



Installation and Maintenance Instructions

RUBBER FLOORING

(Decorative Slate & Hammered, Classic Raised Round & Square, Harsh Environment, Deck Point Large Square Flooring)

NOTICE TO 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 RESPECT. VPI'S EXCLUSIVE WARRANTY LIMITS VPI'S LIABILITY TO REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, OR CREDIT, AT VPI'S OPTION, ON VPIFLOOR 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, CUSTOMER SERVICE, P.O. BOX 451, SHEBOYGAN, WI 53082-0451.

GENERAL

IMPORTANT: Before proceeding with installation, ensure that proper floor preparation is completed and that installer is familiar with VPI 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 pallet and back stack them to assure the tiles are acclimated to the temperature and will lie flat. Ambient temperature and product temperature should be maintained at 70° F for 48 hours prior to, during, and 48 hours after the installation.

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 starting.

Recommended VPI adhesive must be used with VPI Rubber Flooring and the use of any other adhesive will void VPI's limited warranty.

The use of the correct adhesive is critical to a successful installation. Use the reference chart below to identify correct adhesive or consult the VPI Adhesive Reference Chart

INSTALLATION

When installing VPI Rubber Flooring, we suggest dry fitting 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. This will avoid excessive adhesive consumption, adhesive seepage at the seams, and shifting and height variance of the tiles. Worn trowels should be re-notched or 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 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.

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. Moisture test results must not exceed 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet per 24 hours. 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 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. Follow all safety regulations when using this solution.

If concrete surface is exceptionally smooth, it should be acid etched with 15% solution of muriatic acid/water before installing flooring. Neutralize concrete after etching by rinsing with clear water to which a few ounces of ammonia have been added.

Tile may be installed on radiant-heated floors, provided surface temperature does not exceed 90 F. If radiant-heated floors have cooled after installation, it is recommended to gradually increase the temperature to prevent adhesive bond from being adversely affected. 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. These may also have a sealer or wax applied to them. Remove all glaze or polished finish, any waxes, sealers by sanding 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.

Gypsum-based underlayment products should not be used.

Ceramic tile must be solidly adhered. Any loose tile must be removed. Clean existing ceramic tile using the 15% muriatic acid solution as directed above. After 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 surface irregularities with a cementitious latex underlayment. Metal surfaces should be lightly sanded or sand blasted for better adhesion.

VPI ADHESIVE AND EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

Type Installation/Job Conditions VPI Adhesive (Trowel Type)

Conventional: Approximately 18" x 18" or 36" x 36" tiles

On or Above Grade:

Wood	# 225 (1) or #100 (1,2)
Concrete	# 225 – porous, dry concrete only (1) or #100 (1.2)
Terrazzo – must be scarified	#100 (1,2)
Ceramic - must be scarified	#100 (1,2)
Resilient Flooring – must be scarified	#100 (1,2)
Metal	#100 (1,2)

Below Grade:	Concrete	#100 (1,2)
Other heavy traffic areas and areas of water spillage, cleaning solutions or chemical spills.		#100 (1,2)
Radiant heated sub floor.		#100 (1,2)

IMPORTANT: #100 is the ONLY recommended adhesive for VPI Rubber HARSH ENVIRONMENT FLOORING for ALL sub floor types.

VPI # 225 is a latex acrylic adhesive for general rubber flooring applications for on or above grade porous floor applications.

VPI #100 is a two-part epoxy adhesive for all applications, especially nonporous and below grade applications.

TROWEL SELECTION

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

Type 2 – 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 tile has been laid.

INSTALLATION OF TILE

1. After the dry fitting is complete and all the floor preparation has been completed, consult Installation and Maintenance Instructions for specific VPI adhesive and trowel.
2. Follow directions on adhesive container label. The use of any other adhesive will void VPI's warranty. 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 tile. After proper mixing of the adhesive, apply adhesive to the sub-floor with the correct notched trowel.
3. **a) When installing flooring with VPI #225 adhesive, allow the adhesive to flash off slightly until tacky, then set the flooring into the adhesive.**
b) When installing flooring with VPI #100 adhesive, set the flooring into the wet adhesive.
4. 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.
5. Immediately roll and cross roll tile with section roller. Lift a corner of a tile and inspect for adhesive transfer to ensure adequate adhesive transfer. Roll a second time one hour later. Inspect floor for raised edges one hour after second roll and if necessary roll a third time. Use a hand roller in areas that cannot be reached with a large roller.
6. Any adhesive seepage at seams or on finished surface of tile must be removed while adhesive is still wet, using a cloth dampened with alcohol. (Follow procedures on container label for flammability issues.) Note: Epoxy adhesives cannot be removed after they have set.
7. Avoid traffic on floor for at least 48 hours.
8. Clean and maintain installation 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.

- After the adhesive has fully cured, the protective coating can be removed by using a rubber floor stripper per directions.
- 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. Machine scrub this solution using a 175 to 350 RPM (low speed) machine with a red pad.
- Remove this solution and residue with a mop or wet vacuum.
- Mop on a clear, cold-water rinse and remove with a wet vacuum or mop.
- Allow the floor to dry thoroughly.
- For a Satin finish dry buff the entire floor with a medium or white pad
- For an optional Glossy finish, apply a rubber floor conditioner per directions.
- Buff if needed to reduce streaking

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

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

- Remove surface dirt by sweeping or vacuuming or wet mopping.
- Wet mop with a rubber floor neutral cleaner per directions to remove significant debris.
- For floors that are soiled, use a red pad on a slow speed machine or an auto-scrubbing machine with washing brushes and a rubber floor neutral cleaner.
- Vacuum or damp mop any residue and allow the floor to dry.
- For a Satin finish dry buff the entire floor with a medium or white pad
- For an optional Glossy finish, apply a rubber floor conditioner per directions.
- Spray buffing can be done as well using a rubber floor spray buff and a 350-RPM machine with a white buffing pad or buffing brush.
- 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.



VPI Corporation, 3123 S.9th Street, PO Box 451, Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53082-0451 U.S.A.

Phone: (920) 458-4664 – Fax: (920) 458-1368 - Customer Service: (800) 874-4240

Email: floor@vpicorp.com Website: www.vpiflooring.com

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