



# RUBBER FLOORING Installation and Maintenance Instructions

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## Decorative Slate & Hammered, Classic Raised Round, Square, Harsh Environment & Deck Point Flooring

### NOTICE TO THE INSTALLER

THIS BROCHURE CONTAINS IMPORTANT INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE INFORMATION, AS WELL AS CAUTIONS AND WARNINGS. PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE FLOOR OWNER. OUR WARRANTY WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE ONLY IF THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE FOLLOWED IN EVERY ASPECT. VPI'S EXCLUSIVE WARRANTY LIMITS VPI'S LIABILITY TO REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, OR CREDIT, AT VPI'S OPTION, ON VPI FLOOR PRODUCTS FOR WHICH A CLAIM HAS BEEN MADE ACCORDING TO VPI'S CLAIM PROCEDURE. CLAIMS FOR SURFACE DEFECTS OR VARIATIONS IN COLOR OR PATTERN MUST BE MADE TO VPI PRIOR TO INSTALLATIONS OF THE MATERIAL. FOR A COMPLETE STATEMENT OF VPI'S EXCLUSIVE WARRANTY,

[CONTACT: VPI TECHNICAL SERVICE: 1-800-874-4240](mailto:technical@vpiflooring.com)

### GENERAL

**IMPORTANT:** Before proceeding with the installation, ensure that the proper floor preparation is completed and that you and the installer are familiar with VPI's Floor Preparation and Installation procedures. See VPI Rubber Flooring - Floor Preparation Instructions document for further directions.

**VPI Rubber Flooring and Adhesive** should be stored on the job site 48 hours prior to the start of the installation. Remove the tile from the cartons or the pallet and back stack them to assure the tiles are acclimated to the temperature and lay them flat. Ambient temperature and product temperature should be maintained at 70° F for 48 hours prior to, during, and 48 hours after the installation. Rubber tiles should be loose-laid in the room and all fittings and cuts be made. Corrective adjustments should be made at this time to avoid color contrasts and to ensure overall appearance meets the desired effect.

**Report any defects in VPI Rubber Flooring or installation concerns to VPI prior to installation. The correct VPI adhesive must be used to install VPI Rubber Flooring and the use of any other adhesive will void VPI's limited warranty.**

Rubber flooring installation is not recommended for use with particle board, wafer chip board or existing plank or hardwood types. In all applications, the use of the correct adhesive is critical to a successful installation. Refer to VPI adhesive reference chart to identify the correct adhesive at [www.vpiflooring.com](http://www.vpiflooring.com).

### INSTALLATION

When installing VPI Rubber Flooring it is strongly recommended to dry fit the entire room to ensure desired visual requirements.

**Do not force the tiles together, which can cause seams to peak.**

It is critical to use the specified trowel and roller (150 lb). This will avoid excessive adhesive consumption, adhesive seepage at the seams, and shifting and height variance of your rubber tiles.

**Worn trowels should be replaced.**

### CONCRETE

Sub floors must be structurally sound, dry, clean, and free of dirt, dust, wax, grease, paint, polish, oil, curing compounds, sealers, and all other materials that would interfere with good bonding action. Floor surface must be smooth and flat with a maximum variation of 1/8" in 10 feet. All cracks, depressions, and other imperfections must be repaired with a high quality, cementitious latex underlayment.



**Gypsum-based underlayment products should not be used.**

Any uncorrected sub floor irregularities may telegraph through the VPI Rubber Flooring and be visible on the surface of the finished installation. VPI recommends that new concrete slabs on or below grade be poured over a permanent moisture barrier such as a 6-mil polyethylene film. Any concrete in contact with earth or with less than 18" of cross-ventilated air space under it is considered to be on grade. New concrete must be properly cured. A drying time of 3 months is generally required after a slab is poured and that it is protected from the weather. Lightweight aggregate concrete floors, floors with steel or plastic pan construction, and floors poured over a permanent moisture barrier usually require an extended drying time. If lightweight aggregate concrete weighs less than 90 pounds per cubic foot, a topping of regular concrete at least one inch thick is required. To expedite the drying time, adequate heat and ventilation should be provided.

**VPI's warranty does not cover failure due to moisture emission from sub floor.**

Concrete sub floors should be tested for the presence of excessive moisture or alkali. MVER moisture test results must not exceed 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet per 24 hours or 75% RH. Contractors can purchase moisture test units on the internet. The pH should be between 5 and 8 pH. Conduct one pH test for every 1,000 square feet throughout the area. Levels should not exceed 8 pH. If higher than 8 pH, neutralize the slab with one part of muriatic acid and nine parts of water. Flood the concrete with this solution and allow the solution to remain on the floor for at least one hour before rinsing with clear water. Allow the floor to dry and retest for pH levels and repeat as necessary to achieve the desired pH level. If the concrete surface is exceptionally smooth, it should be acid etched with 15% solution of muriatic acid/water solution before installing flooring. Use a shop vacuum to remove any liquids. **Neutralize concrete after etching by rinsing with clear water** to which a few ounces of ammonia has been added again use a shop vacuum to remove any liquids. Follow all safety regulations when using these solutions.

**RADIANT HEAT**

Rubber tile may be installed on radiant-heated floors, provided surface temperature does not exceed 75 F. If radiant heated flooring has cooled after your installation, it is recommended to gradually increase the temperature to prevent adhesive bond from being adversely affected. Rubber floors are an insulator and may require longer period of time to reach optimum floor temperature.

