



STRATAFLEX APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Strataflex self-adhesive vinyl film is easy to apply to non-absorbent, hard, smooth surfaces. We recommend you follow the instructions outlined below for a successful project.

BEFORE STARTING

The key to successfully applying Strataflex is good preparation of your working environment; solid, smooth working surfaces and having the right tools and equipment to hand for each type of job.

Check that materials are as ordered and specified and are free from damage

Ensure all material is from the same batch and that you have sufficient material to complete the work

We recommend that the floor adjacent to the work area is covered using a clean protective sheet and that the working environment is clean and free from dust

Make sure that there is good lighting and good ventilation

The conditions must not be excessively hot or cold as this could affect the application process

For a problem-free application you should ensure the substrate is suitable and prepared correctly

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

You will need the following to hand before working with Strataflex.

- A small plastic spatula
- A joint cutter (with spare blades)
- Strong scissors
- Straight edge
- Sharp trimming knife (with spare blades)
- A paint brush
- A good quality 2 speed hair dryer
- A spirit level or plumb line
- Tape measure

SURFACE ID & PREPARATION

All surfaces must be correctly identified before you begin the application. If you are working on several different surfaces, make sure you take the time to test each one.

All surfaces must be in a sound condition; dry, smooth and free from grease or other contaminants. We also recommend that in all circumstances you carry out a surface test before you begin.

Surface test

Apply a small sample of Strataflex to an unobtrusive area. Leave in place for 5 minutes and then remove.

If the back of the product is clean this indicates that the surface is sound and you can proceed, knowing that you can reposition the product if required.

If removal affects the substrate, i.e. it picks up part of the surface or coating on the surface, this indicates that care should be taken while applying the product to remove or reduce any need for repositioning.

If in doubt, contact Muraspec's Technical team before proceeding.

Preparation of surfaces

Strataflex is a self-adhesive product so can pick up dust and dirt particles. Before you start it is important to make sure that the working area is clean and free from dust.

As substrate imperfections may show on the surface of the Strataflex, ideally the substrate should be completely flat and smooth. If there are any imperfections use a good quality Two Pack filler, and when dry, rub down and finish prior to application.

Metal surfaces must be clean, de-greased and primed with the appropriate metal primer.

Timber based boards should be primed with appropriate oil-based wood primer.

MEASURING & CUTTING

To make the measuring and cutting process easier, we recommend that you work on a cutting table or similar flat surface. As the product has a tendency to re-roll itself, you will need something heavy to place on the surface to prevent this from happening.

Measure and cut the drops to size allowing 10cm waste for trimming top and bottom. This is made easier by following the 5cm -10cm squared lines on the release paper backer.

Number the drops at the top in the sequence in which they were cut. After cutting, roll the drops up with the product face outwards.

All drops should be straight hung.

Overlap & cut joint

In order to get the neatest and tightest joint, Strataflex should be applied using an overlap and cut method, working from left to right.

APPLICATION:

Flat surfaces

To begin, turn the product over so that the backer is face up. Using a joint cutter, and with the backer still face up, make a cut down the release paper 2.5cm (1 inch) in from the left hand edge. This will mean that when the product is applied, the joint will be on the right. This forms part of the overlap.

At the top of the drop, make two horizontal cuts in the backing paper, 2.5cm and 7.5cm down from the top edge. This will create a 5cm strip across the top of the product. You are now ready to apply this piece.

With the release paper still on, align the edge of the Strataflex to a marked plumb line. Holding the product in position, turn back the top edge and pull out the 5cm cut strip of release paper.

Apply to the substrate using a small spatula, smoothing the product in a horizontal direction. Additional care taken to apply this first strip perfectly will make further application easier.

From the top, pull down the release paper in 20cm sections and smooth horizontally. Continue this process to the bottom of the drop. Care should be taken to remove the last part of the release paper slowly to avoid creating static.

The drop should still have release paper attached at the top, bottom, and right hand edge. This prevents the Strataflex from sticking to the substrate and allows the overlap and cut joint to be made.

Trimming to the ceiling and skirting can be done straight away. Before applying the next piece check the results achieved for good adhesion and the presence of air bubbles.

For the next and subsequent pieces, the above steps are repeated with each new piece aligned to overlap the previous by about 2cm.

After installing the first two drops, if you have encountered any problems, please stop and contact Muraspec.

Curved shapes

Strataflex can be applied on certain curved shape surfaces by using heat from a hair dryer or a heat gun on a low setting.

Apply heat to the area of Strataflex that is to be wrapped until it becomes flexible. Gently stretch the Strataflex onto the curved area. Take care not to focus the heat on the same area for too long as this could lead to over stretching.

After covering the curved area with Strataflex, cut off the excess edges on the underside. To complete the application, you should then apply a strip of Strataflex to the underside, overlapping the cut edge. You should enhance the edge to be overlapped before fixing.

Some items are not suitable for curved shaped surface application. Check the instructions for each item before selection.

Excess heat and stretching can cause colour change or unevenness on the surface.

Edges & mouldings

When applying Strataflex to surfaces with edges or mouldings, i.e. the edge of a door, the product may be heated gently to soften it and allow it to be moved into place.

Directing warm air onto the product makes it more pliable and easier to fit into position. This can be done using a hair dryer or a hot air gun on a low setting.

Gently direct the warm air towards the product surface for a few seconds. The Strataflex will then become supple. Using the combination of your hands and a spatula, pull the Strataflex into position.

Exterior application

SuperStrataflex has been designed specifically for external use.

Use a waterproof sealant at the joints to prevent water from penetrating. The recommended substrate is steel or a similar finish.

Do not apply onto a ceramic surface as the long term adhesion can not be guaranteed.

Apply directly on glass after cleaning. Do not apply on glass exposed to direct sunlight, as this may result in movement.

Miraclean

Take care not to scratch the surface with the edge of the spatula. Using a soft cloth around the spatula may help.

When used in a wet area, it is recommended all joints be sealed with a waterproof sealant. Please contact Muraspec for further application instructions.

Not suitable for application on uneven surfaces such as tiles.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Air bubbles

Air bubbles should always be avoided during application as they reduce the product's adhesion and can look unsightly.

However, if you find a bubble it can be easily removed. Using either a pin or the point of a sharp knife, make two puncture holes in the bubble. Then, using a spatula, gently ease the air out and smooth over.

Adhesion enhancer

Strataflex Adhesion Enhancer is designed to increase the bond strength in certain situations.

Enhancer should be used where extra adhesion is required such as door edges, grooves, overlapped areas, filled areas, where heat is used to form a shape and where an open cut edge is to be left.

When applying on to laminate, metal or similar hard surfaces, you can align the product by repositioning it a number of times. However, this process should be kept to a minimum and will not be possible if the product has been laid down with a spatula. On softer or coated surfaces, you must align the product correctly the first time as repositioning could result in damage.

MORE INFORMATION:

For further information on covering more detailed areas and the product limitations, please contact Muraspec's Technical team.