Glue Down PVC-Free Resilient Tile & Plank

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

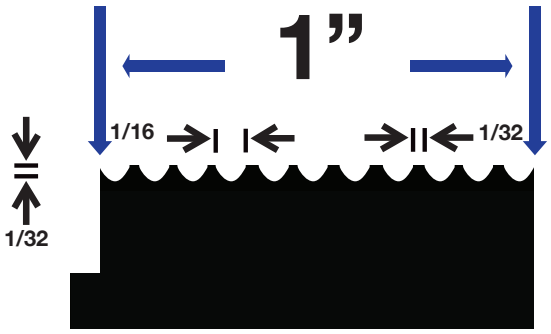
This document has been created to provide installation instructions for Mohawk's PVC-Free Resilient Tile & Plank products that requires a specific adhesive and installation techniques. Please read the entire document prior to initiating installation and follow exact instructions. Failure to follow the published installation steps will void all product warranties.

All instructions and recommendations are based on the most recent information available and should be followed for an ideal installation. For questions about product installation contact Mohawk Group Technical Services at product_tech@mohawkind.com or visit our website at www.mohawkgroup.com to ensure you have the most up to date version of our installation instructions.

MATERIAL RECEIVING, STORAGE AND HANDLING

Examine flooring for color and quality prior to installation. If material is deemed unacceptable, contact the seller immediately. Visual defects are covered for material replacement only. Owner and Installer are responsible for final inspection of flooring quality and grade. Purchase an additional 5% of flooring to allow for cuts and an additional 10% to 15% if installing diagonally.

WARRANTY NOTE: Installer should provide owner with one carton end label from product installed and recorded moisture test results for warranty purposes. Owner should also retain carton label, moisture test results and invoice for their records. Excess flooring should be stored flat in a climate controlled area for repairs in the event of future damage.



11 - 1/16” Grooves (Glue ridges) = 11/16”

10 - 1/32” Tips (Dry Zones) = 10/32”

Producing 11 ridges of adhesives per 1”

TOOLS

- Trowel (see diagram below): 1/16” (width) x 1/32” (depth) x 1/32” (spacing) U-notch with an approximate spread rate of 220-260 sq. ft./gallon.
- 75 – 100 lb. 3-section
- In Situ RH moisture probes
- pH testing kit
- Infrared thermometer
- Chalk line
- Framing square
- Utility knife
- Tape measure

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REQUIRED ADHESIVES FOR FULL SPREAD

FlexPress Adhesive

FlexPress offers outstanding protection against moisture and alkalinity. It provides an extremely low-odor solution with fast set up.

Testing Requirements: Slabs up to 99% and 5-12 pH.

JOB SITE CONDITIONS

Flooring material and adhesive must be acclimated to the installation area for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. If the area is not within the industry-recommended temperature and relative humidity ranges, the product should NOT be installed until those site conditions have been met.

- It is recommended that resilient 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.
- Humidity should be below 65%.
- Areas to receive flooring should be adequately lighted during all phases of the installation process.

Temperature – Radiant Heat

- Radiant heated substrates must never exceed an 85° F surface temperature.
- Several days prior to installing resilient products over newly constructed, radiant heated systems, make sure the radiant heat system has been on and operating at maximum temperature to reduce residual moisture within the concrete.
- Three days prior to installation, lower the temperature to 65° F. 24 hours after installation gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5° F. After continuous operation of the radiant heat system, ensure the surface of the floor does not exceed 85° F.

APPROVED SUBSTRATES AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

All substrates to receive floor covering must be tested for moisture. Do not install flooring if moisture test results exceed recommended limits. Stop the job and advise customer that installation cannot be initiated without the proper treatment for moisture conditions.

All substrates to receive resilient flooring shall be dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound. They shall be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening, or parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation or laitance, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials that might prevent adhesive bond. Never use liquid adhesive remover or solvent cleaners for removing old adhesive residue or other substances on the substrate; their use could cause an adhesive failure.

ASBESTOS 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. Their website address is: www.RFCI.org

Old Adhesive Residue

If the adhesive residue is asphalt-based (cut-back) or any other type of adhesive is present, it must be mechanically removed completely.

Note: Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor will affect the bond between the new adhesive and the new floor covering.

Type: Concrete Substrates

New and existing concrete subfloors should meet the guidelines of the latest edition of ACI 302 and ASTM F 710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring" available from the American Society for Testing and Materials.

- Every concrete substrate on or below-grade must have an effective vapor barrier directly under the slab.
- Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within the equivalent of 3/16" (3.9mm) in 10 feet and within the equivalent of 1/32" (0.8mm) in 12 inches.
- F-Number System: Overall values of FF 36/FL 20 may be appropriate for resilient floor coverings.
- Smooth, glossy resilient flooring may require a higher value FF 75/FL 50 to prevent telegraphing issues.

Relative Humidity (RH)

Tests must be performed per the latest edition of ASTM F 2170 - IRH (Internal Relative Humidity Test). Three tests should be conducted for areas up to 1000 SF; and one additional test is required for each additional 1000 SF. RH limits are based on adhesive used. Refer to adhesive section.

- pH reading depends on adhesive used. Refer to adhesive section.
- Damp mop the surface with clear water to lower alkalinity.

Note: It may not be the floor covering installer's responsibility to conduct the tests. It is, however, the floor covering installer's responsibility to make sure these tests have been conducted and that the results are acceptable prior to installing the floor 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.

Type: Light Weight Concrete

New and existing light weight concrete floors should meet the ASTM F2471, Standard Practice for Installation of Thick Poured Lightweight Cellular Concrete Underlayments and Preparation of the Surface to Receive Resilient Flooring. All recommendations and guarantees as to the suitability and performance of lightweight concrete under resilient flooring are the responsibility of the lightweight concrete manufacturer. The installer of the lightweight product may be required to be

authorized or certified by the manufacturer. Correct on-site mixing ratios and properly functioning pumping equipment are critical. To ensure proper mixture, slump testing is recommended.

