

Plastic Extruders Limited

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DIMENSIONAL STABILITY OF HERON VINYL MATTING

The range of matting we manufacture is all made with 100% Virgin Plasticised P.V.C., which as with all thermoplastics is susceptible to slight size changes.

These size changes can be as a result of two main causes.

a) Memory Shrinkage

This occurs where stress within the mat as a result of the manufacturing extrusion process are slowly released, causing a reduction of size. In extreme situations this can be 2% (20 cm in a 10 m roll). This property is often referred to in thermoplastics as "memory shrinkage" or reversion because the plastic is returning to its unstressed state. The factor which affects the speed of memory recovery to the greatest extent is temperature. Rolls of matting laid in warm areas will shrink back quicker.

Memory shrinkage is a once only process.

b) Installation Mishandling

Due to plastic nature of Plasticised P.V.C., a roll of matting which is inadvertently stretched by pulling or dragging during installation, will slowly recover to its original length after installation. Extreme cases of mishandling can result in 4% stretch.

As with "Memory Shrinkage" the recovery process is accelerated in warmer environments.

In the majority of matting installations this shrinkage is not noticeable and only becomes apparent when the matting is positioned within a finite area with fixed boundaries.

Please note that Entrance Matting installations, using "Frontrunner" are less susceptible to shrinkage as the rolls of matting are annealed prior to despatch. This process accelerated any memory shrinkage in the rolls by heating the matting in an oven to 70°C for 12 hours.

Please contact us should you have any further queries on this matter.