

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

4. UNDERFLOOR HEATING

As there are numerous underfloor heating systems on the market, each with varying guidelines, it is near impossible for us to provide comprehensive advice about laying Vusta over UFH. We strongly recommend that you consult your manufacturer for detailed instructions.

The guidelines below may be used together with your manufacturer's advice to provide further assistance.



a. PRECAUTIONS

- UFH systems must be commissioned and operating for 7-14 days before Vusta is fitted.
- UFH must be turned off for 48 hours prior to installation.
- Fibrous levelling compounds should be mixed with the highest recommended level of water content, for an even finish.
- Latex and water-based levelling compounds are not suitable where underfloor heating is present.



b. INSTALLING OVER HYDRONIC UFH SYSTEMS

Hydronic UFH systems have a series of pipes running beneath the floor. These pipes are connected to a boiler to circulate warm water and disperse heat evenly.



i. SCREEDED UFH SYSTEMS

Screed systems are the most popular type of underfloor heating. Fitting typically involves clipping a series of pipes to an insulation board and laying a screed on top. The pipes effectively heat up the screed slab to provide an even heat output.

Please consult your manufacturer to ensure your UFH system is suitable with vinyl tiles (LVT) and for installation guidelines. The following instructions should only be used as additional guidance.

Preparing the subfloor

- Ensure the screed is completely dry. 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 using a feathering compound.
- 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](#)).
- The finished surface must be clean of debris and any other foreign matter.
- Check the moisture in the subfloor using a hygrometer. If the Relative Humidity level marginally exceeds 70%, apply a liquid DPM that is suitable for use with UFH (minimum 2 coats). For RH readings above 75%, the subfloor must be left to dry out further.

Installing Vusta

Vusta High Temperature Adhesive must be used for installing Vusta above underfloor heating (see [2. Installing Vusta](#)).

Installing Vitesse

(see [3. Installing Vitesse](#)).



ii. FLOATED UFH SYSTEMS

A floating floor system houses the UFH pipes in extruded insulation boards which are floated directly onto the floor surface below.

Please consult your manufacturer to ensure your UFH system is suitable with LVT and for installation guidelines. The following instructions should only be used as additional guidance.

Preparing the subfloor

- Flooring grade tongue and groove plywood (or a recommended alternative) with a minimum thickness of 18mm should be laid on top of the polystyrene panels.
- Panels should be allowed to acclimatise in the room for several days before installation. Please consult the manufacturer for a more exact acclimatisation period.
- Boards should be glued together at the joints for stability.
- Once the boards have been fixed in position, 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.

- The finished surface must be clean of debris and any other foreign matter.
- Check the moisture in the subfloor using a hygrometer. If the Relative Humidity level marginally exceeds 70% then apply a liquid DPM that is suitable for use with UFH. We recommend a minimum application of two coats. For RH readings above 75%, allow the screed to dry out further.

Installing Vusta

Vusta High Temperature Adhesive must be used for installing Vusta above underfloor heating (see 2. Installing Vusta).

Installing Vitesse

(see 3. Installing Vitesse).



iii. SUSPENDED UFH SYSTEMS

Suspended systems are often installed in rooms above the ground floor. The pipework is held within aluminium diffusion plates which are fixed between joists or battens.

Please consult your manufacturer to ensure your UFH system is suitable with LVT and for installation guidelines. The following instructions should only be used as additional guidance.

Preparing the subfloor

- Flooring grade plywood (or a recommended alternative) with a minimum thickness of 18mm should be laid on top of the joists.
- Panels should be allowed to acclimatise in the room for several days before installation. Please consult the manufacturer for a more exact acclimatisation period.
- Boards should be fitted with screws or staples (barbed or serrated) at 150mm centres.
- Once the boards have been fixed in position, apply a fibrous levelling compound to ensure that any screws or staples are flush with the surface and to eradicate any lips, dents and joints. 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 finished surface must be clean of debris and any other foreign matter.

- Check the moisture in the subfloor using a hygrometer. If the Relative Humidity level marginally exceeds 70%, apply a liquid DPM that is suitable for UFH. We recommend a minimum application of two coats. For RH readings above 75%, allow the screed to dry out further.
- As an alternative to a levelling compound, Jumpax can provide a quick and easy floor levelling solution (see c. Jumpax).

Installing Vusta

Vusta High Temperature Adhesive must be used for installing Vusta above underfloor heating (see 2. Installing Vusta).

Installing Vitesse

(see 3. Installing Vitesse).



c. INSTALLING OVER ELECTRIC UFH SYSTEMS

Electric systems rely on a network of wires which heat up beneath the floor. The wires are connected to the mains supply with a sensor that connects to the thermostat. There are typically three types of electric UFH systems that are compatible with Vusta.



i. FOIL HEATING MATS

Roll-out foil mats contain a series of tiny electrical wires sandwiched between two layers of aluminium foil. The mats are then connected to the mains power supply.

Vusta can only be fitted above foil heating systems that are accompanied by a dual overlay (includes a base-board and a top-board) which provides a floating surface to which the floor can be fitted. Please note: not all foil heating mat systems are supplied with an overlay.

Please consult your manufacturer to ensure your UFH system is suitable with LVT and for installation guidelines. The following instructions should only be used as additional guidance.

Preparing the Dual Overlay

- Install the overlay 24 hours prior to laying Vusta.
- Remove any irregularities on the surface of the boards with a 120 grit sand paper.
- Vacuum the boards to remove any dust and debris.
- A primer may be necessary to ensure the surface does not absorb the adhesive. Check with the manufacturer.

Installing Vusta

Vusta High Temperature Adhesive must be used for installing Vusta above underfloor heating (see 2. Installing Vusta).

Installing Vitesse

(see 3. Installing Vitesse).



ii. CABLE HEATING MATS

Electric heating mats are roll-out sheets of fibreglass mesh that include a series of heating cables covered by a screed.

Please consult your manufacturer to ensure your UFH system is suitable with LVT and for installation guidelines. The following instructions should only be used as additional guidance.

Preparing the subfloor

- If the mats are not covered with a screed, a fibrous levelling compound should be poured over the surface to a minimum thickness of 10mm. 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 manufacturer for specific drying times.

Installing Vusta

Vusta High Temperature Adhesive must be used for installing Vusta above underfloor heating (see 2. Installing Vusta).

Installing Vitesse

(see 3. Installing Vitesse).



iii. LOOSE WIRE SYSTEMS

This type of system consists of a series of electric cables connected to the mains supply. The cables are laid as required and then concealed within a screed.

Please consult your manufacturer to ensure your UFH system is suitable with LVT and for installation guidelines. The following instructions should only be used as additional guidance.

Preparing the Subfloor for Vusta/Vitesse

- If the cables are not covered with a screed, a fibrous levelling compound should be poured over to a minimum thickness of 10mm. 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 manufacturer for specific drying times.

Installing Vusta

Vusta High Temperature Adhesive must be used for installing Vusta above underfloor heating (see 2. Installing Vusta).

Installing Vitesse

(see 3. Installing Vitesse).



d. AFTERCARE

- The UFH must not be switched on for at least 48 hours after installation.
- Do not turn the system on full immediately but raise the temperature gradually at no more than 1°C per day.
- LVT is sensitive to high temperatures - ensure that the floor temperature does not exceed 27°C at any time.
- Do not use thick insulating rugs on the floor as these can prevent heat transfer, cause excessive floor temperatures and possibly lead to the floor delaminating.