

Handling and Storage of Vinyl Rolls

Work on this project had a lot of vinyl finishes to walls, ceilings and floors and pre-planning and preparation for this trade was critical to ensure that safety and quality were managed as well as productivity.

Vinyl is delivered in rolls which are very heavy (each roll is circa 100kg). They were offloaded and transported using trolleys as shown below.



From a quality perspective, the rolls are required to be stored on their end (see photo to right) but this presents a safety issue if the rolls are accidentally knocked over by other trades. The solution arrived at was to fabricate a purpose made stillage as shown in the photo. The storage area was heated as installation was taking place in the winter months. This allowed the vinyl to be more easily worked as it was pliable. The storage area was also used to cut the vinyl to size so that full rolls were not being transported around site.



Key benefits and issues:

- Use of trollies reduced high-risk manual handling to a minimum. This solution also reduced the risk of damage to the vinyl rolls.
- Special stillage's for the storage of upright vinyl rolls was a much safer solution and simple to implement.
- By having a dedicated storage and cutting area for the vinyl, work was much more efficient and less disruptive to other trades.
- Heating of the storage area enabled the vinyl to be pliable hence less likely to tear and able to reduce costly waste. Much less need to use heat guns to warm the vinyl which saves time and reduces the need for hot work activities.
- Space is always an issue on construction sites. Hence, a solution like this needs good forward planning. As this project had lots of vinyl work to floors, walls and ceilings, the efficiencies in introducing these measures were much greater.