



Accusound Underlayment

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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MohawkGroup.com

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This document has been created to provide installation instructions for Mohawk's underlayment products that require specific adhesive and installation techniques. Please read the entire document prior to initiating installation and follow exact instructions. Failure to follow the published installation steps will void all product warranties.

Mohawk Group's AccuSound LVT underlayment is recommended for use with **[products 4.5mm and greater]** and in a variety of applications when sound abatement is required, either IIC or STC related. Mohawk's AccuSound can be installed over most properly prepared substrates, making it suitable for installation on all grade levels where moisture conditions do not exist. You must install Mohawk's AccuSound LVT underlayment perpendicular to the direction you will install the LVT, being careful not to have the underlayment joints within 6 inches of any LVT end joints.

We continuously make technological advancements that improve product performance or installation techniques and methods. To confirm you have the most recent installation instructions, please visit our website at www.mohawkgroup.com or contact Technical Services at 800.833.6954.

ASBESTOS WARNING

WARNING! DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

Previously installed resilient floor covering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesives used to install them may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the previously installed product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. www.RFCI.org.

JOB SITE CONDITIONS

It is the responsibility of the Installer and Owner to ensure that job site environmental, substrate and subsurface conditions involved meet or exceeds all requirements as outlined in installation instructions prior to installation. Manufacturer declines all responsibility for product performance or installation failure due to structural, substrate or environmental deficiencies or jobsite conditions.

- It is recommended that floor covering installation shall not begin until all other trades are completed.
- Areas to receive flooring shall be clean, fully enclosed, with the permanent HVAC set at a uniform temperature range of 65° F to 85° F and maintained following the installation. Never allow the area to drop below 55° F.
- The HVAC systems must be in operation for at least 10 days prior to flooring installation and thereafter to maintain a constant temperature. Portable heaters may not provide adequate heat. Never use kerosene heaters.
- Proper acclimation of the room, substrate, flooring material, adhesive and all installation accessory products is critical to the success of the adhesive and flooring performance. Installation over cold substrates will delay adhesive flash time and dry time, affect the size of the floor and increase the potential for indentation and or adhesive displacement. The substrate temperature must be between 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C) at the time of installation.
- Unopened cartons of flooring should be neatly stacked in the room where they will be installed during the acclimation period. Open cartons just prior to installation.



- When using flooring from two or more cartons, make sure pattern and run (lot) numbers found on the carton are the same. This information is on the outside label of each carton. It is recommended to blend products from multiple cartons during installation.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Mohawk's M95.0, M700 Plus, or MS160 Spray Adhesive
- Trowel Size: 1/16" x 1/32" x 1/32" U-Notch trowel. Coverage 200–260 sf per gallon for M700 Plus Adhesive or 175–225 sf per gallon for M95.0 Adhesive
- MS160 Spray Adhesive applied at a rate of 200 square feet per can when installing the AccuSound; and 140 square feet per can when installing the LVT to the AccuSound
- Mohawk SurfaceSeal Adhesive/Cutback Sealer
- Mohawk PrimeCoat Primer
- 75 pound, 3 section roller
- Chalk Line
- Carpenter square
- Utility Knife
- Cutting board
- Tape measure
- In-situ RH Moisture Meter
- pH strips
- Distilled Water (do not substitute)

SUITABLE SUBSTRATES AND SURFACE MATERIALS

- Fully cured, dry concrete on all grade levels (Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 5 pounds (ASTM F1869) or 85%RH (ASTM F2170) with a pH range between 8 and 9.
- Approved suspended wood floors and underlayment.
- Portland-based self-leveling underlayment and patching compounds.
- Prepared ceramic tile, marble and cement terrazzo.
- Aluminum, steel and stainless steel.
- Embedded radiant-heated substrates where the maximum surface temperature of the floor does not exceed 85°F (29°C) in any area.
- Existing inlaid resilient sheet flooring-single layer, fully adhered and well bonded.
- Existing vinyl composition tile (VCT) - single layer, well bonded over on or above grade level only.
- Utility Knife
- Cutting board



- Tape measure
- In-situ RH Moisture Meter
- pH strips
- Distilled Water (do not substitute)

Note: Some previously manufactured vinyl floor covering and asphalt “cutback” adhesive contain asbestos. For preparation or removal of these products, refer to the Resilient Floor Covering Institutes publication “Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Covering”. These work practices must be followed. For a copy of the recommended work practices, please contact:

Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI)
401 East Jefferson Street
Suite 102
Rockville, MD 20850

SITE PREPARATION

The substrate must be sound, smooth, dry and clean. Mechanically remove any dirt, wax, loose paint, existing adhesives and all foreign matter that would interfere with a good bond. Do not install LVT directly over cutback residue. If you encounter cutback residue, mechanically remove and apply a coat of Mohawk SurfaceSeal prior to installation of flooring. If installation is over gypcrete it is advisable to apply a coat of Mohawk PrimeCoat and allow to dry prior to installation of flooring. Seal porous or dusty concrete surfaces with Mohawk PrimeCoat. Do not use on chemically cleaned substrates or over treated plywood substrates. The installation site must be acclimated with HVAC in operation. The floor and room temperature, as well as flooring materials and adhesive, must be maintained at 65°–85° F, and the humidity below 65% for 48 hours prior to, during, and after pre-installation testing and installation. Thereafter, maintain a room temperature between 55°F (13°C) and 90°F (32°C).

Use M95.0 Adhesive or M700 Plus Adhesive for installations over concrete substrates with moisture emission of 5 lbs. per 1000 square feet in 24 hrs when tested in accordance with the latest version of ASTM F 1869, 85% RH when tested with the latest version of ASTM F 2170, and a pH level of 8-9. Lower pH readings on a concrete substrate may indicate that a sealer or sealed surface is present. Conduct adhesive bond testing on concrete substrates with pH below 8. All substrate preparation and testing procedures must conform to appropriate ASTM F710 covering. When moisture tests are conducted, it indicates the conditions only at the time of the test. Use of cement-based patching and/or self-leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3000 psi are acceptable.

