



## Homelux Matting Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

### 1. Why do I need to use Homelux waterproof matting?

Homelux waterproof matting is used for the creation of a wetroom – what is known as ‘Tanking.’ Tanking for wetrooms is part of building regulations. It can also be used to waterproof walls and floors in any installation where splash water is present, e.g. Bathroom, Kitchen, Utility room etc.

### 2. What type of adhesive can I use? – What thickness trowel?

#### **To fix the matting:**

In most cases (except chipboard) single part flexible powder adhesive can be used for the sub-straight (wood or concrete.) Use a 4mm notched trowel.

Powder adhesive must be used as a ready-mix adhesive, needs air to dry and by putting a non-breathable layer over it will remain wet.

#### **To fix the tiles to the matting:**

You can use the same adhesive as used to fix the matting, using the correct size notched trowel as recommended for the tiles.

***Ready-mix adhesive can be used to fix the tiles but not recommended.***

#### **To fix to chipboard:**

If fitting directly to chipboard, especially flooring grade, which is a wax coated, please consult the adhesive manufacturer.

### 3. Can I use electric under tile heating and where should it be placed in respect to the waterproof matting?

Yes you can use electric under tile heating, we highly recommend that it is fitted on top of the mat.

### 4. What is the common practise to create a suitable floor substrate ready for waterproof matting and tiling?

**A. Concrete** – Providing that the concrete is not an anhydrite screed (this would need to be scabbled and prepared.) Homelux waterproof matting can be applied directly onto the concrete.

**B. Wooden floor boards** – A suitable overlay will need to be used depending on the thickness and condition of the floor boards or totally replaced. The floor should be reinforced or replaced with ply board, screwed not nailed or stapled. British standards recommend 22mm board, as a replacement floor, but for overlaying. The practice is

6mm, 12mm or 18mm, depending on the installer. Alternatively sometimes a backer board is employed.

**C. Laying waterproof matting and tiles on chipboard (tongued and groove or plain sheets.)**

Flooring grade chipboard is normally wax coated therefore the best idea would be to check with the adhesive manufacturers as to whether their product is suitable or not. Chipboard is not regarded as a stable substrate for tiling. In this case, installers normally recommend that the chipboard is replaced with 22mm ply board. Or overlaid with min 6mm ply board.

**D. Ply board – 22mm ply board is regarded as a stable substrate. Varying thicknesses of ply board can be used in conjunction with an existing sub straight.**

***Note: Ply board must be as a minimum WEPB grade.***

**E. Wetroom preformed trays – All preformed wet room gradient trays can be overlaid with Homelux waterproof matting.**

**5. How do I lay and fit the waterproof matting?**

Cut the matting to size, spread the adhesive on the substrate using a 4mm or mosaic trowel, keeping the trowel lines all running in the same direction (this needs to be done so that no air bubbles are trapped under the mat. Then using the back, flat edge of the trowel, flatten the mat into the adhesive, squeezing out any excess adhesive that you can work before it starts to 'skin.'

**6. Can I install the matting outside on a concrete roof?**

Yes, as long as a suitable adhesive is used. Matting should be installed over the complete area first and then the tiles because if you leave areas exposed without the matting you run the risk of water getting under the matting if it rains, which will then just sit there under the waterproof matting and eventually migrate into the concrete.

**7. Can the floor matting be used on the wall?**

No, the floor matting has a decoupling layer which if installed onto the wall, may destruct and result in the tiles delaminating from the surface.

**8. Can the wall matting be used on the floor?**

Not recommended as there is no decoupling layer.

**9. Your leaflet and website installation instructions for this product say 'tile immediately'. Not being a professional tiler, can I install the matting on the wall, leave it until the following day then fit the tiles?**

Being able to tile immediately is one of the numerous advantages that our system has over competitors. It is not however a necessity and so tiling the next day is perfectly fine.

**10. If using tile backer boards for insulation of under tile heating, should they be fitted on top of the matting or between the matting and the wire element?**

Tile backer boards have two functions, one is to provide insulation and increase the performance of the heating system and the other is to provide a strong and smooth surface to apply a floor covering onto. The matting therefore should be applied on top of the boards and underneath the heating as it will be much quicker and easier to apply the matting onto the smooth even surface of the boards. The integrity of the adhesive under the matting will also be preserved as the surface of the backer board is potentially much more rigid and secure than the surface underneath the boards so less likely to flex, break or crack the adhesive.

**11. Does the matting replace the insulation backer board?**

No, the backer board provides a structural surface and has thermal insulation properties that the matting does not.

**12. Does matting interfere with the guarantee offered by an electric under floor heating manufacturer for their products?**

No, it is a separate product and stage in the wet room installation process.

