



Installation and Maintenance Instructions

RUBBER FLOORING

(RUBBER STAIR TREADS, RISER, NOSING)

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 treads from the cartons or pallet to ensure the treads are acclimated to the ambient temperature. Ambient temperature and product temperature should be maintained at 70° F for 48 hours prior to, during, and 48 hours after the installation. VPI does not recommend nor warranty any installation over existing resilient materials. All resilient materials must be removed prior to installation of VPI Rubber Stair Treads.

These techniques can be used to install VPI Rubber Stair Treads, Risers, and Nosing. Caution: Any treads with the visually impaired strips or detectable warning strips should not be bent or flexed. Cut the carborundum strips at least 1/8" from the edge of the tread.

Note: When using Stair Stringers they will need to be installed PRIOR TO the installation of the Stair Treads and Risers or Stair Nosing. For information on Stringer installation see VPI Stringer Installation and Maintenance Instructions.

STAIR TREAD SURFACE PREPARATION

CONCRETE STEPS

The concrete must be dry, clean, fully cured and free of alkali or acids, curing compounds, paint, oil, solvents, urethanes and other extraneous materials. Newly poured concrete steps must be cured at least a minimum of 6 weeks prior to installation. Any cracks or surface irregularities must be filled with a

Portland based cementitious underlayment. **Gypsum-based underlayment should not be used.** VPI No. NC-2 Nose Caulk can be used for building up worn steps or in repairing cracked steps.

WOODEN STEPS

Wooden steps must be completely and satisfactorily nailed. They must be free of polish, wax and other extraneous materials. Repair or replace any worn steps. Fill any cracks and gaps using a Portland based cementitious underlayment.

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 underlayment.

Gypsum-based underlayment products should not be used. Any uncorrected sub floor irregularities may telegraph through the VPI Stair Tread 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 Portland cementitious underlayment. Metal surfaces should be lightly sanded or sand blasted for better adhesion.

ADHESIVES

Caution: As with all installations the proper use of adhesive is important for a successful installation. As a general rule, on porous concrete or plywood steps where moisture is not a problem use VPI No. 225 Acrylic Adhesive. Where moisture is a problem use VPI No. 100 2-part Epoxy Adhesive. At the nose, use VPI No. NC-2 Nose Caulk on all applications. On non-porous surfaces such as metal treads use VPI No. 100 and VPI No. NC-2 Nose Caulk. **Harsh Environment Treads Must Use VPI No. 230SF.**

VPI No. 225 Acrylic is a water-based acrylic polymer adhesive. Use for VPI Rubber Stair Treads on porous concrete or plywood.

No. 100 is a 2-part Epoxy use for on or below grade applications or where traffic may bring in large amounts of water, and/or on non-porous substrates..

VPI No. 230SF Polyurethane is a 2-part adhesive designed for use where high performance is required. Use for VPI Rubber Harsh Environment Stair Treads.

VPI No. NC-2 Nose Caulk is a solvent-free 2-part epoxy caulking compound that prevents cracking and flexing of rubber treads and nosing forming a bond at the tread nose joint.

INSTALLATION

VPI Rubber Stair Treads, Risers and Nosing are available in convenient lengths and sizes. Cutting and dry fitting of these products will be required to obtain proper fit for each product. First, scribe and fit the treads to each step. Second, scribe and fit each riser material making sure they fit tight to the upper step nosing. Wide staircases may require seaming multiple tread pieces together which will require additional planning and dry fitting. All tread and riser and one-piece tread-riser combination must be trimmed to fit and dry laid on each step prior to any adhesive application. When installing the one-piece tread and riser combination, it is recommended to use a cove stick or VPI No. NC-2 Nose Caulk where the stair tread and riser intersect. When using the Nose Caulk, press the tread riser junction into the caulk so no voids are present.

VPI No. NC-2 Nose Caulk. Used on all VPI Stair Tread applications.

