



Commercial Resilient Heterogeneous Sheet Flooring

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL

Mohawk Group guidelines for preparation and installation of commercial heterogeneous resilient sheet. A full spread adhesive application is the required installation method for all Mohawk Group commercial resilient sheet applications. **Note:** Mohawk Group recommends contracting with a qualified commercial flooring installation service for all commercial installations who should be well-versed and experienced in all procedures required to achieve a quality resilient flooring installation.

JOB SITE CONDITIONS

The jobsite and all flooring material and adhesive must be kept between 65° F and 85° F (18° C and 29° C) for 24 hours before, during and after installation. Installation site should never drop below 55° F or exceed 85° F during the life of the floor. The permanent HVAC should be fully operational.

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. www.RFCI.org.

I. FULL SPREAD ADHESIVE INSTALLATION METHOD

Materials Required for Installation

- 1/16" x 1/32" x 1/32" U-notch trowel
- Mohawk approved adhesives
- Infuze Seam Sealer, if seaming is required
- Heat weld equipment, if heat welded seaming is required
- Sharp utility knife
- Straight edge
- 100 lb. roller
- Plastic putty knife, white clean cloths and denatured alcohol if seaming is required



Acceptable Underlayments

Wood

Wood underlayment panels require a double layer construction and must be APA approved and underlayment grade as specified and warranted by the manufacturer. Always fasten underlayment panels in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Any failure of the underlayment or Mohawk Group flooring as a result of the underlayment is NOT the responsibility of Mohawk Group. Mohawk Group does not recommend installing resilient flooring over wood flooring or subfloors applied directly over concrete or sleeper-construction floors.

Concrete

See grade levels below. All concrete slabs shall be tested for moisture regardless of age or grade level.

SUSPENDED: An acceptable suspended floor is a concrete or wood substrate with a minimum of 18" (460mm) of well-ventilated air space beneath. Mohawk Group recommends that a moisture vapor barrier be placed on the ground below the air space.

ON-GRADE: An acceptable on-grade floor is a concrete substrate in direct surface contact with the ground at the surrounding ground level. The concrete slab must be protected from moisture penetration and incorporate a proven intact moisture vapor barrier.

BELOW-GRADE: An acceptable below-grade floor is a concrete substrate partially or completely in contact with the ground below the surrounding ground level. The concrete slab must be protected from moisture penetration and incorporate a proven moisture vapor barrier.

Gypsum-based Lightweight Concrete

May be utilized when necessary due to radiant heat and in high rise buildings. Lightweight concrete must meet the requirements outlined in ASTM F2419 for density. Lightweight concrete should be sealed using the manufacture's approved sealer, if required.

All issues with lightweight concrete cracking, crumbling, powdering and resulting in the release of adhesive bond are NOT warranted by Mohawk Group.

VCT

Well bonded, on or above grade, without waxes or sealers.

Ceramic

Well bonded with grout joints filled with patch or self-leveler.

Terrazzo

Remove all foreign substances

Self-leveling and Patching Compounds

Use 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.

Resilient Floor

No more than one layer, well bonded, non-cushioned.

Radiant Heat Floors

Not exceeding 85° F (29° C) and approved by the manufacturer for use with resilient sheet flooring.



UNACCEPTABLE Underlayments

- Inter-flex or any perimeter-bonded products
- Cushion-back vinyl
- Any floating floor system
- Resilient tile installed below grade
- Cork
- Carpet
- OSB – Non APA approved

Mohawk Group will not warrant or accept responsibility of any kind for flooring failures related to the use of unacceptable substrates and surfaces.

Floor Preparation

Substrate preparation should be carried out in accordance to ASTM F710.

Floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Remove all foreign substances such as wax, grease, dirt, construction marks, paints, sealers and contaminants, and any substance or chemical that would interfere with a good bond. Fill all holes and cracks with a 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. Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 3/16" in a 10-foot span and 1/32" in a 12 inch span.

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 to prior 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.

INSPECTION OF FLOORING MATERIAL PRIOR TO INSTALLATION IS REQUIRED.

Any defects should be immediately reported to the seller from which the flooring was purchased before installation. Mohawk Group will not be responsible for labor costs to repair or replace material with defects that were apparent before or noticed at the end of an installation.



II. FULL SPREAD ADHESIVE INSTALLATION

1. Align the pattern with the most dominant wall and using a sharp utility knife, trim away excess material along the walls, cabinet and other permanent objects leaving approximately 2" of material (rough cut) to be trimmed off later.
2. Make relief cuts at corners to allow the material to lay flat before the final cuts are made. Final trimming does not require an 1/4" expansion gap when using Mohawk Adhesive as this is a permanent installation.
3. Fold back half of the material and apply Mohawk Adhesive to the substrate using the appropriate trowel. If a seam is required, leave an 18" dry zone at the edge of the seam. Next, follow the instructions found in the Seaming Instructions in the Full Spread Installation section found below.
4. Do not immediately place the material into wet adhesive. To avoid bubbling, allow time for the adhesive to flash before positioning the material. When placing a finger into the adhesive, there will be a slight transfer of adhesive to the skin when it's ready for installation. Do not allow the adhesive to dry completely.
5. Slide the material into place and remove air and vapors under adhered areas by using a 100 lb. roller to roll the entire installed area.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 for the remaining half of the area being installed.