**13. Does the matting need to be primed when installing a loose wire electric under tile heating?**

The primer is used to ensure a dust free, clean surface that the tape, used to secure the wire system, can stick to. The tape sticks directly to the matting (as long as it is clean) so is not needed but if primer is applied then it must be allowed to dry before applying the heating system, if it isn't then the tape won't stick.

**14. Can the matting be applied over existing tiles or vinyl tiles?**

It is not recommended. The substrate must always be strong, flat, even and load bearing to provide a good secure surface to install tiles onto. Vinyl tiles can be spongy and so will allow any new surface to move vertically on top, and potential cracking to occur. Existing tiles may be uneven and unsecure, so ensuring a flat solid layer over the top is very difficult.

**15. It is impossible to get a water tight seal at the corner joints of the room as the jointing tape and corners are adhered with a water resistant adhesive. Please explain?**

The running water created by the shower is constantly flowing over the surface and away towards the drain. Any water that gets to the level of the substrate is not under enough pressure at the corners and cannot transverse through the adhesive and underneath the matting. To apply the joint tape and corners properly you must work all excess adhesive out of the joint and with pressure work the corners and joint firmly into the matting. You are left with a thin layer of adhesive that effectively fuses the fibres of the wall/floor matting together with the jointing product. The lack of pressure and excellent surface bonding makes it impossible for a water droplet to transverse through the 50mm overlapping joint. Thick layers and pools of adhesive, air pockets and less than 100% contact with the adhesive under the matting all compromise the competence of the system.

The Homelux matting system is only recommended to be used in running water applications e.g. showers and not in areas that are subject to large amounts of standing water like swimming pools etc. This is because under high pressure over time the water may have enough force to penetrate the water resistant adhesive and transverse along the overlapping adhesive at the joint and thus escape to the substrate. The matting can however be used in standing water scenarios if the joints and edges are sealed with a suitable silicone sealant.

**16. The corners and jointing tape cannot be used with an off 90 degree corner, what is the solution?**

If the corner is not square or curved then using a suitable silicone adhesive to seal the area is perfectly fine at the joints and edges of the matting.

**17. With regards to using BAL FastFlex with the matting system; FastFlex requires a solid bed tipped trowel to be used, how does this effect the installation of the matting?**

BAL does have a special trowel for use with their FastFlex product. The tipped trowel basically ensures the 100% coverage of the adhesive and stands on its own as a product for that reason.

For optimum performance BAL FastFlex requires 100% coverage so it is recommended that this special trowel is used to ensure that. This trowel is not restricted to FastFlex and can be used with any of their adhesives. Any standard notched trowel however can be used with this as long as it is the correct size for the application. The nature of the matting is that it is a fabric and allows the user to really work the adhesive out from under the matting and ensures the 100% coverage that is needed. FastFlex is recommended as it eliminates the concern of whether you have the best adhesive for the substrate that you are working with, as BAL FastFlex can be used on almost any surface to adhere any type of tile.

**18. If the matting is perforated the guarantee would be void, however on the front of the brochure the room set shows a glass shower screen which is screwed to the wall and floor?**

There are companies, like Impey for example, who do produce shower screens that do not require a through hole to fit shower screen footing. Impey screens for instance only require about a 4mm hole in the tile or alternatively they produce a silicone rubber footing for some screens that do not need a hole at all in the floor. Any hole you make in the matting will void the 100% waterproof guarantee.

**19. How do you apply the matting around w/c pans and pedestals?**

Any holes that you make in the matting must be filled with a suitable silicone or a pipe collar must be used. Always seal around the waste pipe of the toilet with a sealant. Again, if you make a hole in the matting and do not use an element of the matting system to seal it, e.g. pipe collars, we cannot endorse the 100% waterproof guarantee. Usually toilets and basins are located away from the shower so water contact will be minimal.

**20. What if I accidentally puncture the matting?**

This is easily rectified by cutting a piece of wall matting or using the joint tape to cover the puncture as long as the distance covered from the puncture is approximately 50mm in each direction. Fit the patch the same as the matting and joint tape.

**21. Do I need to use the joint tape and preformed corners or can I overlap the matting?**

You do need to use the joint tape and the preformed corners, not using them will invalidate the guarantee. Overlapping the matting – **Floor**; due to the decoupling layer you would never get a waterproof seal, also air can be trapped causing a void/weakness. **Wall**; air can get trapped causing a void/weakness. **Preformed corners**; if you don't use the preformed corners but make your own by cutting the mat or joint tape and folding it over you will always have a weakness in the corner.

**22. My installation of the matting is only on the floor, can I turn the edges up the wall to form a tray?**

This is not advised, what should be done is that the floor to wall should be 'sealed' using the joint tape and preformed corners.

**23. I'm using Durabase on my floor and want to waterproof my walls, can I use waterproof matting for this?**

Yes this is fine to use in conjunction with the waterproof matting joint tape and preformed corners, to join the waterproof matting to the Durabase.