

Dance Floor Instructions

Thank you for purchasing your Dance Floor from Flints.

To achieve the best results from your floor please read these instructions carefully before you lay the floor.

Acclimatisation on Arrival

Dance floors are affected by the temperature. Some are affected more so than others. The harder floors suitable for tap and heavy scenery such as Timestep are more affected by cold weather than the softer floors such as Super Bravo. In particularly cold weather Timestep can become brittle if folded back on itself - black Timestep being more affected by the cold than marbled grey. If your floor has just arrived from a freezing cold lorry then it should be left to acclimatise to the room temperature (13-27C). In the case of Timestep this could take 24 hours or longer.

Laying the Floor

Check the floor you are lying your dance floor onto is perfectly flat and free of nails etc. Once you are happy your dance floor is at ambient room temperature it should be rolled out and allowed to lay flat. The longer the better, ideally overnight, occasionally longer. If you are in a theatre it is good to bring up the lights so the floor achieves the maximum temperature it will achieve during the performance. There should be a 1-2mm gap between the seams and a 12mm gap around the edges if the floor is being laid against walls. When the floor is completely flat it can be top taped with PVC or cloth tape along the seams and edges.

Please do not tape your floor until it is completely flat. Change the top tape every four months and double-sided tape every two years.

If you prefer to tape to the floor using double-sided tape then it is vitally important the floor achieves the highest performance temperature. When the floor is fully acclimatised and completely flat, place a row of stage weights on a board along one end of the dance floor and gently roll the floor back onto its storage tube. Position the double sided tape around the edges and down the middle but leave the protective paper on the top. Roll out the floor again to check positioning. If it is fine, roll it back up, remove the protective paper exposing the adhesive tape then roll out. Repeat for each roll.

Laying Floors with ReUselt

ReUselt is an amazing new product for laying floors. Full instructions should be downloaded from flints.co.uk/..... ReUselt is available as 50mm wide rolls or 1m wide rolls. The 50mm can be used in the same way as double sided tape above but it is much easier to remove. The 1m wide rolls should be laid at right angles to the direction of your dance floor. One person should walk back slowly with the roll while a second person, using a broom, smooths the ReUselt down onto the floor. Cover the entire floor. Roll out the dance floor across the ReUselt at right angles and allow 24 hours to acclimatise. Once perfectly flat roll back the dance floor onto its tube to the halfway mark. Remove the protective paper from the ReUselt and roll the flooring back being careful to maintain alignment. Do the other half and repeat for each roll. Once the floor is layed it should be rolled with a 34kg to 45kg roller. A floor laid with ReUselt can be rolled back up even after a year or so and the ReUselt pulled from the floor leaving virtually no residue. If any area of flooring gets damaged it can be neatly cut away, peeled up, and the new piece inserted. Brilliant.

Cleaning the Floor

Try to protect your floors from street dirt by using appropriate mats near door entrances. Floors should be cleaned regularly with a recognised dance floor cleaner such as Stagesep Proclean or Rosco All Purpose Floor Cleaner. Do not use vinegar, cola, alcohol, solvents or any product that says it will leave your floor shiny. Stubborn scuff marks can be removed with Wipeout and tape residue can be removed with Tapemate. Aluminium residue from Tap Shoes can not be removed but Tap Shoes can be treated with Tap Shield to avoid this problem.

Storing the Floor

It is very important long term storage is carried out correctly to avoid you floor becoming mis-shapen. Before storing your floors check they are clean with no old tape left in place. All floors should be taped and rolled onto a tube of at least 100mm diameter (150mm is better). They should be rolled evenly with the edges level and then taped tightly. Wrap them in brown paper or polythene to keep them clean. Long term storage of Timestep, Super Bravo, Rave, Rosco Adagio should be on end. The ends should be protected with a piece of plywood. These rolls may be heavy so please secure them firmly to a wall with webbing.

During use or touring the floors may be hung on a Dance Floor Trolley. Be careful to ensure the flooring is tightly rolled and taped so it doesn't hang down in loops. Do not stack on top of each other or leave stored lying on the floor. Store upright as soon as possible to avoid the floor getting a set. Rosco Dance Floor should not be stored upright but left hung on a Dance Floor Trolley. Never put weights on top of rolls of flooring. Avoid excessive heat or cold and direct sunlight.

Troubleshooting

If you follow the instructions above you should experience no problems but here is a guide to trouble shooting if there is a problem.

Regular repeated ripples along the floor This is normally caused by poor storage. If the dance floor is left lying on the floor or hung in loops it will gradually distort causing regular ridges across the floor. It may or may not settle out with temperature and time.

Bubbles in the Centre but Edges Laying Flat Elephant ears! If the floor has not been taped this would probably be poor storage again possibly due to a weight resting on the roll causing the centre to stretch. It may or may not settle out with temperature and time. If the floor has been taped to the floor it could have been taped when the floor had not fully acclimatised to the performance temperature. Try carefully re-rolling the flooring removing the tape and laying again at the highest room temperature. If there are wide variations in the temperature of the room it would be best to top tape only so the floor can move slightly.

Edges Wrinkled but Centre Flat. This may have been caused by poor crew handling on stage, perhaps being tugged along one edge to move it into position. Glass fibre reinforced floors such as Super Bravo and Rave are less likely to suffer from this but always try to handle your floor gently. Another cause could be flooring being rolled unevenly onto their tubes so the edges tend to distort. Always try to roll completely evenly.

Horse Shoe Gouges These are probably due to loose tap shoe nails. On floors such as Timestep which are a single homogeneous layer the gouges can sometimes be sanded out. A floor laid on ReUselt can often be repaired by cutting out the damaged area, peeling up the floor and replacing it with a new piece.

Flooring Cracking This would probably be caused by low temperatures. It is highly unlikely to happen once the floor is layed but may be a problem during installation. Homogeneous floors such as Timestep which are suitable for heavy scenery and tap dancing are more sensitive to temperature. Try to ensure your floor has reached room temperature before use and avoid folding the flooring back on itself.

Floor Becoming Slippery This may be caused in the morning when a fine moisture mist may have settled on the floor due to condensation. Dry mop your floor before use. Avoid using any cleaner which mentions "Shiny". The co-efficient of friction of your floor can be adjusted by using Slip Nomor 2000. Follow the instructions carefully.

Grey Scuff Marks If the scuff marks can't be removed with Wipeout then they are probably aluminium residue from tap shoes. Use Tap Shield on the shoes.

This is work in progress and we really appreciate any contribution that you may like to make. Please email alasdair@flints.co.uk

Our thanks goes to Stagestep for their assistance in producing this information sheet.



Flints are suppliers of Stagestep, Rosco and Le Mark products

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