



Elemental Edges | Stair Treads

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

For Use With Stair Treads Only

This document has been created to provide installation instructions for Mohawk's Stair Treads 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 800-833-6954 Monday-Friday, 8am – 5pm EST; or visit our website at www.mohawkgroup.com to ensure you have the most up to date version of our installation instructions.

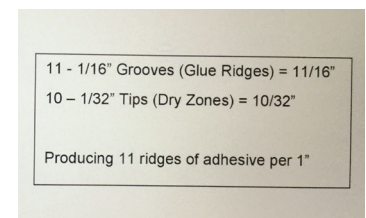
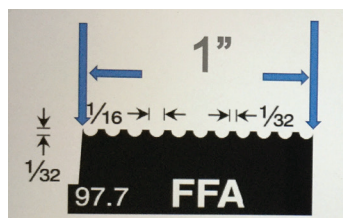
MATERIAL RECEIVING AND HANDLING

Upon receipt of material, immediately remove any pallet wrapping materials and verify that the correct product and color was received and that the carton is free from damage. Be careful not to drop any cartons as this may damage the flooring. No labor claims will be honored on materials installed with visible defects. Any discrepancies should be reported immediately to the Mohawk Group Technical Services Department before beginning installation.

Store boxes of treads flat and squarely on top of one another no more than 3 boxes high. Select a storage location that is in the center of the installation area and away from vents, direct sunlight, etc. Check the carton label to verify that all materials are from the same run/lot number.

TOOLS

- Trowel: 1/16" (width) x 1/32" (depth) x 1/32" (spacing) U-Notch with an approximate spread rate of 220-260 sq. ft. /gallon.
- J-type Hand Roller
- In Situ RH Moisture Probes
- pH Testing Kit
- Infrared Thermometer
- Pencil



- Compass
- Framing Square
- Utility Knife
- Tape Measure

REQUIRED ADHESIVES

Mohawk M99 Adhesive – Primary adhesive (Stair Treads/Landing Tiles)

Mohawk M99 is a solvent free, water-based acrylic adhesive suggested for use in occupied buildings, as it is low in odor, and



contains “zero” (calculated) VOC’s. M99 is designed with extended open time which allows product to be installed up to 4 hours after drying. Product should be allowed to dry to touch to prevent slippage. Non-porous substrates require adhesive to be dry to touch with little or no transfer to the finger. Do not install flooring into wet adhesive on a non-porous substrate.

For technical data on adhesive, visit http://www.mohawkgroup.com/sitefiles/resources/Adhesive_TDS_M99.pdf

Mohawk M95.0 - Alternate Landing Tile Adhesive

M95.0 must be used with landing tiles in Stairwell areas that are not climate controlled and exposed to direct sunlight.

Premium high strength wet set adhesive used over porous substrates. Mohawk M95.0 is a solvent free, water-based acrylic adhesive suggested for use in occupied buildings, as it is low in odor, and contains “zero” (calculated) VOC’s. Adhesive must be allowed to flash off but only spread what can be installed in 15-20 mins.

AD-888 Adhesive

Mohawk’s AD-888 adhesive is a two-part solvent-free epoxy caulking compound. It prevents cracking and flexing of rubber treads by bonding uniformly to the under-step. It is excellent for the complete restoration of existing concrete, wooden or metal steps and can be used for repairing cracks, holes, depressions and worn or broken edges.

Directions:

1. Cut a 3/8” inside diameter opening in the mixing nozzle
2. Remove cap and attach the mixing nozzle to the cartridge using the retaining nut
3. Depress the trigger on the gun until the compound reaches the end of the nozzle
4. Discard the first 6” of compound. Do not remove internal mixer in nozzle
5. Squeeze a sufficient amount inside the nosing of the tread so that when it is pressed firmly in place, the compound molds it to the shape of the step edge. Warning: Care must be taken not to displace the compound – the epoxy is intended to fill the void and molding to the stair edge may create a void in the epoxy, which will greatly reduce its effectiveness
6. After installing the tread, thoroughly roll it with a hand roller, especially in the nosing area being careful not to apply too much pressure which could result in displacement of the epoxy. All of the tread nosing must touch the step edge to provide adequate support.
7. Coverage is approx. 30 LF per unit using a 3/8” diameter bead
8. To save a partial cartridge or compound for future use, leave the mixing nozzle on the cartridge during storage. To use, simply replace the old nozzle with a new one
9. AD-888 curing time is 2 hours

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 requirements, the product should NOT be installed until those requirements have been met.

- It is recommended that stair treads 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.

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

APPROVED SUBSTRATES AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

All substrates to receive moisture sensitive 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 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.

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.

Moisture Testing

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. Results must be below 99% RH.

- pH reading must not exceed 12.
- 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.

Subfloor Preparation

Concrete Steps:

- Concrete must be clean, dry, full cured and free of alkali or acids, curing compounds, paint, urethane, oil or solvents. Newly poured concrete steps must be cured for at least 6 weeks prior to tread installation.
- Fill cracks and level low or rough areas 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 are acceptable. Mohawk AD-888 Nosing Caulking can be used for repairing worn or cracked steps.

Wooden Steps:

- Wooden steps must be properly nailed, clean and free of polish and wax. Replace or repair old or worn steps.
- Fill all surface cracks and holes with Portland or high alumina cement.

