



Installation and Maintenance Instructions

VINYL FLOORING

(Premium Resilient Tile (PRT) / Commercial Resilient Tile (CRT))

NOTICE TO INSTALLER

THIS BROCHURE CONTAINS IMPORTANT INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND WARRANTY INFORMATION, AS WELL AS CAUTIONS AND WARNINGS. 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 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, LLC CUSTOMER SERVICE, P.O. BOX 451, SHEBOYGAN, WI 53082-0451. PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE FLOOR OWNER.

GENERAL

IMPORTANT. Before proceeding with installation, ensure that proper floor prep is completed and that installer is familiar with VPI's installation procedures. For further information see VPI floor Preparation guide located on the Web at www.vpiflooring.com

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, cementous 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 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. **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 (unless otherwise specified) at time of tile installation 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. Contractor can obtain moisture test units from VPI. Use the following guidelines to determine the number of tests to be taken simultaneously. . **It is the responsibility of the flooring contractor to determine if the floor is sufficiently dry for covering.**

- 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.

Radiant-Heated Floors

Tile 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

Tile may be installed over existing sound plywood floors of double construction.

Do not install tile directly over wood strip or plank sub floors. Prepare such floors as follows:

1. Sub floor must be solid, well nailed at joints and free from spring. Missing or unsound boards must be replaced.
2. Install 1/2" underlayment grade or exterior grade plywood or 3/4" underlayment grade hardboard. If floorboards are badly warped, use thicker plywood.
3. Fill all holes, cracks, and seams with wood putty or equivalent filler. Sand all patched areas and uneven joints. Any irregularities allowed to remain may telegraph through the tile and be visible on the surface of the new installation

Subfloor Applications for PRT and CRT solid vinyl tile									
Suspended ** Concrete	On Grade ** Concrete	Below Grade ** Concrete	Suspended Plywood	Metal Floors	Radiant Heated ** Concrete	AA Existing Resilient floor	AA Existing Ceramic or	Wafer Chip or Particle Board	Existing wood or Hardwood
VPI 8445 (2) VPI 100 (2) PS300 / PS350	VPI 8445 (2) VPI 100 (2) PS300 / PS350	VPI 100 (2) PS300 / PS350	VPI 8445 (1) VPI 100 (1) PS300 / PS350	VPI 100 (2)	VPI 8445 (1) VPI 100 (2)	VPI 100 (2)	Terrazzo VPI 8445 (1) VPI 100 (2)	N/R	N/R
N/R - NOT Recommended ** Be sure that moisture tests are conducted and that levels are acceptable according to VPI floor Preparation Guide and installation instructions. AA -This adhesives may be used, However VPI will NOT warranty					Trowel Selection Type (1) – 1/16" x 1/16" Square Notch with 1/16" Flats, for porous floor Type (2) – 1/16" x 1/16" Half Circular with 1/32" Flats, for nonporous floor Type (3) – 1/32" x 1/32" Half Circular w/ 1/32" Flats, for Static Control Rubber				
bond failure, VPI recommends that existing floor covering be removed									

RESILIENT FLOORING INSTALLATION

Suspended

Whenever possible, 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 cementous 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 will telegraph through the VPI Premium Resilient Tile (PRT) / Commercial Resilient Tile (CRT) 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. Level all surface irregularities with a good grade of cementous 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.

INSTALLATION OF TILE

CONVENTIONAL INSTALLATION

Install VPI 12" x 12" tile in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Consult instructions for proper sub floor preparation before spreading adhesive.
2. **Tile, 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. 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.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

GENERAL

The nature of the maintenance program to be followed will depend on the amount and type of traffic to which the floor is subjected and the appearance desired. In general, light or solid colored floors show soil more readily than darker or patterned floors and therefore require more frequent and thorough cleaning.

Tests show that VPI Premium Resilient Tile (PRT) and Commercial Resilient Tile (CRT) resist attack from most acids, strong alkalis, alcohols, aromatics, and aliphatics. Some strong solvents do attack the tile surface. However, their effects will be negligible if spills are removed quickly.

Because strong dyes and iodophor germicidal compounds stain vinyl flooring within a very short time, VPI recommends dark colors in areas where such staining agents are used. VPI Premium Resilient Tile (PRT) and Commercial Resilient Tile (CRT) may be stained by asphalt, lipstick, some adhesive tapes, some rubber casters, or rubber-backed throw rugs. All vinyl tile should be protected from cigarette burns.

Vinyl is a tough, chemical-resistant material that does not require preservative treatment. However, periodic application of a good water emulsion floor finish will help protect any resilient floor and will reduce the amount of maintenance required. This is particularly true in the case of light color floors.

Because VPI Premium Resilient Tile (PRT) and Commercial Resilient Tile (CRT) are not absorbent like vinyl composition tile, it does not require application of a floor sealer to seal the surface. However, for better adhesion of the floor finish, some floor finish manufacturers recommend a floor sealer be used. Follow the directions of the floor finish manufacturer.

VPI recommends the use of commercial floor maintenance products for use on your VPI Premium Resilient Tile (PRT) and Commercial Resilient Tile (CRT) floor covering. Many good commercial floor maintenance products are available from your janitorial supplies dealer. To ensure compatibility, products used should be from the same manufacturer. The instructions of the manufacturer should always be followed.

DO NOT WASH FLOOR FOR AT LEAST 48 HOURS AFTER INSTALLATION TO ENABLE ADHESIVE TO SET THOROUGHLY.

INITIAL MAINTENANCE

After the adhesive has set, the floor should be swept and/or dust mopped to remove any loose dirt. Next the floor should be machine scrubbed with a pH neutral cleaner and thoroughly rinsed. After the floor has completely dried, floor sealer and/or floor finish should be applied followed by dry buffing. Note: Some finishes may not readily adhere to the scrubbed vinyl surface. If the floor sealer or finish tends to bead up and streak, the entire floor must be stripped using a commercial stripping solution and rinsed before the floor finish is applied.

CAUTION: Vinyl flooring will become slippery when wet. Care must be taken when walking upon the wet floor. Appropriate "Warning" or "Caution" placards should be used if any traffic is possible while the floor is wet.

TYPICAL MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

The nature of the maintenance program will depend on the amount or type of traffic and the desired appearance. A typical maintenance schedule for a heavy traffic area in a commercial facility would be similar to the following:

DAILY MAINTENANCE

1. Sweep and/or dust mop the entire floor.
2. Wet or damp mop soiled areas with a neutral cleaner.
3. Spray buff scuffed and heel marked areas.

WEEKLY MAINTENANCE

1. Sweep and/or dust mop the entire floor.
2. Wet mop entire floor with a neutral cleaner.
3. Restore traffic lanes.
4. Spray buff scuffed and heel marked areas.

5. Dry buff the entire floor.

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE

1. Sweep and/or dust mop the entire floor.
2. Machine scrub the entire floor with a neutral cleaner solution
3. Rinse the entire floor with clear water.
4. Apply floor finish to entire floor (if desired)
5. Dry buff the entire floor. (with a polishing pad)

YEARLY MAINTENANCE

1. Sweep and/or dust mop the entire floor.
2. Strip the entire floor with a stripping solution.
3. Rinse the entire floor with a neutral cleaner solution
4. Rinse the entire floor with clear water.
5. Dry buff the entire floor. (to restore original finish)
6. Apply floor finish to entire floor (if desired)
6. Dry buff the entire floor. (with a polishing pad)

For resolution of maintenance problems not covered in these instructions, contact the Manager, Customer Service, VPI, LLC; Sheboygan, Wisconsin.



VPI, LLC, 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

2004

0204JB