

- 6 This drop should still have the release paper attached 2.5cm at the top and 2.5cm down the right hand edge, this prevents the Strataflex from sticking to the substrate and allows the overlap and cut joint to be made.
- 7 Before applying the next piece check the results achieved for good adhesion and the presence of air bubbles. (See below: "How to deal with air bubbles".)
- 8 For the next, and subsequent pieces, the above steps are repeated with each new piece aligned to overlap the previous by about 2cm.
- 9 After installing the first two drops, if you have encountered any problems, please stop and contact Muraspec.

Making an Overlap & Trim joint

- Using a sharp knife, make a cut through both pieces of material from the top of the joint for approx. 5cm.
- Insert the joint cutter and pull down the wall to the skirting level, (this can be done free hand or using a straight edge). if necessary finish off the cut with a sharp knife.
- Starting with the right hand side of the joint, remove the release paper and a layer of vinyl and smooth to the surface.
- Then remove the layers of vinyl from under and on top of the left hand side, with a small spatula working away from the right hand edge feed the product in to form a perfect butt joint.

How to deal with air bubbles

Bubbles should always be avoided.

However, if you find a bubble, it can be easily removed by either, using a pin or the point of a sharp knife, to make 2 punctures in the surface and then gently ease the air out and smooth over. Using heat may assist this process.

Using warm air on Strataflex

When applying Strataflex to surfaces with edges or mouldings, for example, the edges of a door, the product may be slightly softened using warm air to make it more pliable and easier to fit into position. This can be done using a hair dryer or 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 pliable and soft and using combination of your hands and a spatula pull the Strataflex into position.

For more information on wrapping more detailed areas and the product limitations, please contact Muraspec on 08705 117 118.



STRATAFLEX

FLEXIBLE SELF ADHESIVE LAMINATE

APPLICATION AND INSTALLATION ADVICE

Strataflex self-adhesive laminate film is easy to install on non-absorbent hard smooth surfaces.

We want every one who uses Strataflex to have a successful application and therefore we recommend that you follow the brief instructions outlined below.

Before you start

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

General preparations

- Check that materials are as ordered and as specified and free from damage.
- Ensure the material is all 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.

Tools and equipment

To apply Strataflex it is essential that you have the following tools and equipment:

- 1 A small plastic spatula (wrapped in a soft cloth)
- 2 A joint cutter (with spare blades)
- 3 Strong scissors
- 4 Straight edge
- 5 Sharp trimming knife (with spare blades)
- 6 A paint brush for priming
- 7 A good quality 2 speed hair dryer or heat gun
- 8 A spirit level or plumb line
- 9 Tape measure

Surface identification and preparation

In order to achieve problem free application you must ensure the substrate is suitable, and prepared correctly.

Surface identification

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 contaminations also we recommend that in all circumstances you should 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, ie. it picks up part of the surface or coating on the surface this indicates that care should be taken to apply the product without repositioning.

If in doubt contact Muraspec before proceeding.

Preparation of surface

Strataflex is a self-adhesive backed product and will pick up any dust or dirt particles, so before you start it is important to make sure that the working area is clean and free from dust.

As substrate imperfections may show through the surface of the Strataflex, ideally the surface should be completely flat and smooth. If there are any holes or the surface is not smooth and flat it must be filled with a good quality Two Pack filler and when dry rubbed down and enhanced before 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.

Using Strataflex 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, into grooves, any overlapped areas, any filled area's, where heat is used to form a shape and where a open cut edge is to be left.

Measuring and cutting

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

Measure and cut the drops to size allowing 10cm waste for trimming top and bottom.

This made easier by the 5cm-10cm squared lines on the release backer.

All drops should be straight hung.

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.

Note: After cutting do not back roll

Applying Strataflex

When applying on to Laminate, Metal or similar hard surfaces, the product may be re-positioned a number of times in order to achieve alignment. 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 correct the first time as repositioning could result in damage.

Application of Strataflex when making an overlap and cut Joint.

(Working from left to right)

- 1 To begin, turn the product so that the backer is face upwards and rolled out –(using the same cutting bench and weights as outlined above)
- 2 Using a joint cutter, with the backer still face up, make a cut down the release paper 2 cm 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.
- 3 At the top of the drop we then make two horizontal cuts in the backing paper 2 cm down from the top edge and 7cms from the top edge. This will create a 5cm strip across the top of the product. You are now ready to apply this piece.
- 4 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 and apply to the substrate using a small spatula in a horizontal direction. Care taken to apply this first strip perfectly will make further application easier.
- 5 From the top pull off the release paper in 20cm parts 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. Trimming to the ceiling and skirting can be done straight away.