

GENERAL

CONTACT TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR GUIDANCE ABOUT SUB-FLOOR TESTING AND INSTALLATION RECOMMENDATIONS. TECHNICAL SERVICES CAN BE REACHED AT 855-372-7546.

DO NOT MIX DYE LOTS OR RUNS IN ANY ONE ROOM OR AREA.

These instructions cover all fully adhered installations for luxury vinyl dry back, luxury vinyl G-Core padded backing and loose lay. All recommendations are based on the most recently available information. The information on these sheets provides general guidelines and instructions which must be followed for a satisfactory installation.

The installation is straightforward and similar to the installation procedures that apply to all quality resilient plank floors. Good preparation is essential for a trouble-free installation. Do not install until jobsite testing and subfloor preparations are finished and the work of all other trades is complete. Site conditions must comply with the relevant building codes and local, state and national regulations.

- Vinyl flooring is recommended for use over properly prepared concrete, suspended wood, metal and other suitable substrates. Never install over residual asphalt type (Cutback) adhesive as “Bleed Through” may occur.
- Vinyl Flooring is not suitable for external installation or unheated locations.
- Vinyl Flooring and Adhesive must be at jobsite and subfloor must be acclimated to a stable condition before installation (See Jobsite testing).
- Foot traffic should be minimized for 24 hours; point loads and rolling traffic for 48 hours and should utilize minimal wet cleaning for 5 days.
- Vinyl Flooring should remain at a temperature between 55°F - 85° F (13°-29° C) during its service life.
- Adhesive types can have a significantly different moisture tolerance which can influence required subfloor preparation well as install time. **G-Core pad backed products requires TO MARKET G100 pressure sensitive adhesive for all installations.**
- **4 mm and 5 mm thickness flooring can be installed loose lay** with perimeter R88 spray or G100 Trowelable adhesive. However, for large areas, high traffic and commercial environments, we require a fullspread application of releasable R88 spray adhesive or trowelapplied G100 transitional PSA adhesive. Please use installation method specified by design firm or end user.
- Use of our R88 & G100 PSA releasable adhesives means that damaged tiles or planks can be easily removed and replaced. With spray adhesive, there is no adhesive cure time, so projects can be immediately occupied. TO MARKET 4 mm and 5 mm flooring contribute to a quieter environment and all patterns are no-wax, no-buff, no strip. Just sweep, vacuum or damp mop for long-lasting, colorfast and releasable floor.
- TO MARKET flooring is very easy to cut by scoring with a sharp blade and snapping or with a vinyl cutter. Avoid small perimeter pieces less than 6” in length and 3” in width.

MATERIAL RECEIVING, HANDLING & STORAGE

1. All floor covering products require care during storage and handling. It is important to store flooring products in a dry, temperature-controlled interior area.
2. The temperature range should be between 65° F - 85° F, and the relative humidity should be controlled and maintained between 35% to 55%.
3. Material must be conditioned for at least 48 hours before beginning the installation.
4. Flooring materials that are shipped in cartons must also be stored properly. Cartons must be kept squarely positioned on the pallet to prevent distortion of the contents and to be fully supported. Do not store close to exterior walls, in direct sunlight or near HVAC vents.
5. Stored cartons are to be protected from forklift and other traffic that can damage carton corners. If pallets need to be double stacked, use a 1.5" thick plywood in between the pallets.
6. Immediately remove all shrink wrapping to acclimate and verify materials delivered are correct style, color, quantity and damage free.
7. Report discrepancies immediately to TO MARKET at 855-372-7546. Claims for Installation of products installed with visual defects, mixed production runs, unapproved adhesive or incorrect style will not be honored.

JOBSITE TESTING

1. Before job site testing, the building envelope must be sealed (walls, roofing, windows, doorways etc., installed).
 2. The installation area and materials to be installed shall be maintained at a minimum of 65°F (18.3°C) and a 85°F (29.4°C) for 48 hours before, during and for 48 hours after completion of the installation. Relative humidity level extremes should also be avoided. General recommended humidity control level is between 35-55%. If a system other than the permanent HVAC source is utilized, it must provide proper control of both temperature and humidity to recommended or specific levels for the appropriate time duration.
 3. Test sites must be properly prepared and protected for the duration of testing to achieve valid results.
- 4. Surface Flatness for all Subfloors:**
- 4.1. **The surface shall be flat to 3/16" (3.9 mm) in 10 ft. (3050 mm) and 1/32" (0.8 mm) in 1 ft (305 mm).**
 - 4.2. To check flatness, place a 10 ft straight edge, string, laser level or use another suitable method on the surface and measure the gap.

5. Concrete Subfloors:

5.1. Concrete subfloors must be finished and cured, free of all sealers, coatings, finishes, dirt, film forming curing compounds, or other substances that may prevent proper bonding of the flooring materials (ACI 302.1 and ASTM F710).

5.2. Randomly check concrete subfloor for porosity using the drop water test. Place a 1-inch diameter drop of water directly onto the concrete subfloor. If the water droplet does not dissipate within 60 to 90 seconds, the subfloor is considered non-porous.

5.3. Concrete subfloors must have a minimum compressive strength of 3,000 psi. Concrete subfloors shall not consist of lightweight concrete or gypsum.

5.4. Moisture Testing: Perform either the preferred In-situ Relative Humidity (RH) Test (ASTM F2170) or the acceptable Moisture Vapor Emission Rate (MVER) Test (ASTM F1869). For acceptable moisture limits please refer to the specifications of the adhesive being used.

