

Designer Contracts

The UK's Largest Flooring Contractor & More...

FLOORING
BLINDS & CURTAINS
FURNITURE & LIGHTING
NATIONAL COVERAGE



COMMON VINYL FAULTS & ISSUES



Plasticizer Migration - NOT a Manufacturing Fault- Local Causes

In order to make the vinyl sheets more flexible and softer, chemicals called plasticizers are added. However, these chemicals have the potential to cause some problems for clients due to plasticizer migration. Plasticizer migration is when the plasticizer chemicals within vinyl, plastic or rubber migrates out and is absorbed by surrounding materials. For example, a rubber mat placed on a bathroom floor covered with vinyl may eventually leave a yellowish stain where the mat made contact with the vinyl. Another example is the plasticizer migrates down into the adhesive, which break it down and leave it ineffective. Plasticizer migration can happen over time, but pressure and heat can speed up the migration.

Print Defects -Manufacturing Fault

This is where irregularities are visible in the sheet vinyl pattern. Some of these meet the manufacturer's specification and are part of the overall design. Our samples demonstrate and show illustrations of what the correct design is. Some defects will be down to a printing error in the production process.





Dulling of Gloss - NOT a Manufacturing Fault- Local Causes

This will appear as an overall dullness in the sheet vinyl, dullness in traffic areas, and scuffs under chairs. The cause is almost always improper maintenance. Dirt, dust and grit can act like sandpaper and scratch the gloss finish of the vinyl. These issues can be avoided by dust mopping and wet mopping on a frequent basis and installing floor mats and rugs at doorways. Refer to our care leaflet.

Seam or Joint Opening - NOT a Manufacturing Fault- Local Causes or Contractor Fitting Issue

Open seams in sheet vinyl are not acceptable and can be a health and safety hazard. If the issue is raised immediately after installation, then it could be down to a fitting issue. Inspection would be required to identify the reason for the Seam or joint failure, to confirm whether local causes or poor fitting is responsible.



Bubbling – NOT a manufacturing fault. Inspection required to determine cause

The bubbling appearance is more often than not caused by moist air rising from below and being trapped underneath the surface. This could be because the subfloor has not dried out completely. The issue could also be down to poor installation or large items of furniture being dragged across the surface. The vinyl could possibly be re-stretched but it may need total replacement.



Creases – Not a Manufacturing Fault, Contractor Issue

Creases normally occur during storage, fitting or transportation. If creases within the vinyl haven't disappeared after 3 months, a replacement maybe considered.





Dents & Surface Damage - NOT generally a Manufacturing Fault- Local Causes

These are usually the result of negligence or accidents, and the end user can usually be held responsible. Furniture can cause scratches and dents if slid along the surface of the vinyl, couches and chairs with metal or angular feet could also be potentially damaging. Some types of shoes with very hard bottoms can scratch or scuff the surface of the vinyl, as well. Hard or sharp objects dropped on the floor can also cause gouges or dents. Missing Wear Layer in a Line is often seen as 3 or 4 lumps missing in the vinyl and is usually caused by the Vac beater bar being set for short pile (too low). The use of furniture cups felt pads or glides to avoid scratches or marks is recommended. Heavy items should not be dragged across the floor.

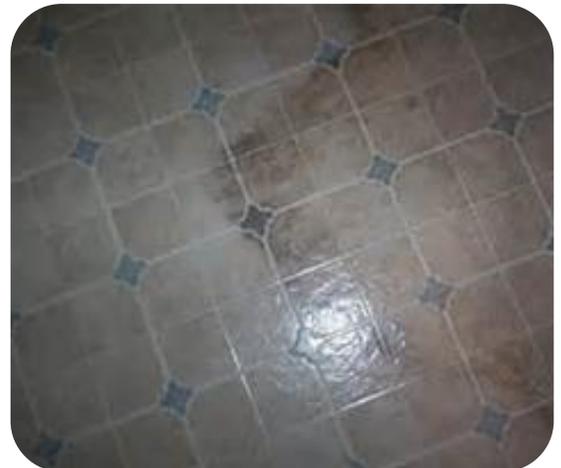
Responsibility for damage needs to be ascertained by an inspection before any action is taken to resolve. Unless damage identified during fitting in which case this would be treated as a Manufacturing Fault.



Discolouration - NOT a Manufacturing Fault- Local Causes

Yellowing and slight discoloration or staining are common in areas of high traffic, such as walkways between rooms and near entrances and exits. Often some contaminants, dirt, oil, or anything else tracked indoors on the bottom of shoes can cause discoloration. These issues can be avoided by dust mopping and wet mopping on a frequent basis and installing floor mats and rugs at doorway.

