



## RUBBER FLOORING Installation and Maintenance Instructions

**VPI Corporation**  
3123 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 451  
Sheboygan, WI 53082-0451, U.S.A.  
920-458-4664 • Fax 920-458-1368  
[www.vpicorp.com](http://www.vpicorp.com)

### Decorative Rolled Rubber (Sheet Goods)

#### 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**

Please note: In all cases, installations should comply with procedures outlined in ASTM Standards for installation, at a minimum. For procedures specific to VPI products, please refer to the instructions below or at [www.vpicorp.com/product-installation-maintenance](http://www.vpicorp.com/product-installation-maintenance), for the most up-to-date recommended installation techniques.

#### 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.



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### 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 buffering 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.



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### 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 ROLLED RUBBER FLOORING

1. Measure the area and determine the required amount of rolled rubber flooring that will need to be cut from the rolls. Cut the rolls long enough to leave approximately 2 to 3 inches of flooring that will run up the wall at each end.
2. As the flooring is laid down on the sub floor, make sure the distance between the pieces against the walls, and are equal on both sides.
3. Place the first section against the wall and scribe the wall line onto this drop about 1/2".
4. Trim the excess material from the scribed line with a sharp hooked knife.
5. Place the scribed side of the roll against the wall, trim 1/2" from the opposite (salvaged) edge of the roll using an edge trimmer or sharp knife and a straight edge.
6. Cut the next length and position the edge of this length over the wall piece approximately 1/2"-1" at the seam and trim off 1/2" from the salvaged edge.
7. Repeat this procedure for each section until there is enough material to install in a day. Make sure if the drops are going to be re-rolled that the surface shows on the lengths that are re-rolled.
8. Snap a blue chalk line where the adhesive is to be spread.
9. Spread the adhesive on the first length of material making sure not to spread adhesive beyond the chalk line. Set the flooring into the wet adhesive.
10. Roll the width of the material with a 150 lb. sectional roller and then cross roll the length, rolling the material in such a way as not to trap any air bubbles.



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11. Repeat steps 8, 9, and 10.
12. After rolling the second length, scribe the overlap material at the walls and trim with a sharp knife and roll into the adhesive with a hand roller.
13. Repeat these steps for the remainder of the installation.
14. Allow the adhesive to fully cure before proceeding with the welding process.
15. Any adhesive seepage at the seams or on any finished surface of rolled rubber must be removed while the adhesive is still wet, use a cloth dampened with alcohol.
16. Avoid traffic on floor for at least 48 hours.
17. Clean and maintain the installed rubber floor as outlined in maintenance procedures.

### HEAT WELDING PROCESS

1. After the adhesive has fully cured, set the depth of the mechanical router to approximately 2/3 of the material thickness and rout out a piece of scrap material to determine the correct depth of the cut.
2. Adjust the cut depth as needed. Where the router can't reach, use a hand – grooving tool making sure the depth and width of the cut is consistent with the router cut.
3. Remove all dust and debris from the entire floor making sure the grooves are completely free of dust and debris.
4. Using a variable heat-welding gun, preheat the gun. Taking scraps of material that is grooved and practice welding to achieve the desired weld by adjusting the heat on the welding gun.

### 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



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**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.**