5.5. Alkalinity: Must test surface alkalinity (ASTM F710). A 7.0 to 9.0 pH is acceptable.

5.6. Wood Subfloors and underlayment panels shall have the moisture content tested using a suitable wood pin meter. Readings between the wood subfloor and underlayment should be within 3% and have a maximum moisture content of 14% or less.

MOISTURE SUPPRESSANT SYSTEM

Concrete subfloors that exceed adhesive specifications will require a Moisture Suppressant System. Due to complexities associated with moisture vapor transmission, emissions and movement of soluble salts (alkalinity) in concrete subfloors, we do not offer, recommend, or warranty a specific solution for excess moisture in concrete slabs. However, there are many companies that offer solutions with warranties for excess moisture in concrete slabs. TO MARKET suggests that you reference the current ASTM F710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring".

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Careful subfloor preparation is vital for an excellent floor appearance and good tile/plank adhesion. The subfloor must be smooth, firm, flat, clean, dry, free from defects, and fit for purpose. A suitable smoothing compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. In all cases, the subfloor must meet the moisture and pH requirements before installation.

Below and on-grade concrete subfloors must have a suitable vapor retarder properly installed directly beneath the slab. Always follow manufacturers' written recommendations for the use and installation of their appropriate surface preparation materials

1. Record and file site conditions, test results and any corrective action(s) taken. It is important to maintain this documentation throughout the warranty period.
 2. Subfloor must be clean (free of dirt, sealers, curing, hardening or parting compounds or any substance that may stain or prevent adhesion), smooth, flat, sound, fit for purpose, free of movement, excessive moisture and high alkalinity.
 3. Slick surfaces such as power troweled concrete shall be abraded or profiled to allow for a mechanical bond between the adhesive and subfloor.
 4. Remove existing resilient floor covering; remove all residual adhesive, paint or other contaminants following RFCI recommended work practice.
 5. The use of adhesive removers or solvents in the abatement or removal of existing or old adhesives on concrete prohibited and may void any warranty.
 6. Perform corrective actions necessary for elevated moisture or high alkalinity conditions.
- 7. Surface Flatness for all Subfloors:** The surface shall be flat to 3/16" (3.9 mm) in 10 ft. (3050 mm) and 1/32" (0.8 mm) in 1 ft (305 mm) Bring high spots level by sanding, grinding etc. and fill low spots. Smooth surface to prevent any irregularities or roughness from telegraphing through the new flooring.

Leveling and Patching For concrete subfloors, use only high-quality Portland cement -based materials (minimum 3000 psi compressive strength according to ASTM C109). Mix with water only, do not use latex.

CAUTION: DO NOT LIGHTLY SKIM COAT HIGHLY POLISHED OR SLICK POWER TROWELED CONCRETE SURFACES. A THIN FILM OF FLOOR PATCH WILL NOT BOND TO A SLICK SUBFLOOR AND MAY BECOME A BOND BREAKER CAUSING FLOORING TO RELEASE AT THE INTERFACE OF THE SUBFLOOR AND PATCHING MATERIAL. IF IN DOUBT, PERFORM A BOND TEST PRIOR TO COMMENCING WITH THE INSTALLATION.

WARNING: ASBESTOS & SILICA - Refer to the current Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) document "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Existing Resilient Floor Coverings" for guidance (www.RFCI.com).

CONCRETE

- The concrete must be free of any curing compounds or adhesives. Even after old glued down carpet has been removed, and the subfloor has been scraped, it should NOT be assumed that the concrete is porous. Often the old adhesive has sealed the floor.
- A porosity test, using water, should be taken. Be aware that porous subfloors may take a different adhesive than non-porous subfloors. See Manufacturer adhesive instructions.
- If oil, grease, or other contaminants have deeply penetrated the concrete, and cannot be thoroughly removed, luxury vinyl flooring cannot be installed. If latex liquid has been used to seal off old cutback adhesives, the concrete has become non-porous.

LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETES

- Concretes in the lower end of this range are generally used for thermal and sound insulation fills for roofs, walls, and floors. The higher densities are used in cast-in-place walls, floors, roofs, and for precast elements.
- The minimum density of the concrete should be greater than 90lbs per cubic foot.
- The minimum compressive strength should be 3,000 psi or greater.
- Gypsum-based concretes are not recommended.
- Wood subfloors: Should be standard double layer construction, with a finished thickness of at least 1" and should have 18" of well-ventilated air space underneath.
- Crawl spaces should be insulated and protected by a vapor barrier. Do not install vinyl flooring over a sleeper type subfloor, or over plywood that is directly over a concrete slab.

NON-APPROVED SUBSTRATES

Include, but are not limited to:

- Oriented strand board (OSB), particleboard, hardboard, treated plywood, strip wood floors, chipboard, wafer board, Masonite, knotty plywood, glass mesh tile boards, cementitious tile backer boards, fireretardant or preservative-treated plywood, asphalt tile, rubber tile, selfstick tile. NOTE: Any appearance or performance-related problems related to the underlayment are the responsibility of the installer and/or underlayment manufacturer.
- Quarry tile, terrazzo, and ceramic tile: Properly cleanse substrate using a commercial degreasing/dewaxing solution. Grind any highly polished or irregular surfaces. Fill any low spots, holes, chips and seams that may telegraph through the new flooring.

WOOD

- Wood subfloors require an underlayment (double layer construction) with a minimum total thickness of 1" (25 mm). Use minimum 1/4" (6 mm) thick APA rated "underlayment grade" plywood with a fully sanded face or other underlayment panel that is appropriate for the intended usage. Install and prepare panels and seams according to the manufacturers' instructions. Also, refer to ASTM F 1482 Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Underlayment to receive Resilient Flooring.