Heat and direct sunlight can also cause discoloration. Areas near heating vents, radiator legs or supply pipes, as well as spots near windows or glasses doors, may be at risk. Some of these problems can be avoided by not allowing vinyl to come into contact with high heat sources and closing window shades during the most intense periods of sunlight.

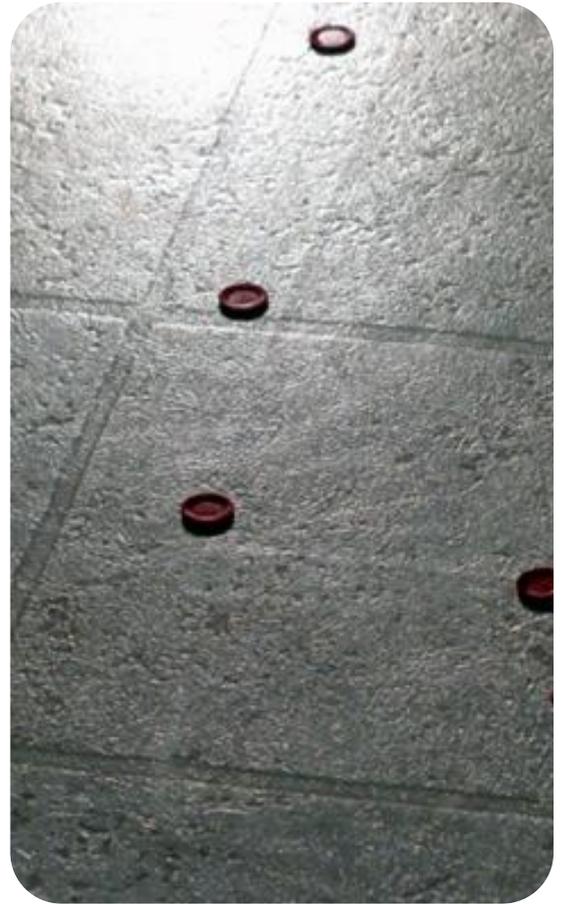


Telegraphing -NOT a Manufacturing Fault- Inspection required to confirm cause

“Telegraphing” is the term used to refer to visible swirls or patterns on the surface of resilient flooring such as vinyl caused by the impression of some unevenness of the substrate underneath it.

Telegraphing is more visible with backlighting and is accentuated when the flooring is polished. It is much less visible on floorings that have a matte finish.

Telegraphing occurs when the resilient flooring conforms to subfloor features or textures, coatings, adhesives, debris or other structures over which it is laid. The flooring eventually conforms to the subfloor, and the topography becomes visibly distinguishable on the flooring surface. A replacement would be required, depending on liability this maybe chargeable.



Adhesive Seepage on Door Bars -NOT a Manufacturing Fault- Local Causes

Overtime occasionally you may get adhesive seepage from self-adhesive door bars, this is rare but can happen. The adhesive is required to ensure that the bar is secured to the flooring. Less adhesive could lead to lifting and creating a trip hazard. The adhesive is clear at the point of installation but overtime dirt and grim can attach itself to the adhesive and look unsightly. This isn't a manufacturing fault; the door bar simply needs cleaning with a solvent based product to remove the residue of adhesive. The recommended solvent to use in this case is over the counter nail polish remover that is acetone based. Application of remover to a cotton pad or tissue then wipe, will remove the adhesive seepage and the dirt and grime will be lifted.

Coloured Staining - NOT a Manufacturing Fault - Chargeable Replacement

In areas of high subfloor moisture or residual moisture from building construction, pink (and other colour) spots and surface blemishes can appear over time. These can look as though something has been spilled on the surface and has resulted in staining of the floorcovering.

One of the most common causes is from a bacterium. The Bacterium can be found on the surface of the flooring as well as under the flooring. They grow and thrive in warm, moist environments. The bacterium forms and releases a dye as it grows and spreads, this can be brown, orange or pink in colour.

If there is moisture under the floorcovering, be it residual construction moisture, a leak from a pipe, or rising damp etc., it can promote the growth of bacterium on the subfloor. The dye from the bacterium (known as prodiginine pigments) along with the bacterium can spread under the flooring in the presence of the moisture. The dye migrates upwards towards the surface which results in permanent stains on the flooring. Once the flooring has been stained by the dye from the bacterium, there are no known treatments or cleaners that will completely remove the marks. With lighter coloured floorcoverings any discolouration/staining will be more noticeable.