**Caution: Rubber flooring acts as an insulator and will act as a heat barrier.**

**TERRAZZO, CERAMIC**

These types of surfaces create potential installation problems due to the glazed or polished surface. If these surfaces have a sealer or wax applied to them. Remove the entire glaze or polished finish, any waxes and sealers by sanding or coarse buffing or other acceptable means. The surface must be free of dirt, debris or any extraneous material that will prevent proper adhesion of the tile to the surface. All cracks, depressions, and other imperfections must be repaired with a high quality, cementitious latex underlayment.

Ceramic tile must be solidly adhered. Any loose tile must be removed. Cleaning the existing ceramic tile using the 15% muriatic acid solution as directed above. After the floor has dried, apply a thin rich coat of cementitious latex underlayment to achieve a smooth surface. Any uncorrected sub floor irregularities may telegraph through the VPI Rubber Flooring and be visible on the surface of the finished installation. Make sure the underlayment is thoroughly dry before proceeding with the installation.



## METAL

These surfaces must be smooth, dry, clean and free from dust, paint, asphalt, old adhesives, grease, oil, rust and any other extraneous materials. Level all the surface irregularities with a cementitious latex underlayment. Metal surfaces should be lightly sanded or sand blasted for better adhesion.

## VPI ADHESIVE AND EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

VPI Recommends VPI 100 adhesive in heavy traffic areas and also in areas where water spillage may occur, where there is radiant heat systems in application and where heavy duty cleaning solutions and process will be applied..

ECO 560 – For on or above grade and porous floor applications

VPI 100 – Two-part epoxy adhesive for nonporous and below grade applications.

## TROWEL SELECTION

1/16" x 1/16" Square Notch with 1/16" Flats, for porous floor applications

1/16" x 1/16" Half Circular with 1/32" Flats, for nonporous floor applications

## ROLLER

All installations should be rolled and cross-rolled with a 150-pound sectional roller immediately after the tile has been laid.

## INSTALLATION OF TILE

1. Only after dry fitting is successfully complete and all the floor preparation has been completed should installation commence.
2. Follow the directions on the adhesive container label. The use of any other adhesive will void VPI's warranty. Rubber tile must be laid within the open time limits indicated on the container label so as to obtain a good solid transfer of adhesive to rubber floor tile. After properly mixing the adhesive, apply the adhesive to the sub-floor with the correct notched trowel.
3. When installing rubber flooring with ECO 560 Acrylic Adhesive, allow the adhesive to flash off until the adhesive is tacky, then set the flooring into the adhesive. Do not slide the tiles into the adhesive as this may result in adhesive being forced out at the seams. Position them, as they were dry fit to avoid peaking seams. Work away from the tiles and if necessary use a kneeling board when conditions dictate working on the tiles.
4. Roll and immediately cross roll your rubber tile with section roller. Lift a corner of a tile and inspect for good adhesive transfer. Roll a second time one hour later. Inspect the floor for raised edges one hour after a second rolling and if necessary roll a third time. Use a hand roller in areas that can not be reached with a large roller.
5. Any adhesive seepage at the seams or on any finished surface of tile must be removed while the adhesive is still wet, use a cloth dampened with alcohol.

**Note: 100 Epoxy adhesive will be tougher to remove after the rubber tiles have been set into place, keep the rubber tile clean as you work.**

6. Avoid traffic on floor for at least 48 hours.
7. Clean and maintain the installed rubber floor as outlined in maintenance procedures.



## MAINTENANCE

### INITIAL MAINTENANCE

All VPI Rubber Flooring comes with a surface coating to guard against marks during shipping and dirt and debris marks during installation. This coating must be removed.

1. After the adhesive has fully cured, the protective coating can be removed by using a VPI Green Prep and Conditioner per the instructions.
2. Mop this solution evenly across the floor but take care not to flood the floor. Wait 5 to 10 minutes with this solution on the floor before scrubbing.
3. Machine scrub this solution using a 175 to 350 RPM (low speed) machine with a red pad.
4. Mop off excess Green Prep and Conditioner with clear water.
5. Mop the rubber floor with VPI Cleaner ¼ oz. per gal.
6. Let it dry

### Optionally for a higher gloss and less dirt pick up:

1. Prepare a mop bucket with a garbage can liner and a new synthetic mop head dampened with water.
2. Pour a couple of inches of Flex Shield into the lined mop bucket until you know how much you will use to mop that area. Keep mop head and liner covered or store inside a liner bag. Until the next application.
3. Wait at least 30 -60 minutes per coating to dry, depending on the surface texture you are coating.
4. Apply at least 3 coats to seal the pores.

### ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

These steps are completed based on soiling conditions of the flooring and usage.

1. Remove surface dirt by sweeping, vacuuming or wet mopping.
2. Wet mop using VPI Cleaner per directions to remove significant debris.
3. Vacuum or damp mop any residue and allow the floor to dry.
4. If the floor needs a thorough cleaning, refer to the initial maintenance procedures.

**Any questions about surface preparation, sub floor conditions or general installation questions or maintenance not covered in these instructions, please contact VPI.**

Install & Maint. Rubber Tile 13: 03-03-13

