

INSTALL

COMMERCIAL
INSTALLATION
INSTRUCTIONS

RFI

An Interface Company

Before You Get Started...

CHECK YOUR TILES

Make sure you received everything you ordered. Happy with your purchase? We hope so! Please note, we cannot accept returns on product that has already been installed.

LET 'EM BREATHE

FLOOR tiles need a little time to get comfortable. Let them adapt to room temperature before installing.

PREP YOUR FLOOR

FLOOR plays best with hardwood, vinyl tile, sheet vinyl, or laminated flooring that is smooth, dry, level, and clean. If needed, sweep or vacuum first, then wipe up excess dust.

FLOOR is not designed to go over carpeted floors or carpet padding.

Please review general installation guidelines on pg. 8 for further details.

LOVE YOUR FLOR

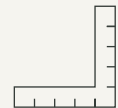
Once you're done, enjoy your rug. Take care of it with regular vacuuming. Visit FLOOR.com/commercial for detailed care & spot cleaning advice.

TOOLS

For wall-to-wall installation, we recommend:



Carpet knife



24-inch carpenter's square or straight edge



Tape measure



Chalk line reel

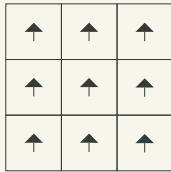


Cardboard

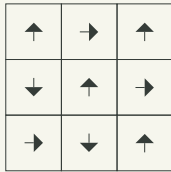
Low-Traffic Area Rugs

For general installation guidelines please see pg. 8.

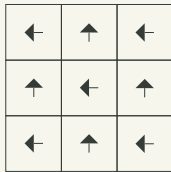
INSTALLATION METHODS



Monolithic
(Straight)



Non-Directional



Parquet
(Quarter-Turned)

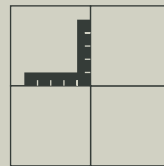
(1) ARRANGE

Lay down your squares into the design you choose. Each tile includes arrows on the back, they'll help you assemble your FLOR in the installation method we recommend.

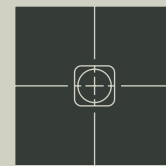
(2) ATTACH

- a It's time to connect your FLORdots™. First make sure your tiles fit snugly together. You can use a carpenter's square to ensure all of your rows are perfectly aligned.
- b Each FLORdot includes tic marks—we put them there to help you line up tile corners and edges for a perfect fit.
- c Lift the corner of one tile and slide a FLORdot under it with the sticky side up. Firmly press down to adhere.
- d Connect surrounding tiles.

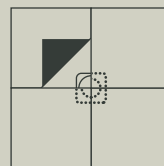
A FLORdot's adhesive bond takes about two hours to reach full strength, so you have time to change your mind and rearrange tiles until you're satisfied.



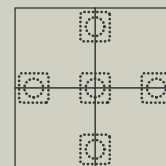
2a



2b



2c



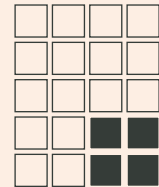
2d

High-Traffic Area Rugs

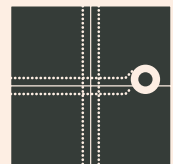
For general installation guidelines please see pg. 8.

- (1) **CREATE A STARTING ANCHOR POINT**
- a Begin in a corner by flipping four tiles backing side up.
 - b Align the seams together tightly, making certain the corners are even and square.
 - c Apply Clear Area Rug Tape to back of the tiles along the entire seam, securing the four tiles together.
 - d Flip the four tiles face up and reposition in corner of the rug.

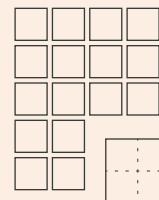
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1a



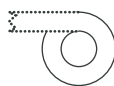
1c



1d

ADDITIONAL TOOLS

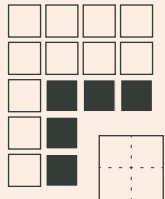
For high-traffic area rug installations
we recommend:



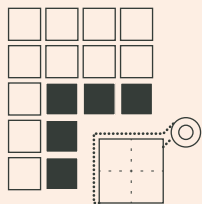
Clear Area Rug Tape

High-Traffic Area Rugs, cont.

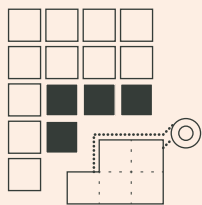
For general installation guidelines please see pg. 8.



