

Adhesive problems and causes



The following table has been adapted from the 'Adhesives fault diagnosis' table in the *Forbo Floorcoverings Installation Guide*. The original document can be downloaded from the Forbo Flooring website at: <http://www.forbo-flooring.com.au/>

Appearance on subfloor	Appearance on flooring	Cause
Clearly defined ridges	No transfer, or only slight transfer	Lack of rolling
Clearly defined ridges	Shadowing on surface with no or slight transfer	Late placing
'Pooling', smeared and crinkled, or 'cratered'	Smeared and crinkled, especially at seams and edges	Uneven subfloor
Flat ridges	No transfer	Wrong adhesive
Wet, sludgy, smelly	Staining badly	Wet or damp screed
Adhesive soaked in	Granules of screed adhering	Dusty, weak screed
Powdering of adhesive and wet patches, possibly smelly	Pale coloured, powder on tile edges and back	Alkali attack
Asphalt subfloor softened	Vinyl tile stained dark brown or black	Wrong adhesive, e.g. petroleum base
No key to subfloor	Good key	Contaminated subfloor
Sparse and low ridges	Not sticking, little transfer	Wrong trowel used
Heavy application, 'skinned'	Indentation, little transfer	Over application of adhesive, late placing of flooring
Soft, wet, thick adhesive film	Adhesive squeezing through joints	Over application of adhesive, early placing of flooring
No adhesive	Curling at perimeter, no transfer	Adhesive stops short of wall
Clearly defined adhesive ridges (when present)	Perimeter tiles only – loose, curling and hollow sounding	Late placement