- Lightweight aggregate concretes having densities greater than 90 lbs. per cubic foot may be acceptable under resilient flooring.
- Concrete slabs with heavy static and/or dynamic loads should be designed with higher strengths and densities to accommodate such loads.

Type: Panel Type Wood Substrates

New and existing panel type wood floors should meet the ASTM F1482, Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayments to Receive Resilient Flooring. Always follow the underlayment manufacturer's installation instructions.

- A moisture test is required using a pin-type moisture meter. The moisture content must not exceed 14%.
- Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and in compliance with local building codes.
- Double-layered APA rated plywood subfloors should be a minimum 1" total thickness with at least 18" well-ventilated air space beneath. Insulate and protect crawl spaces with a vapor barrier.
- It is recommended that your chosen APA underlayment grade panels be designed for installation under resilient flooring and carry a written warranty covering replacement of the entire flooring system. Any failures in the performance of the underlayment panel rests with the panel manufacturer and not with Mohawk Group.
- Underlayment panels can only correct minor deficiencies in the subfloor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring.
- Wood subfloors directly fastened to concrete, or sleeper constructions, are not recommended.
- APA rated Sturd-I-Floor are designed as combination subfloor/underlayment but exposure to construction conditions including weather may necessitate installation of a 1/4" underlayment panel prior to resilient flooring installation.
- Mohawk Group resilient flooring is not recommended to be installed directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. The materials used to treat the plywood may cause problems with adhesive bonding. An additional layer of APA rated, 1/4" thick underlayment should be installed.

Type: Strip – Plank Wood Flooring

Due to expansion and contraction of individual boards during seasonal changes, Mohawk recommends 1/4" or thicker APA rated underlayment panels be installed over strip plank wood flooring.

Resilient Floor Covering

- Existing resilient floor must be single layer, non-cushion backed, fully adhered, and smooth.
- Existing flooring must show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.
- Wax, polish, grease, and grime must be removed.
- Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents, and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced.

Note: The responsibility of determining if existing flooring provides a suitable substrate rests solely with installer or flooring contractor on site. If there is any doubt as to suitability, the existing flooring should be removed or an acceptable underlayment installed over it. Installations over existing resilient flooring may be more susceptible to indentation.

Poured Floors (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless)

- Poured floors must be totally cured and well bonded to the concrete.
- Floors must be free of any residual solvents and petroleum residue.
- Wax, polish, grease and grime must be removed .
- Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents, and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced; texture must be smooth.
- Floors must show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.

PRODUCT INSTALLATION & PROTECTION

General Instructions

- Use a Mohawk Group adhesive following the semi-wet set installation directions on the adhesive label.
- Ensure that moisture and pH tests have been conducted and that the results do not exceed the requirements of the adhesive being used.
- The permanent HVAC system is operational and set to a minimum of 65° F for a minimum of 72 hours prior to, during and after installation. After the installation, the maximum temperature should not exceed 85° F.
- Adhesive working and open times vary based on job conditions, substrate, temperature, and humidity.
- Install tiles running in the same direction when arrows are on the back of tile. Ensure that all recommendations for subfloor and jobsite conditions are met prior to beginning the installation.
- If more than one run/lot is used, the job should be laid out so that different run numbers are not installed side by side.
- Ensure that 1/8” expansion space is used around the full perimeter of the room as well as any obstructions, such as columns, to allow for expansion and contraction.

Start of Installation: Planks and Tiles

Before installing the material, plan the layout so plank/tile joints fall at least 6 inches (15 cm.) away from subfloor and underlayment joints. Find the center point in the room. Divide the room into equal quadrants by marking two perpendicular lines on the subfloor intersecting at the center point. Depending on your layout you may also start your row along a wall. Since walls are not always straight, snap a chalk line. Do not install over expansion joints.

Step 1: Apply adhesive for a semi-wet application with the recommended trowel (if applicable). Follow directions for semi-wet set installation on adhesive label for open and working time. Do not exceed working time of adhesive. Only spread adhesive that product can be installed within the working time of the adhesive.

Step 2: Install all planks/tiles with arrows pointing in the same direction making sure each piece is fitting tightly to the next.

Step 3: Repeat Step 1 and Step 2 until area is completed.

Step 4: Roll immediately after each section is installed with a 75 or 100-pound, 3-section roller and roll again after 45 - 60 minutes in the opposite direction ensuring the entire surface is rolled.

After Installation

- Immediately remove any excess adhesive from the surface of the flooring using a clean white cloth dampened with clean water. You may also use rubbing alcohol or denatured alcohol to remove tacky or dried adhesive. Dried adhesive may be removed with a clean white cloth dampened with mineral spirits.
- Restrict to light traffic/foot traffic for a minimum at least a FULL 12 hours. Additional time may be necessary if the installation is over a non-porous substrate.
- Install the base moldings. Use silicone caulking to seal areas that may be exposed to spills (tubs, toilets, and showers).
- Restrict heavy traffic for 24 hours and rolling loads and furniture placement for 48 hours after installation.
- Return appliances and furniture to the room by rolling or sliding them over strips of hardboard.
- Allow at least five days following the installation before performing wet maintenance.

Mohawk Group Resilient Tile is recommended for a variety of commercial applications, including educational, institutional, healthcare, retail, office and hospitality environments and may be installed over most properly prepared substrates, making it suitable for installation on all grade levels where moisture conditions allow. Mohawk continuously makes technological advancements that improve product performance or installation techniques and methods.

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