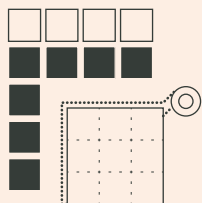
2a



2b



2c



3

(2) LAYING THE FIELD

- a Flip all tiles that adjoin the four anchor tiles backing side up. Move them away from the anchor tiles to allow room for taping.
- b Apply a length of Clear Area Rug Tape half under the anchor tiles and half-exposed around the perimeter edge of the anchor tiles.
- c Next, flip back over the adjoining tiles, connecting the back of the tiles to the half-exposed tape. Start at the outside edge.
- d As you work your way in, apply Clear Rug Tape to the side seams, half-exposed. Be certain that all seams are tight and corners are even and square.

(3) COMPLETING THE RUG

Continue to repeat above steps as you work your way out until entire rug is assembled and each seam has been taped. Follow pattern shown in the illustration below.

4	4	4	4
3	3	3	3
3	2	2	2
3	2	1	1
3	2	1	1

Wall-to-Wall

For general installation guidelines please see pg. 8.

(1) MEASURE IT

- a Find your room's center by using chalk line reel to create two lines from opposite corners of the room.
- b Use a tape measure to find the center of each wall. Mark it.
- c Using those points, create two more straight lines to form a cross—this will help you lay out your baseline rows.

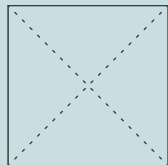
(2) POSITION IT

- a Starting from the room's center, lay one baseline row of tiles along each line of your cross. *Tiles may not reach all the way to the wall—don't worry. We'll talk about filling in narrow spaces later.*
- b Approved installation methods vary. An arrow is printed on the back of each tile to indicate direction.
- c Ensure everything fits snugly together. Are your baselines where you want them? *You may want to shift baseline rows to avoid having narrow strips along the walls.*

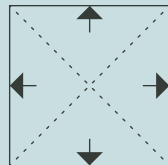
(3) STICK IT

- a Adhere your baseline rows into place with FLORdots. *Don't worry about those unfinished edges quite yet.*
- b Use one FLORdot to stick two squares snugly together.

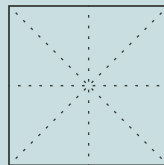
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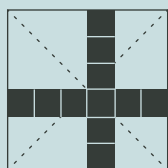
1a



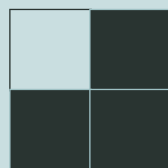
1b



1c

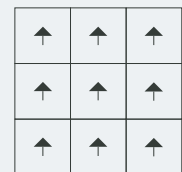


2a

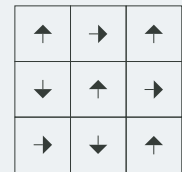


2c

INSTALLATION METHODS



Monolithic
(Straight)

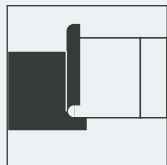


Non-Directional

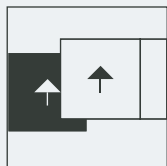


Parquet
(Quarter-Turned)

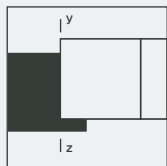
Wall-to-Wall, cont.



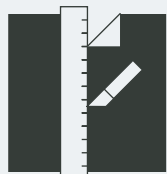
4a



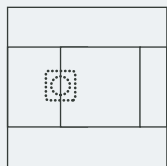
4b



4c



5a



5b

(4) MARK IT

Time to start filling in those narrow spaces.

- a Grab a new tile and place it face down (arrows up) flush against the wall at the end of a baseline row. Slip the overlapping tile beneath the last tile.
- b Check the direction of the arrows on the new tile to make sure they're consistent with your pattern.
- c Use a carpet knife to make a notch at point Y and Z to mark where you'll cut your new square.

(5) CUT IT

- a To protect your floor place cardboard under the tile to be cut (arrows still facing up). Use a carpet knife and straight edge to cut from point Y to Z, using several light passes and cutting away from your body. Save trimmings as you go—you may be able to reuse them later.

Tip & Trick:

We recommend repurposing your FLOR box as a cutting mat.

- b Once cut, adhere to the end of your row with a FLORdot.
- c Repeat for remaining baseline rows.