OVER CERAMIC

Remove any loose tiles and fill with appropriate Portland cement floor fill. Roughen surface of tile. Fill grout joints to the level of the surface of the ceramic tile with appropriate Portland cement floor fill carefully following the floor fill manufacturer’s instructions or mixing, priming and spreading material over ceramic tile.

PAINTED CONCRETE

Because it’s difficult to determine the type of paint might be on a substrate surface to receive floor covering, it is necessary to mechanically remove all paint and/or paint residue from the substrate prior to spreading adhesive and installing floor covering.

Substrate Preparation: All substrate surfaces must be flat, clean, dry, smooth, and free of movement. Certain requirements may apply in order to prepare these substrates for resilient flooring. All surface imperfections should be



filled and sanded with a Portland-based latex patching compound. Substrates covered with existing flooring may also be acceptable for residential and light commercial applications.

Ensure that concrete substrates are sufficiently dry by conducting moisture and pH tests. The substrate, regardless of the type must be flat, smooth, clean, dry, structurally sound and free of paint, old adhesive residue, wax, grease, oil, solvent, curing and parting compounds and other substances that could interfere with adhesion or the performance of the flooring. Never use liquid adhesive remover or solvent cleaners for removing old adhesive residue or other substances on the substrate. These substances must be mechanically removed. Conduct bond tests to confirm suitable adhesion to the substrate.

Flat – Within 3/16" in 10' radius and/or 1/8" in 6' radius - sand high areas or joints - fill low areas with a high compressive strength Portland base compound. Subfloor deflection should not exceed 1/360th of the span. The flatness of the substrate is particularly important for keeping joints tight and in alignment when installing large format tiles. Deviations in the substrate should not exceed 3/16" in 10' or 1/16" in 1'.

Dry – Select the appropriate moisture indicator test specifically designed for use with wood or concrete subfloors. Test and record moisture content results. **DO NOT INSTALL FLOORING IF MOISTURE TEST RESULTS EXCEED RECOMMENDED LIMITS**

CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

- Concrete substrates must be dry, smooth, and free from oil, dust, solvent, paint, wax, grease, and asphalt sealing compounds or other materials. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
- New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry (at least six weeks) and completely cured. Curing agents, surface hardeners and other additives may cause adhesive bonding failure. These should be removed by sanding or grinding.
- All concrete slabs must be checked for moisture before installing material. Moisture emissions from subfloor cannot exceed 85% In Situ Relative humidity, or higher level as approved for the particular adhesive being used. Responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the owner and installer.
- Surface alkalinity of concrete substrate – Concrete slabs should be tested for the presence of alkali salt build up. Excessive alkali can cause adhesive and vinyl failure. A simple pH paper test using distilled water and pH paper can determine the presence of excessive alkali salt. Pour a small amount of distilled water on to the slab and allow it to stand for a minimum of one minute. Place the pH paper strip into the distilled water. The acceptable range should be from 8–9 pH. Corrective measures must be taken if the pH exceeds these guidelines by applying a coat of Mohawk PrimeCoat.

WOOD SUBSTRATES

NOTE: As with many other interior finish products, modification of existing structural components may be required for a successful installation.

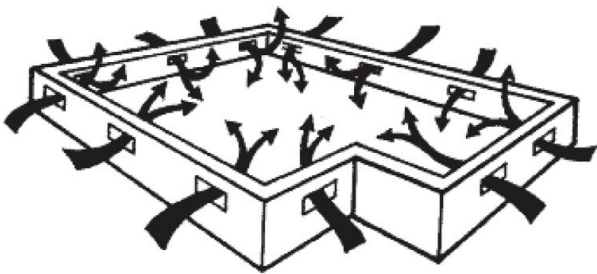
- Nail or screw any areas that are loose or squeak. Wood panels should exhibit an adequate fastening pattern, glued/ screwed or nailed as that system requires, using an acceptable nail pattern. Typical is 6" along bearing edges and 12" along intermediate supports. Flatten edge swell as necessary. Replace any water-damaged, swollen or delaminated subflooring or underlayment.
- Wood underlayment panels should be a minimum of 1" or thicker and free of vertical deflection. All fasteners must be flush with the underlayment panels.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil black polyethylene membrane is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist should be no less



than 18” and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation.

FINISHING

- Clean any adhesive smears on the face of the flooring immediately while wet with a clean cloth and diluted solution of a neutral cleaner and water. Mineral spirits can be used to remove dried adhesive.
- Keep traffic off the newly installed floor for at least 24 hours after installation. Open to light traffic for the next 48 hours. Resume normal traffic after 72 hours. When using MS160 Spray Adhesive, normal traffic can resume within 1 hour of installation. Heavy rolling loads may resume after 24 hours.
- Protect the floor from rolling or static loads for at least 72 hours after installation to allow adhesive to set firm.
- Always use strips of hardwood or plywood when moving heavy objects such as furniture or equipment over the floor even when using carts or dollies with wheels.



For additional questions or concerns, please call Mohawk Technical Services at 800.833.6954.

Pre-installation Substrate Moisture Testing

Installer should use this section to record moisture content readings and provide to the owner for their records.

Installation Information Total Square Feet Installed: _____		
Moisture Content	_____ %Moisture Content of Substrate	
Test Method Used:	____ Calcium Chloride (ASTM F1869) ____ RH% (ASTM F2170) ____ Electronic Meter (Tramex or equivalent) ____ pH Results	
Moisture Readings		