

Preparation & Installation

I. Subfloor Preparation

The substrate must be sound, clean, permanently dry, smooth and free of cracks and contaminants, including paint, old adhesive, curing compounds, oil, grease, wax, asphalt, or other contaminants that could negatively affect the performance of the adhesive. Any irregularities in the substrate will telegraph (show through) to the finished floor. Floor laying work shall not begin until the installer has assessed and approved the substrate and subfloor conditions.

Concrete substrates and subfloors

Ensure that the general contractor has followed ASTM F710. ASTM F710 includes requirements for moisture and pH testing, smoothness, flatness, concrete strength, and the presence of a vapor retarder under the slab. ASTM F710 requires that all concrete slabs be tested, regardless of age or grade level, using the Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F1869. No other test methods are acceptable. The General Contractor and installer shall both keep records of all tests related to ASTM F710 on file.

Test procedures shall be followed exactly in order for test results to be valid. (Building shall be at in service temperature and humidity, concrete shall be properly cleaned, etc.). It is recommended that a qualified, independent third party conduct the tests.

Test result requirements using Tire Tile 390 Adhesive are:

ASTM F1869: maximum MVER (moisture vapor emission rate) of 5 lbs. / 1,000 SF/24 hours

pH between 7.0 and 9.0; readings below 7.0 and above 9.0 can adversely affect flooring or adhesive, or both.

II. Site Conditions

The flooring shall be installed only after other trades have finished, and a permanent HVAC system is operational. Temporary heat is not acceptable. During installation maintain the room temperature between 65°F and 80°F; Relative humidity between 40% and 67% is preferable. Excessively high or low interior air relative humidity will influence curing of floor patching materials and adhesive open times

Because some materials used during installation may be flammable, make sure no sources of ignition or open flame exist near the use of those materials.

III. Layout

The architect or end user should be shown the proposed installation layout including any intended seam locations, with the goal of keeping seam visibility to a minimum. Position seams so that:

- Main traffic runs parallel to – rather than across – the seam
- Light does not strike directly across the seam.
- The seams are away from areas subject to pivoting or rolling traffic.
- In doorway openings connecting adjoining rooms, parallel seams are required.
- The flooring dealer or contractor shall provide a layout drawing for the intended installation that contains the following information
- Date and scale of drawing
- Location, swing, and clearance of all doors

- Existing substrate/subfloor conditions
- Notation identifying who is responsible for:
 - removal of existing floor coverings and/or underlayment
 - preparation of existing substrate
 - removal of debris from new floor covering installation
 - protection of finished floor covering after installation
 - Initial maintenance procedures

IV. Installation Instructions

1. Thoroughly sweep the substrate to remove all dirt and debris.
2. Determine the centerline in both north-south and east-west directions of the installation area. Snap caulk lines on the centerline in both directions forming a cross.
3. Spread adhesive with a 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" V-notched trowel. Adhesive coverage will be approximately 108 SF. Allow adhesive to flash for 15 minutes prior to installation. Apply only as much adhesive as can be installed within 30 minutes.
4. After providing sufficient open time for the adhesive, begin the tile installation.

Important: appropriate open time depends on several factors such as substrate porosity (longer if the substrate is non-porous); room temperature (longer if room is too hot or cold); relative humidity (longer if higher); temperature of the adhesive (longer if cold); and amount of adhesive applied (longer if more used) Never use fans or apply less adhesive than required to speed up set-up time. This will likely result in loss of adhesion (installation failure) within three to nine months.

5. Start the installation in the center and install the first tile aligning corner with the cross of the caulk centerline. Press tiles firmly into adhesive.
6. Due to the bias ply of the recycled tires, it is possible that rubber near the edge may be out of square. For best installation results, it is required that this be manually trimmed on square. This will allow the tiles to abut neatly.
7. It is recommended that you continue installing tiles by quarter turning each tile to achieve a parquet pattern. Other patterns are also acceptable from a product performance perspective. Continue installing tiles working from the center to the outside edges of the area.
8. Using a 70 pound, three-section floor roller, roll the adhered areas. Roll at least twice, once in each direction (horizontally and vertically) to ensure that the adhesive has transferred completely to the backing.
9. Repeat steps 3-7 for the remaining floor.
10. Once finished, smooth the entire floor again with the roller.

V. Clean and Finish

- Maintain the room temperature between 65°F and 80°F for 48 hours after installation. Maintain room temperature at a minimum of 55°F.
- Vacuum to clear the area of debris and grit.
- Keep all traffic off flooring for 24 hours to prevent indentation while the adhesive sets.
- Wait 72 hours before doing initial cleaning or allowing rolling traffic or furniture on the floor.

- Covering exposed edges of flooring is recommended.
- Use Methyl-Ethyl Ketone (MEK) to clean off excess adhesive.

VI. Maintenance Instructions

The following cleaning & maintenance instructions are recommended to ensure the product maintains its desired appearance and effective performance, as well as ensuring a long life span for the product.

VII. Daily Cleaning

Vacuum daily with a heavy duty commercial type vacuum cleaner that features a rotary power brush or beater bar to remove deeply embedded dirt particles, especially in heavy traffic areas. Matting products release more soil when dry.

VIII. Spot Removal

If a spill occurs, use a clean absorbent cloth or paper towel to absorb as much of the liquid as possible. Spray the stained area with all-purpose spot remover and rub the surface with a clean white cloth. Turn the cloth often to a clean side. Grease or oil based stains may require a citrus-solvent based spot remover. All purpose and citrus solvent spot removers are available from your local janitorial supply distributor.

Note – Always test spot removers in an inconspicuous area of the mat.

IX. Gum Removal

Excess chewing gum should be scraped off with a standard putty knife. Chewing gum residue may require use of a citrus solvent based spot remover, or quick-freeze type aerosol, available at your local janitorial supply distributor.

X. Periodic Maintenance

Modular tiles should be periodically deep cleaned by the hot water extraction method. Best results and quickest dry times will be achieved with a commercial truck-mounted steam extraction machine. Extraction cleaning removes deeply embedded soils and should be performed as needed, based on your traffic count and soil level. A minimum quarterly extraction cleaning is recommended for high traffic applications, more often during winter months in traffic lanes.