

PREPARATION

1. PREPARATION FOR VUSTA/VITESSE



a. ACCLIMATISATION

Vusta should be left in its packaging and laid in the centre of the room in which it is to be fitted for 24 hours prior to installation. Do not stand the flooring upright against a wall – it must be laid flat to maintain its shape.

During the acclimatisation period, the temperature in the room should be kept at a constant anywhere between 18°-26°C. Vusta should not be installed externally or in unheated locations.



b. SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The finished appearance of a Vusta floor is only ever as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed. The floor should be fitted to a concrete or timber subfloor that is hard, smooth, clean, dry and without defects. The subfloor should also be free from damp, rot, fungal or insect infestation.

i. PRECAUTIONS

- Latex and water-based levelling compounds are not suitable for timber subfloors or where underfloor heating is present.
- Fibrous levelling compounds should be mixed with the highest recommended level of water content for a smooth finish.
- The following subfloor preparation guidelines are only applicable to subfloors without underfloor heating. For guidance on underfloor heating see page 112.



ii. CHECKING MOISTURE LEVELS

In all cases, the moisture level in the subfloor must be checked using a hygrometer. Failure to protect against moisture may cause the adhesive to fail.

Screeded Subfloors

If the Relative Humidity (RH) level marginally exceeds 70%, a liquid damp proof membrane (DPM) is required. For RH readings above 75%, the subfloor must be left to dry out further.

If a DPM is necessary, we recommend applying two coats before the application of Vusta adhesive. The DPM and adhesive will work in unison to improve the overall level of moisture protection.

Please note: a liquid DPM is only effective for managing moisture levels up to 95%. We recommend Woodpecker WP60 Liquid DPM (see www.woodpecker.co.uk).

Timber Subfloors

Moisture levels must read between 7-11% Wood Moisture Equivalent (WME). If the reading is outside this range, a damp proof membrane is required.

We recommend using a DPM followed by Jumpax Dual Underlay (see c. Jumpax) or a plywood overlay fitted above a barrier paper such as Woodpecker Moistop (see www.woodpecker.co.uk).



iii. SCREEDED SUBFLOORS

New Screeds (sand and cement)

- The floor must be completely dry. We advise that you check with the manufacturer for screed drying times but as a guide: one day of drying should be allowed per mm of screed up to a thickness of 50mm. For any greater thickness, the drying time should be doubled thereafter. For example, a 50mm screed could take 2 months to dry out while a 100mm screed might take around 6 months.
- The surface must be level and free of grooves or score marks. Slight irregularities can be eradicated with a latex or water-based levelling compound (minimum thickness 3mm).
- Alternatively, Jumpax can provide a quick and easy floor levelling solution (see c. Jumpax).
- Any dust, debris or foreign matter must be brushed or vacuumed from the surface prior to fitting.
- If a liquid DPM is required, a minimum of 2 coats is recommended.

Existing Screeds (sand & cement)

- The surface must be thoroughly cleaned of any contaminants such as paint, grease and plaster. Solvents should not be used for cleaning.
- Any cracks, grooves and holes must be filled.
- The surface must be brushed or vacuumed to remove all foreign matter.
- Slight irregularities can be eradicated with a latex or water-based levelling compound (minimum thickness 3mm).

- Significantly uneven surfaces will require the application of a fibrous levelling compound. We recommend the Woodpecker Level-X compound (see www.woodpecker.co.uk). If the surface isn't completely smooth after initial levelling, retouch with a feathering compound.
- As an alternative to a levelling compound, Jumpax can provide a quick and easy floor levelling solution (see. c. Jumpax).
- If a liquid DPM is required, a minimum of 2 coats is recommended.

Anhydrite, Gypsum or Calcium Sulphate

- The surface must be thoroughly cleaned of any contaminants such as paint, grease and plaster. Solvents should not be used for cleaning.
- Any cracks, grooves and holes must be filled.
- The surface must be brushed or vacuumed to remove all foreign matter.
- Slight irregularities can be eradicated with a latex or water-based levelling compound. Prime the surface before applying the levelling compound to a minimum thickness of 3mm. We recommend the Woodpecker 11P Surface Primer (see www.woodpecker.co.uk)
- Significantly uneven surfaces will require the application of a fibrous levelling compound. We recommend the Woodpecker Level-X compound (see www.woodpecker.co.uk). If the surface isn't completely smooth after initial levelling, retouch with a feathering compound.
- As an alternative to a levelling compound, Jumpax can provide a quick and easy floor levelling solution (see. c. Jumpax).
- It is not suitable to apply a liquid DPM to an anhydrite screed to speed up the installation. You will have to wait until the screed is sufficiently dry. You can however, accelerate the drying process with the use of underfloor heating (if present) or dehumidifiers. We advise that you check with the manufacturer beforehand.

Asphalt or Bitumen

- This type of subfloor is typically a black and brittle, hard layer. Remove as much of the material as possible to lower the risk of future problems arising from the subfloor.
- Apply a primer followed by a fibrous levelling compound to a minimum thickness of 2mm. We recommend the Woodpecker Level-X Primer and Level-X compound (see www.woodpecker.co.uk). If after levelling, the surface isn't completely smooth, retouch with a feathering compound.



iv. TIMBER SUBFLOORS

Joists

- Joists must be overlaid with at least 18mm of plywood to provide a structurally sound surface (see 1. b. iv. Plywood Overlays).

