

## HARVEY MARIA FITTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE HOME

These are recommendations to help avoid common problems, they are by no means a comprehensive guide and if you are in any doubt please contact Harvey Maria.

Ideal surfaces (the subfloor) on which to lay your floor include plywood and screeded concrete floors. The subfloor should be permanently dry and should not contain more than 2.5CM% of moisture.

### PLYWOOD

Lay marine ply (approx 4-10mm depending on circumstances), butt-jointed and securely fixed. The surface should be clean, dry, flat and secure, with no uneven joints or protrusions (e.g. counter-sink all screw heads, apply feather edge to smooth over uneven joints). Brushing over with a coat of primer such as a diluted mixture of PVA and clean water (ratio approx 1:4) will help to improve adhesion.

### SCREED

Uneven solid floors such as concrete can be smoothed with a latex levelling screed to provide a clean, dry, flat surface on which to lay your new floor. The screed provides a firm base by smoothing over bumps and cracks. Latex screeds are available from DIY stores & builders merchants. Allow to dry completely. The drying time will depend on a number of factors including thickness of screed, atmospheric conditions, heating and lighting systems, etc.

Before fitting your floor, check the hardness of the uppermost layer of the floor with a hard, sharp object. Over a surface area of approx. 100 cm, scratch horizontal and vertical lines approximately 1 cm. apart. If the upper layer within the drawn 1 cm chequered area does not fall apart, you can assume that the surface is hard enough.

### WHAT'S ON THE FLOOR NOW?

**Timber Floors/ Floorboards.** Secure all floorboards, sanding flat all protruding surfaces, ensuring all nail heads are at or below floor surface. Then see **PLYWOOD** above.

**Vinyl/ Rubber/ Laminate Flooring.** Harvey Maria floors should not be laid directly onto non-porous surfaces such as vinyl, rubber or laminate. Remove the existing floor covering and level with a screed (see **SCREED** above), or over-lay with ply board (see **PLYWOOD** above).

**Concrete Floors.** If the surface is in pristine condition (ie. it's level, clean, completely smooth and has not previously been painted or sealed) then it may be possible to lay your Harvey Maria floor directly onto the concrete. But in most cases a smoothing compound will be required (see **SCREED** above) or, alternatively, cover with ply board (see **PLYWOOD** above).

Most concrete floors will already have a Damp Proof Membrane (DPM), but if not, consider a surface applied DPM. These are available from most big DIY stores, or ask your local flooring contractor for guidance. Ensure that the floor is completely dry (see moisture content above). Remember, a new concrete floor can take many weeks to dry completely.

**Quarry or Ceramic tiles.** Apply a smoothing compound directly to the existing floor (see **SCREED** above) or remove the existing floor covering and then apply the smoothing compound (see **SCREED** above). It may sometimes be possible to cover the existing floor with ply (see **PLYWOOD** above). Some floors may not have a DPM although they may appear dry. See **Concrete Floors** above for surface applied DPM.

## PREPARATION

**Working conditions:** floorcovering 18° C. minimum subfloor temperature 15° C. minimum surrounding temperature 18° C. maximum relative humidity 70%. It is important in all cases that the surface the tiles are to be laid on is thoroughly clean, dry and level.

## LAYING INSTRUCTIONS

Find the centre of the room. This is where the first tile is laid, it is not usually advisable to start from the edge. Lay a number of pieces without any adhesive on the floor in both directions (see illustrations below). If an arrow is printed on the reverse then lay all in the same direction.

Tip: Preparation of a working drawing showing how the tiles will be laid can help achieve optimal coverage and minimise wastage. Drawing of chalk lines on the floor will help with orientation.

Fig 1

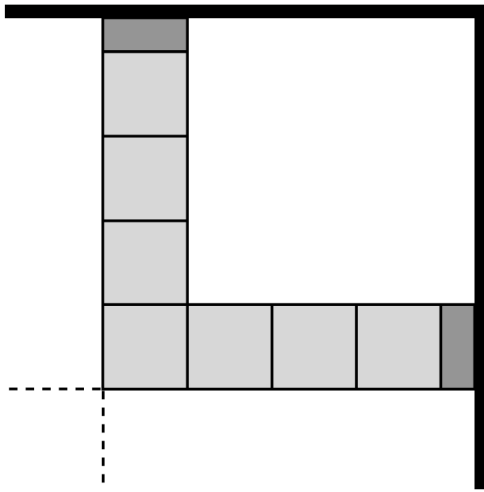
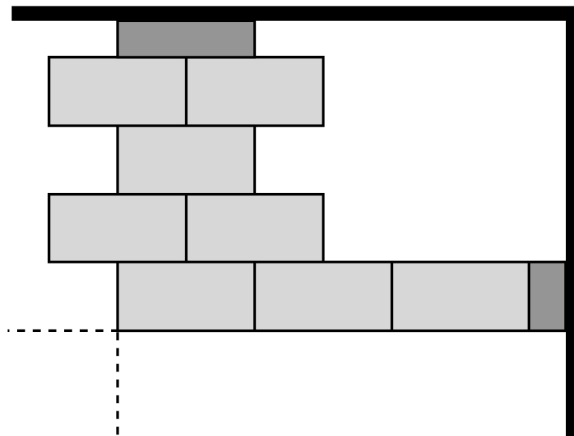