- Cut the mixing nozzle to an inside diameter of 3/8". **Do Not Remove** the internal mixer.
- Remove the end cap and attach the mixing nozzle with the retaining nut to the cartridge.
- Purge the mixing nozzle before each use with approximately 1 to 2" of adhesive, dispose of the

- purge material,
- Now the caulk is ready for use, coverage will be approximately 50 l/f with a ¼” bead.
- Cartridges with remaining adhesive may be reused again by replacing the mixing nozzle at the time of your next use.
- Apply enough caulking compound inside the tread/nosing so when the nosing is pressed into place the compound will conform to the step edge.
- Thoroughly roll the tread nosing with a J-type hand roller concentrating on the nosing area.
- Ideally, 100% contact between the nosing area and the step edge is required to support the tread nosing.
- When installing VPI Rubber One-Piece Tread/Riser combination, caulk can be used to support the area where the tread and riser intersect.

RUBBER STAIR TREAD AND RISER and TREAD/RISER COMBINATION INSTALLATION

- Make sure all conditions are met regarding surface preparation before starting the installation.
- Dry fit all the treads and riser material to ensure a proper installation as described in these instructions.
- Make sure there is no debris on the back of each tread and riser by wiping them with a clean dry cloth.

Preparing the Tread for Installation

- Select adhesive type.
- VPI No. 225 acrylic adhesive** over concrete or wood steps. Do not use on non-porous floors.
- **When installing with VPI No. 225 adhesive, allow the adhesive to flash-off until tacky, then set the treads into the adhesive, approximately 10 to 15 minutes.**
- VPI No. 100 is a 2-part Epoxy** for on or below grade applications or where traffic may bring in large amounts of water, and/or on non-porous substrates..
- Mix 2-part adhesives thoroughly before applying to the steps and risers.
- VPI No. 230SF Polyurethane Adhesive** with VPI Harsh Environmental Treads on concrete and wood steps.
- Mix 2-part adhesives thoroughly before applying to the steps and risers.
- Apply all adhesives directly onto the stair using a 1/16” x 1/16” x 1/16” U-notched trowel evenly on the step and riser.
- Start laying the tread and riser approximately 10 minutes, (but no later than 20 minutes) after the adhesive is spread.
- Roll the Tread into the adhesive.
- For all applications, apply caulking compound inside the tread/nosing so when the nosing is pressed into place the compound will conform to the step edge. Leave ½” along each side of the nose free of adhesive.
- For One-Piece Tread/Riser combination, caulk can also be used to support the area where the tread and riser intersect or install cove stick for support.

Installing the Tread on the Step

- For all applications, apply caulking compound inside the tread/nosing so when the nosing is pressed into place the compound will conform to the step edge. Leave ½” along each side of the nose free of adhesive.
- Roll the tread so the back edge is against the face of the front edge.
- Position the nosing against the step edge, push the nosing firmly into place making complete contact with the edge.
- Then roll the tread or tread/riser into the wet adhesive to the back of the step and up the riser.
- When used, install separate riser material within the same adhesive time limits.
- Cross roll tread and riser with a hand roller.
- Check transfer of adhesive to the back after rolling.
- Clean any excess adhesive off the treads and risers with soap and water or mineral spirits if needed. Dry adhesives are difficult to remove.

RUBBER STAIR NOSING INSTALLATION

- Make sure all conditions are met regarding surface preparation before starting the installation.
- Fill any voids in the wood or concrete steps with a cementitious-based patching compound.
- Measure, scribe, trim and dry-fit the stair nosing to each step.
- Wipe the back of the trimmed nosing with a clean dry cloth to remove any debris.
- For all applications, apply caulking compound inside the tread/nosing so when the nosing is pressed into place the compound will conform to the step edge. Leave ½" along each side of the nose free of adhesive.
- Roll the nosing into the wet adhesive. Press the nosing uniformly and firmly to the step edge.
- Press the step portion of the nosing down from front to back.
- Roll nosing with hand roller.

MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

VPI RUBBER STAIR TREADS

Allow the adhesive on the treads to thoroughly dry before completing initial maintenance. Initial maintenance and normal maintenance procedures are as follows:

- Treads are maintained by hand.
- Wet mop or dust mop to remove dust and debris.
- Stripper and water solution can be hand mopped on the treads for heavily soiled conditions. Scrub with a hand brush or cloth.
- If stripper is used, **neutralize** treads with neutral cleaner and water.
- Rinse with clear water before waxing.
- If desired, apply a rubber floor conditioner with a waxing mop. Wipe each tread completely, covering all surfaces.
- Clean treads as conditions and soiling dictate.

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



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