



FLOOR PREPARATION

To be followed for ALL VPI Flooring Products

GENERAL

IMPORTANT. Before proceeding with installation, ensure that proper floor prep is completed and that installer is familiar with VPI's installation procedures.

PREPARATION OF SUBFLOOR

CONCRETE, TERRAZZO, CERAMIC

Sub floors must be structurally sound, dry, clean, and free of dirt, dust, wax, grease, paint, polish, oil, curing agents, parting compounds, surface hardeners, sealers, solvents, asphalt, old adhesives 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 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 6 weeks is generally required after slab is poured and 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 drying time, adequate heat and ventilation should be provided. **It is the responsibility of the flooring contractor to determine if the floor is sufficiently dry for covering.**

Concrete floors where moisture is present may be susceptible to elevated pH levels due to excess alkaline salts. All adhesives are subject to deterioration resulting in bond failure when Alkalinity is present. Levels should be held between 5 and 8 pH. If higher than 8 pH neutralize the floor with one part muriatic acid to 9 parts water. Be sure to rinse the floor thoroughly with neutralizing solution for 1 hr. and remove with wet vac, then follow with a clear water rinse, and allow to dry thoroughly. Retest the floor for pH value and repeat if necessary.

VPI's warranty will not apply if rate of moisture emission from sub floor exceeds 5 pounds per 1000 square feet per 24 hours at time of installation of tile or at any future time. VPI recommends that moisture tests be taken on all concrete floors prior to installation of flooring to determine moisture emission. Use the following guidelines to determine the number of tests to be taken simultaneously.

- 1 test for areas up to 250 sq. ft.
- 2 tests for areas of 250-500 sq. ft.
- 3 tests for areas of 500-1000 sq. ft.
- 4 tests for areas of 1000-5000 sq. ft.

Terrazzo floors may have a sealer or film on the surface. This must be removed before proceeding with the installation of tile. Ceramic tile must be solidly adhered. Any loose tile must be removed. Thoroughly clean existing ceramic tile using a 15% muriatic acid/water solution. If grout lines are filled with foreign matter, a stronger solution should be used.

Wet the entire floor with the mixture and scrub thoroughly. Allow solution to remain on the floor for ten minutes and then remove. Neutralize the floor by rinsing with clear water to which a few ounces of household ammonia have been added. After floor has dried, apply a thin rich coat of rubber latex underlayment to achieve a smooth surface.

Suspended

Installation of tile on suspended floors should be made using the specified VPI adhesive and trowel

On or Below Grade

VPI recommends that new concrete slabs on or below grade be poured over a permanent moisture barrier such as six-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. For specified VPI adhesive and trowel, see adhesive quick chart

Radiant-Heated Floors

Rubber may be installed on radiant-heated floors, provided surface temperature does not exceed 90° F. Use specified VPI adhesive and trowel.

WOOD FLOORS Suspended Only VPI does not recommend any rubber flooring be installed over any wood products other than Plywood with a min. thickness of 1/4" and must be construction grade.

RESILIENT FLOORING

Existing Concrete

Remove old floor covering and sand off all old adhesive. If specific job conditions necessitate installation of tile over resilient floor covering, use the following procedures:

1. Floor covering must be sound and adhered tightly to the floor. Remove any loose or broken areas and replace them either with sound material or with a good grade of cementitious latex underlayment, which should also be used to level any floor irregularities and to fill in any open seams.
2. Thoroughly sand surface with very rough sandpaper, using an edge sander next to walls and in spots in the field that the regular sander may have skipped. Completely remove all old sealers and wax to ensure a proper bond.
3. Thoroughly sweep, vacuum, or damp mop floor to remove all dust and grit. Any texture or embossing in the original installation may telegraph through the VPI Tile and be visible on the surface of the new installation.
4. Use specified VPI adhesive and trowel.

On or Below Grade

Do not install tile over any resilient floor covering on or below grade. Remove old floor covering and sand off all adhesive.

METAL DECKS

Metal decking must be smooth, dry, clean, and free from dust, paint, asphalt, old adhesives, grease, oil, rust, and other extraneous material. Abrade the metal surface by sanding to create a scarified surface finish to improve bond strength. If needed level all surface irregularities with a good grade of cementitious latex underlayment. Lightly sand the surface for better adhesion. Use specified VPI adhesive and trowel.

OTHER TYPES OF INSTALLATIONS

For recommended procedures on other types of installations not covered in these instructions, contact the Manager, Customer Service, Floor Products Division, VPI, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

CONVENTIONAL INSTALLATION

Install VPI rubber flooring in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Consult instructions for proper sub floor preparation before spreading adhesive.
2. **Flooring, adhesive, and room air** should be maintained at a uniform temperature of at least 70° F for 24 hours prior to, during, and for 48 hours after installation.
3. Each production run of tile is assigned a lot number that appears on the carton label. Whenever possible, install material from the same lot number in a given room or area. When it is not possible, it is advisable to isolate different lot numbers to separate areas.
4. Install tile using the specified VPI adhesive and trowel (Chart A). Follow directions on container label. **The use of any other adhesive will void VPI's warranty.** Tile must be laid within open time limits indicated on container label so as to obtain a good solid transfer of adhesive to tile.
5. Roll and cross roll tile with 150 lb. sectional roller immediately after tile is laid. Roll a second time one hour later. Inspect floor for raised edges one hour after second rolling and if necessary roll a third time. Use hand roller in areas that cannot be reached with a large roller.
6. **IMPORTANT! Any adhesive seepage at seams or on finished surface of tile must be removed while adhesive is still wet,** using a cloth dampened with soap & water wipe across the seams of the floor.
7. Avoid exposure of tile to excessive heat, such as direct sunlight, until adhesive has completely set.
8. Avoid traffic over finished floor for at least 48 hours after installation.



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