Fig 1



Adjust the position of the centre tile if necessary, so that the edge pieces will be of about equal size. Mark the position of one or more of the centre tiles. Spread the adhesive according to instructions (see **Adhesive** below). To keep the tiles square, move out from the central tile in a circular manner (see illustrations below), fitting the edge pieces as you go.

Fig 2

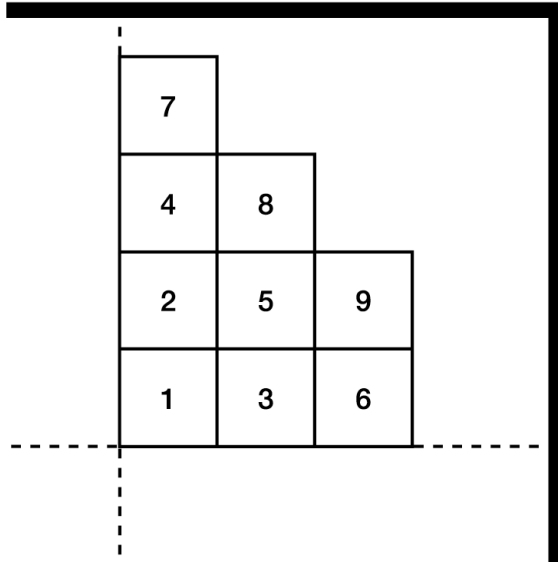
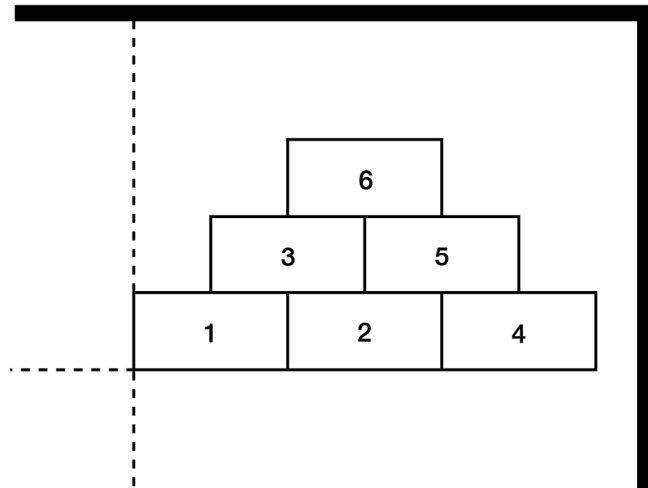
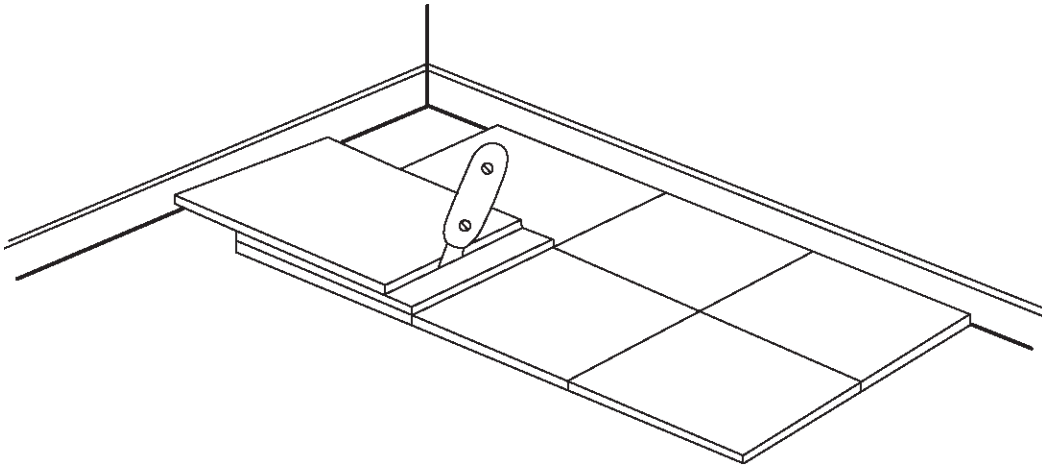


Fig 2



**Cutting the edges to fit.** This may sound complicated but it is actually very easy. Place the tile to be cut exactly over the last tile already laid. Mark it off, using the edge of another whole tile placed against the wall and cut using a very sharp blade (see illustration 3). The pieces should be snug, but not a tight fit. ***Always mark and cut the tile with the picture side up.***



**For curved edges** such as around toilets make a paper template by drawing around the object on paper and then marking and cutting the tile accordingly.