Floorboards

- Any loose boards should be secured and any broken boards replaced.
- There must be adequate ventilation between the underside of joists and the ground to prevent dry rot.
- 'Springy' boards or floors that give when walked on are not suitable. These should be removed and replaced.
- Overlay the floorboards with at least 6mm of flooring grade plywood to provide a suitable surface for Vusta to be installed (see 1. b. iv. Plywood Overlays).
- Alternatively, a fibrous levelling compound can be applied to the boards to a minimum thickness of 2mm. We recommend the Woodpecker Level-X compound (see www.woodpecker.co.uk). If the surface isn't completely smooth after initial levelling, retouch with a feathering compound.
- The surface must be allowed to dry thoroughly (below 70% RH) before installing Vusta. Please consult the manufacturers of the compounds for specific drying times.
- As an alternative to a plywood overlay or levelling compound, Jumpax can provide a quick and easy floor levelling solution (see. c. Jumpax).

Chipboard, Weyroc, OSB or Particleboard

- Overlay with at least 6mm of flooring grade plywood to provide a suitable surface for Vusta to be installed (see 1. b. iv. Plywood Overlays).
- Alternatively, a fibrous levelling compound can be applied to a minimum thickness of 2mm. We recommend the Woodpecker Level-X compound (see www.woodpecker.co.uk). If the surface isn't completely smooth after initial levelling, retouch with a feathering compound.

- The levelled floor must be allowed to dry thoroughly (below 70% RH) before installing Vusta. Please consult the compound manufacturer/s for specific drying times.
- As an alternative to a levelling compound, Jumpax can provide a quick and easy floor levelling solution (see. c. Jumpax).

Wood Block Floors or Wood Mosaic Panels

- The floor covering should be lifted and any residual adhesive or bitumen removed. The subfloor should then be prepared appropriately (see 1. b. iii. Screeded Subfloors and iv. Timber Subfloors).

Plywood Overlays

- Plywood boards should be Class 3 exterior grade, glue bond EN 314-2:1993.
- When laid over an existing subfloor, the thickness of the boards should be at least 6mm and then determined by the condition of the sub-surface and the traffic intensity in the room.
- If the plywood is being used to provide a structural floor (i.e. directly over joists), current building regulations stipulate that the thickness of the boards must exceed 18mm.
- The panels should be allowed to acclimatise in the room for several days before installation. Please consult the plywood manufacturer for a more exact acclimatisation period.
- Fit the boards with screws or staples (barbed or serrated) at 150mm centres.
- When the boards have been fixed in position, a feathering compound should be applied to ensure that any screws or staples are flush with the surface and to eradicate any lips, dents and joins.
- If the plywood surface is particularly uneven, apply a fibrous levelling compound. We recommend the Woodpecker Level-X compound (see www.woodpecker.co.uk). If the surface isn't completely smooth after initial levelling, retouch with a feathering compound.
- Ensure the surface is allowed to dry completely before installing Vusta. Check with the manufacturer for specific compound drying times.
- As an alternative to a levelling compound, Jumpax can provide a quick and easy floor levelling solution (see. c. Jumpax).



v. OTHER SUBFLOORS

Terrazzo, Stone, Ceramic Tiles or Quarry Tiles

- The surface must be thoroughly cleaned of all sealants and varnishes as well as foreign matter such as grease, oil and wax.
- Any worn or damaged areas must be repaired.
- Any loose or unstable tiles must be removed and the gaps filled with mortar.
- A mechanical method such as shot blasting may be required to level and prepare the surface.
- Apply primer to the prepared surface followed by a latex or water-based levelling compound (minimum thickness 3mm). We recommend the Woodpecker 11P Surface Primer (see www.woodpecker.co.uk).
- A liquid DPM is required with this type of subfloor. We recommend a minimum application of 2 coats.
- As an alternative to a levelling compound, Jumpax can provide a quick and easy floor levelling solution (see. c. Jumpax).

Thermoplastic Tiles

- Remove the tiles and then follow the instructions for preparing a bitumen subfloor (see 1. b. iii. Asphalt or Bitumen).

Painted Floors

- The surface must be mechanically cleaned to remove all traces of paint.
- Apply a primer such as Woodpecker 11P Surface Primer (see www.woodpecker.co.uk) and then pour a latex or water-based levelling compound to a minimum thickness of 3mm.
- A liquid DPM is required. We recommend a minimum application of 2 coats.
- As an alternative to a levelling compound, Jumpax can provide a quick and easy floor levelling solution (see. c. Jumpax).