III. SEAMING INSTRUCTIONS IN A FULL SPREAD ADHESIVE INSTALLATION

1. After positioning the flooring, overlap the seam edges making sure to match patterns. For non-descript/non-patterned/random designs which do not have an obvious pattern repeat, overlap the seam edges by an average of 2". Some patterns may require extending beyond this suggestion. This is valid for all sheet products from the Mohawk Group.
2. Place a 4"– 5" wide scrap of the vinyl between the substrate and vinyl under the seam area.
3. Double cut through the layers of vinyl creating a compression fit when the seam edges are joined.
4. Fold back both sides of the seam area and apply the Mohawk Adhesive to the dry zone. Allow the adhesive to flash before placing the material into the adhesive.
5. Place one side of the flooring into the adhesive and roll the seam area using a 100 lb. roller.
6. Apply a small bead of Infuze Seam Sealer along the edge of the installed vinyl. Heat weld seams do not require Infuze Seam Sealer.
7. Place the edge of the uninstalled vinyl against the edge of the installed vinyl and press into place.
8. Remove excess bond/sealer using a plastic putty knife followed by wiping the seam area using a clean, dry cloth. Next, wipe immediately with a clean cloth dampened with denatured alcohol.
9. Using a clean cloth, repeat until all residue is removed from the surface of the vinyl and protect the seam from traffic for a minimum of 6 hours to prevent dirt from collecting on the seam sealer.



Heat Weld Seams

Professionally heat welded seams provide a strong, watertight, hygienic, monolithic surface.

- Seam edges should be only slightly gapped (about a business card thickness) and vertical. Wide gapped and/or undercut seams will prevent quality welds.
- Head weld wait times: MS160- Immediate, M95.0- 2 hours, FlexPress- 24 hours, Simply Spray- Immediate, Total Bond- 4 hours.
- The depth of the groove should be 1/2 to 3/4 the thickness of the material. DO NOT go too deep. The groove must also be centered between edges. Both are critical to ensure proper strength and bonding.
- Grooves must be clear of all debris including dust.
- Use only professional quality welding equipment that will maintain sufficient temperatures. A welding tip must be chosen to produce a quality weld without damaging the appearance of the sheet vinyl.
- Preheat welding gun. Temperature should be set approximately 700° F. Just above 5 on the green Leister gun. Practice on a scrap piece to fine tune temperature and pace for type of substrate and site conditions.
- Determine the correct welding speed by ensuring that the welding rod actually fuses into the groove. A small ridge must form on either side of the welding rod at the vinyl surface. If no ridge forms, you have not properly heat welded the seam.
- While the welding rod is still warm, trim off 1/2–2/3 the excess ridge with a spatula knife and trim plate.
- After the rod has cooled to room temperature, make the final trim pass using only a razor sharp spatula knife in one continuous movement.

IV. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Never roll and store sheet vinyl face in. If it must be temporarily rolled face in for positioning in the room, make the rolls as large as possible.
- DO NOT slide heavy appliances or furniture over or across the flooring. Always lift objects and place them on hardboard on top of the flooring and gently reposition them.
- Use caulk along bathtubs, showers, sliding doors, patio doors, metal door jambs or similar areas.
- Make sure furniture legs have large surface, non-staining plastic floor protectors or non-staining felt pads. The protectors should be at least one inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be.



V. MOHAWK SIMPLY SPRAY & MS160 SPRAY ADHESIVE INSTALLATION STEPS

Mohawk Spray Adhesives are engineered for commercial application of Mohawk Group fiberglass resilient sheet flooring products. Projected coverage is approximately 150 square feet per 22 ounce can.

1. To begin, measure each portion of the installation into 150 square feet grids for MS160 and 125 square feet for Simply Spray, marking with a chalk line. One can of adhesive will be applied to each grid area.
2. Align the pattern with the most dominant wall and use a sharp utility knife to trim away excess material along the walls, cabinet, and other permanent objects, leaving approximately 2" of material (rough cut) to be trimmed off later.
3. Next, make relief cuts at corners to allow the material to lay flat before the final cuts are made. Final trimming does not require a 1/4" expansion gap when using Mohawk Spray Adhesive as this is a permanent installation.
4. Fold back the material within the area in which you are about to spray.
5. Shake can well before each use. Point can downwards and press the side of the nozzle tip as you slowly walk back and forth in the area you have folded back for adhesive application. Do not use a sweeping motion as this will create uneven coverage. Clean up any drips that may occur.
6. Allow adhesive to dry completely with no transfer to fingers when lightly touched. Open time will vary depending on the adhesive coverage, substrate porosity and the ambient conditions. Working time for the adhesive should not exceed 4 hours.
7. Position the material in place and immediately roll in 4 directions using a 100 lb. roller over the entire adhered area.
8. Apply adhesive to the remaining portion of the room, allow adhesive to dry and complete the installation. Use a hand roller under toe kicks and other hard-to-get areas.

Mohawk Group Commercial resilient sheet flooring seams may be heat welded immediately after installation if using Mohawk Spray Adhesive.

Please contact the Mohawk Group Technical Services Department at 800-833-6954 with any questions.

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