Detailing for common areas

In areas such as corridors, large rooms and general spaces you will not be faced with particularly challenging installation needs like you would encounter in spaces such as commercial kitchens, pool surrounds and bathing areas. However, there are still some tips, detailing finishes and transition methods that should be kept in mind.

Coved flooring

- **C7 cap strip**
- **Cove stick reduced to architrave**

**Cutaway of flooring to show coving technique**

**Complete**

**Picture frame detailing**

In some instances, you may want to flank your vinyl flooring with another color or pattern. This technique is often referred to as “picture framing”. It's most commonly used along with wood-look flooring or in wide hallways.

In the instance of wood-look flooring, this method eliminates the unnatural curved wood appearance (see inset).
Flooring that is flat laid is always found in dry areas and more notably areas that have a more residential feel to them such as senior living communities. A commercial or residential looking wall base can be used in this type of installation.

Flat lay with commercial-grade vinyl or rubber wall base
For areas not subjected to excessive spillage, cut the sheet vinyl flooring to the perimeter wall and seal with AltroMastic 100. Fit a commercial-grade cove base, supplied by others, over the flooring and fix it to the wall with a suitable contact adhesive. Take care that the edge of floor covering is hidden behind wall base.

Flat lay with wood / residential wall base
For areas not subjected to excessive spillage, cut the floor covering flush to the perimeter walls and skirtings (already in place). Application of AltroMastic 100 to the perimeter is recommended.
Flooring transitions

Making a smooth transition from one flooring thickness to another flooring thickness

When a smooth surface transition between two dissimilar flooring thicknesses is required, this transition is merely a matter of first figuring out the thickness difference between the two materials and then determining what type material (shim/reducer/patch) is best suited to build the low side material up to achieve a smooth transition to the high side material.

A reducer/shim has one side elevated and the other side flush with the sub-flooring. Example shown below:

Building up and tapering material

Materials that can be used to build the low side up to have the low side material come up equal to the high side material.

- Pattern paper and building paper may be glued to the subfloor to build up small thickness differences, multiple layers can be tapered and used.
- WSBU 200 vinyl reducer (as well as other manufacturers’ vinyl reducers) can be glued to the subfloor to build up mid-range thickness needs (the thick side of the reducer may be cut back to a thinner edge thickness to achieve the required thickness).
- Sometimes a floor covering such as VCT or other flooring can be glued down to achieve the required thickness/build height.

In all cases, an appropriate floor patch is used to feather and taper off the trailing (back) edge of the shim/reducer that is not abutting the thicker floor. This is done so as to prevent the trailing edge of the shim/reducer material from telegraphing through the yet to be installed new, thinner flooring material.

Transitioning to different types/brands of flooring

1. Transitioning to a different sheet vinyl with a heat weld.
2. Transitioning from wet to dry areas using a shower transition trim. Alternatively, you may also use the heat weld transition in this area if water runs into drain properly and does not pool. Please see wet areas detailing guide for more information.
3. Transitioning from sheet vinyl to LVT with a seam sealer.
Visedge DS vinyl securing strip

Visedge DS is an over the top reducer threshold to finish a raw edge of Altro flooring where it needs to transition down to zero, such as a doorway threshold or where Altro flooring is stopping and the concrete continues without any floor on top of it. Visedge DS is designed to securely anchor the perimeter of the Altro flooring.

Section at paving junction

Visedge VR vinyl securing strip

Visedge VR is to be used when abutting a raised square edge such as quarry tile or a raised floor sink. The Visedge VR is installed butt up against the raised edge, and the back is then patched/ramped down from the height of the Visedge down to a zero edge using a moisture-tolerant cementitious patch. The Altro flooring is then installed up over the patch and up against the plastic insert that is part of the Visedge, then grooved and heat-welded to the plastic insert.

Visedge VR vinyl securing strip diagram