Laminate, Cork, Carpet, Vinyl, Linoleum or Other Existing Flooring

- Remove all existing floor coverings along with any underlay, adhesive residue and accessories.
- Prepare the subfloor as appropriate (see 1. b. iii. Screeded Subfloors and iv. Timber Subfloors).



c. JUMPAX DUAL UNDERLAY

Jumpax is the quick-fix solution to levelling a subfloor. Comprised of two layers of MDF (base-board and top-board) totalling 10mm, the underlay forms a stable floating surface that overcomes many of the typical subfloor issues and irregularities. The boards include an adhesive backing for a mess-free installation and are ready for adhesion, allowing Vusta to be fitted directly on top within the same day.

N.B. Jumpax is not suitable for installation in wet rooms or areas where there is a regular flow of water.



i. ACCLIMATISATION

Jumpax boards must be placed within the room in which they are to be fitted, within their sealed packaging, for at least 48 hours before installation. The temperature in the room during this period must be at least 20°C.



ii. CHECKING MOISTURE

Prior to fitting, the moisture level in the subfloor must be checked with a hygrometer. If the reading is above 70% RH or outside 7-11% WME, then a damp proof membrane or further drying time is required (see 1. b. ii. Checking Moisture Levels). Jumpax will not provide a sufficient moisture barrier on its own.



iii. SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The subfloor must be flat with no irregularities exceeding 6mm across a 3m area or 3mm across a 1m area. Any high spots should be sanded down and any low spots filled. The surface must be clean, dry and free of dust.



Screeded Subfloors:

Sand and Cement or Anhydrite

- Screeded subfloors should be completely dry before installing Jumpax. We advise that you check with the manufacturer for screed drying times but as a guide: one day of drying should be allowed per mm of screed, up to a thickness of 50mm. For any greater thickness, the drying time should be doubled thereafter. For example, a 50mm screed could take 2 months to dry out while a 100mm screed might take around 6 months.

Bitumen, Gypsum or Calcium Sulphate

- Jumpax can be laid directly over a flat and firm existing surface.
- If the surface isn't adequate, remove as much of the material as possible to lower the risk of future problems arising from the subfloor.



Timber Subfloors:

Floorboards

- Any loose boards should be secured and any broken boards replaced.
- There must be adequate ventilation between the underside of the joists and the ground to prevent dry rot.
- 'Springy' boards or floors that give when walked on are not suitable and should be removed and replaced before laying Jumpax.

Chipboard, Weyroc, OSB or Particleboard

- Jumpax can be laid directly onto the surface providing it is flat and firm.

Wood Block Floors or Wood Mosaic Panels

- Any broken or unstable blocks must be replaced before installing Jumpax.

Plywood Overlays

- Jumpax can be laid directly onto the surface.



Other Subfloors:

Terrazzo, Stone, Ceramic Tiles or Quarry Tiles

- Any unstable tiles must be removed and the gaps filled with mortar.

Thermoplastic Tiles

- If the existing surface is smooth and sturdy with minimal irregularities, Jumpax can be laid directly on top.
- If the surface is considerably irregular, remove as much of the material as possible before installing Jumpax.

Painted Floors

- Jumpax can be laid directly onto the surface.

Laminate, Cork, Carpet, Vinyl, Linoleum or Other Existing Flooring

- Any unstable planks or tiles must be removed and replaced. Jumpax can be laid on top of any hard floorcovering.
- Do not install Jumpax directly over carpet. Remove soft floorcoverings and any underlay prior to installation.



iv. INSTALLATION

Jumpax is installed in two layers comprising of base-boards and top-boards. A maximum room span of 12m is recommended for any single installation.

Base-boards:

- Allow an 8-10mm expansion gap at all walls and 16mm in door openings.
- Score the first row of Jumpax base-boards to half of their width (300mm) using a utility knife and snap for a clean break.
- Cut the first board again to $\frac{3}{4}$ of its length (900mm).
- Lay the first board with the protective film facing upwards, in the corner of the longest wall.
- Lay the remainder of the first row of boards.
- Cut the first board of the second row to $\frac{1}{4}$ of its length (300mm) and lay.
- Lay the rest of the second row with full-size base-boards.
- Continue to lay the boards across the whole subfloor in a brickwork fashion ensuring that the joints are staggered.

Top-boards:

- Once all the base-boards have been installed and immediately before installing the top-boards, remove the protective film from both boards to reveal their adhesive layers. Only remove as much of the film as is required while installing to ensure the adhesive remains tacky.
- Lay the first row of full-size top-boards over the first row of base-boards with the adhesive side facing down.
- Cut the first board of the second row to half its length (600mm), lay the board and then continue to lay the second row with full-size top-boards.
- Install in a brickwork fashion across the rest of the subfloor ensuring that all joints are staggered from those of the base-boards.
- Tap down the top boards using a rubber hammer or roll with a 100lbs roller.

Final Preparation:

- Remove any irregularities on the surface of the boards with 120 grit sand paper.
- Vacuum the boards to remove any dust and debris.

Installing Vusta:

- When laying Vusta, ensure that the surface of the floor does not exceed the edges of the Jumpax boards.
- For the best results, glue Vusta to Jumpax within 48 hours of fitting. This will reduce the risk of any influence from atmospheric humidity.

Please note: as our flooring is manufactured in batches, it is important to order from the same batch number to ensure colours match exactly.