermally weldable. The joints are milled with a power joint cutter and then welded with a PVC welding rod, in a colour of your choice. After cooling, the welding rod is cut level with the tile. This results in a 100% impermeable floor construction with clear joints.

These jobs are best left to qualified floor fitters. Professionals who regularly install linoleum usually have the right tools and knowledge to do the job.