Terrazzo, ceramic, natural/agglomerated marble or granite-type steps:

- These types of steps have a glazed and polished finish.
- Most often they are treated with sealers and wax as well, which can build up. Remove glaze, polished finish, sealers and wax by sanding or bead blasting.
- Ensure the surface is free of dirt, dust, debris or any other substance that may prevent bonding. Use a primer and then apply a Portland or high alumina cement self-leveling compound with at least a 1/8" thickness.
- Allow to cure for 24 hours before installing product

Metal steps:

- The surface must be level, clean, dry and free of any coatings or foreign materials.
- Sand the metal (aluminum, steel, brass, copper and bronze) to ensure a good adhesive bond.
- The surface must be level, clean, dry and free of any coatings or foreign materials.
- Sand the metal (aluminum, steel, brass, copper and bronze) to ensure a good adhesive bond.

Do not use chemical adhesive removers as these will void Mohawk Groups warranty. Do not use an oil-based sweeping compound to clean the surface because this will interfere with the bond. For detailed instructions please refer to the Floor Preparation document found on our website at www.mohawkgroup.com

PRODUCT INSTALLATION & PROTECTION

General Instructions

- Must use Mohawk M99 Adhesive and AD-888 nose caulking and follow the directions on the adhesive label.
- Ensure that moisture tests have been conducted and that the results do not exceed 85%.



- 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.
- Ensure that all recommendations for subfloor and jobsite conditions are met prior to beginning the installation.
- Once the installation is started, site conditions are accepted.
- M95.0 is for landing tiles that are exposed to direct sunlight or stairwells that are non-climatized.

Regular Stair Tread Installation

Step 1: Dry fit all treads. First scribe treads to fit steps in both the depth and from side to side. Second, slightly bevel the rear edge for a better fit. Continue until all treads are cut.

Step 2: Carefully clean step substrate and the back of the tread for any dust particles and then apply M99 adhesive with a 1/16"x1/32"x1/32" U-notched trowel. It is required that all treads have a minimum bead of 3/8" of AD-888 nose caulking applied along the inside of the tread nosing angle section. The entire gap must be filled. **Note:** We recommend abrading the back of the tread if the treads are being applied to a non-porous surface, such as metal steps.

Step 3: Press treads firmly into place. Press nosing into stair so the epoxy caulking molds to the shape of the tread nose and stair. Use a hand roller to roll entire tread and nose being careful not to displace the nose caulking.

One-piece Tread and Riser Installation

Step 1: Dry fit all treads. First scribe treads to fit steps. Second, place riser into position to fit tread nose on above step: do not overlap the top portion of the riser with the tread nose.

Step 2: Carefully clean step substrate and the back of the tread for any dust particles and then apply M99 adhesive with a 1/16"x1/32"x1/32" U-notched trowel. It is required that all treads have a minimum bead of 3/8" of AD-888 nose caulking applied along the inside of the tread nosing angle section. The entire gap must be filled. A minimum bead of 3/8" AD-888 nose caulking should also be used where the tread and riser intersect.

Step 3: Press tread and riser firmly into place. Press nosing into stair so the epoxy caulking molds to the shape of the tread nose and stair. Use a hand roller to roll entire tread, riser and nose being careful not to displace the nose caulking.

Stringer Installation- Vertical wall section next to the stair tread

Step 1: Make a template in cardboard or an appropriate material.

Step 2: Measure the height and depth of each step and transfer the measurements to the template.

Step 3: Rough cut the template and fit the template to the stairs and trim the template where necessary to obtain a snug fit to the staircase.

Step 4: Cut stringer material utilizing template. Dry-fit stringer material to staircase and make any necessary adjustments before permanent installation. Make a pencil mark on the top of the string to use as a glue line for next step.

Step 5: Apply M99 with a 1/16"x1/32"x1/32" trowel or M45 cartridge to the wall surface and follow instructions for set up times of adhesive.

Step 6: Position and install the stringer followed by hand rolling to ensure that the adhesive transferred.

Step 7: Clean up any excessive adhesive before the stair treads are installed.



Riser Only Installation

Step 1: Dry fit the riser and scribe the sides and top of the riser.

Step 2: Position riser and make any necessary adjustments.

Step 3: Apply M99 with a 1/16"x1/32"x1/32" trowel to staircase riser and follow instructions for set up times of adhesive.

Step 4: Position and install the stringer followed by hand rolling to ensure that the adhesive transferred.

Step 5: Clean up any excessive adhesive before the stair treads are installed

Landing Tiles

M95.0 must be used with landing tiles in Stairwell areas that are not climate controlled and exposed to direct sunlight.

Follow product directions for open time and working time.

Step 1: Apply M99 with a 1/16"x1/32"x1/32" trowel and follow instructions for set up times of adhesive.

Step 2: Start at the nosing installing full tiles from the step to the back of the landing.

Step 3: Fill any remaining areas by cutting tiles snugly in place.

Step 4: Roll all landing tiles with hand roller

AFTER INSTALLATION

- Immediately remove any excess adhesive from the surface of the flooring using a clean white cloth dampened with 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.
- No traffic for 24 hours. Light traffic/foot traffic for 24 to 72 hours. Moderate to heavy traffic after 72 hours. Additional time may be necessary if the installation is over a non-porous substrate.

Mohawk Commercial Stair Treads are 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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