**Adhesive.** Recommended adhesives can be obtained from Harvey Maria Ltd. Apply adhesive in accordance with instructions supplied.

When the adhesive is receptive, lay the tiles in the adhesive bed and settle them in, rubbing gently. Ensure edges are butted tightly together and that corners are stuck down firmly. To avoid surface striping (e.g. as the result of uneven adhesive application), we advise rubbing the floor covering with a carpeted plank. To deal with large surface areas, the plank may need to be fitted with a handle. Immediately after rubbing the floor covering in both directions, roll with a 50 kg roller. Ensure that your new floor is free from general traffic for 24 hours after installation or protect from direct contact for that period.

Use Harvey Maria **High Temperature Adhesive** in areas with underfloor heating and/or in areas that experience greater extremes of temperature (e.g. conservatories) and follow the instructions supplied.

**Finishing.** Wipe away any excess glue before drying with a damp cloth and sit back and admire your handiwork nb. never use solvents for removing spots of adhesive. Just sponge lightly with soap and water or use the Floor Care Kit (see below).

Small gaps at the edges of the room, around baths toilets and basins etc. can be filled with a mastic where necessary to provide a neat, and water-tight, finish.

Your Harvey Maria floor has a tough surface, so additional finishing is not usually necessary in normal domestic circumstances. The **Floor Care Kit** contains an emulsion polish to add a protective layer to your floor where required.

**Underfloor Heating.** Harvey Maria floors are suitable for use with most underfloor heating systems. Always check with the manufacturer for any specific fitting guidelines. Heating should be switched off for 48 hours before and after fitting your floor. Never fit directly onto heated mats. Use Harvey Maria High Temperature Adhesive when fitting with underfloor heating.

## MAINTENANCE

Your Harvey Maria floor needs no special maintenance, however, as with all floors, sand and grit will scratch. A good doormat is always advisable for floors laid in rooms with access to the outdoors.

Recommended cleaning materials are available from Harvey Maria. All floors should be regularly cleaned with a brush or vacuum. Periodic sponge mopping with water and Harvey Maria Routine Cleaner will remove water-borne staining and soiling. The emulsion polish contained in the **Floor Care Kit** is recommended for use in busy areas, and for lighter and solid colour floors, which will more readily show soiling and scuffs. The polish protects the top surface and will help with day to day cleaning.

The clean and strip product contained in the **Floor Care Kit** removes soiling from the installation process (including dried on adhesive), and can be used periodically as necessary during the life of the floor to strip away soiling and remaining polish. Use clean & strip to prepare the floor for the (re-) application of the emulsion polish as necessary.

Avoid dragging heavy furniture or hard-edged objects across your floor. Use of protector pads (supplied in the **Floor Care Kit**) will help protect the floor from feet or castors of heavy objects.

## TIPS ON HANDLING HARVEY MARIA FLOORS

**Storage.** Take care to ensure that the material rests on a flat substrate at all times. If the material is not stored flat, this can lead to laying problems.

**Checking the material.** Before leaving the factory, the floor covering undergoes careful inspection to ensure high quality standards. Unfortunately 100% elimination of defects can never be guaranteed. Therefore, before fitting, always check the material for visible defects as any problems can only be dealt with before laying work has begun. Once work on the floor covering has started, then only initially concealed defects can be considered (please refer to Terms and Conditions at [www.harveymaria.co.uk](http://www.harveymaria.co.uk) for more information).

**Material relaxation and the climatic conditions.** To give the material a chance to relax, tiles should be placed in small heaps for a minimum of 24 hours in the flooring site to allow them to adapt to the room and its temperature. The material normally adapts to the temperature of the room where laying takes place. Excessively low temperatures and/or excessively high atmospheric humidities make the material difficult to work with and produce reluctant bonding.

**Preventing Colour Differences.** Lay the room with material from the same batch only. Never use sample material for flooring purposes as this may cause problems and will invalidate your warranty for the entire floor.

Every effort has been made to ensure that these guidelines are as accurate as possible. Harvey Maria Ltd does not accept any liability for floors unless laid strictly in accordance with these guidelines and those published and updated from time to time at [www.harveymaria.co.uk](http://www.harveymaria.co.uk)

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