(6) FINISH IT

Working from the center, fill in each of the four quadrants you've created. Periodically check your alignment to ensure a snug fit. Once complete, vacuum to remove loose fibers.

Congratulations, you're FLOR'd!

General Installation Guidelines

IMPORTANT NOTICES

These Installation Instructions cover most installation procedures. If you run across a situation that isn't addressed in this document or requires more detailed assistance please contact the FLOR Commercial Team at 866.481.3164.

All carpet tiles should be carefully inspected for damage or defects prior to installation. FLOR will not be responsible for any cost associated with replacement or repair as a result of damaged or defective tiles being installed when said damage or defects were identifiable prior to installation.

If you encounter any conditions or defects during installation that could jeopardize the installation or affect the installation procedure, you should STOP the installation immediately and call the FLOR Commercial Team at 866.481.3164.

The carpet tiles are warranted in accordance with FLOR's Commercial Product Warranty. If you do not have a copy of FLOR's Commercial Product Warranty and wish to obtain one, call the FLOR Commercial Team at 866.481.3164 or visit our website at FLOR.com/commercial.

FLOR shall not be responsible for any damage or loss resulting from failure to strictly follow any part of these Installation Instructions.

WARNING

In the event that any asbestos-containing materials or other hazardous materials are encountered during installation, you should stop the installation immediately and obtain assistance from a qualified remediation consultant or contractor prior to proceeding.

Pre-Installation Visit



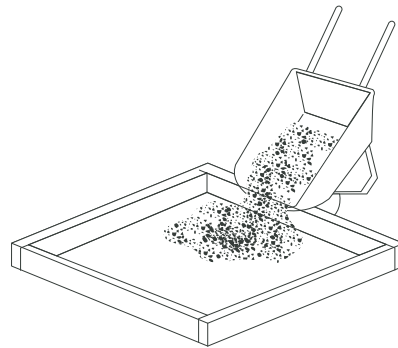
85°F (29.5°C)

65°F (18.3°C)

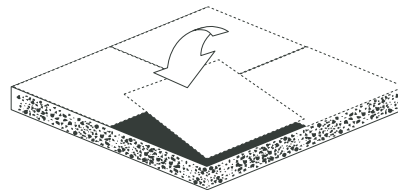
New concrete needs at least 90 days to dry under ideal conditions. Lightweight concrete and concrete poured above grade in metal pans take a considerably longer time to dry. Installation cannot begin until it is fully dried and in compliance with moisture and alkalinity requirements.

The temperature of your job site must stay within 65°F (18.3°C) and 85°F (29.5°C) with relative humidity between 40% - 60% for 48 - 72 hours prior to, during, and 48 - 72 hours after installation. So be sure the heating and air conditioning system is operating.

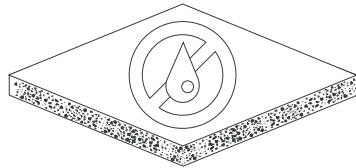
All carpet tiles must be removed from the cartons and allowed to adjust to the job site temperature for 48 hours prior to installation.



90 Days



Concrete Moisture and Alkalinity Testing



Before installing, all concrete floors, regardless of age, must comply with the moisture and pH requirements stated on next page, and must otherwise be suitable for carpet tile installation as set forth herein.

Please see Standard Practice for pH Testing Concrete Floors on pg. 20.

The moisture conditions of the concrete should be determined by use of the In Situ probe relative humidity (RH) test method (ASTM F 2170). The testing device must be properly maintained and calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and frequency recommendations. Certificates of calibration should be maintained for test validation.

Concrete substrate should have a working vapor barrier. Concrete compromised by ground water intrusion and/or Hydrostatic Pressure are not acceptable substrates for this option and are expressly excluded. The following are the approved adhesives and other limitations for use with the carpet product backing systems listed below.

Continued on next page.

NOTE

FLOR allows for carpet tile installation under a variety of conditions depending on the type of slab and the moisture and pH test results at time of installation. We require the pH test developed by FLOR.

Concrete Moisture and Alkalinity Testing, cont.

CONCRETE MOISTURE AND ALKALINITY CHART

CARPET PRODUCT BACKING SYSTEM	INSTALLATION SYSTEM/ADHESIVE	REQUIRED PRIMER	MOISTURE LIMIT	SURFACE PH LIMIT (Must use FLOR pH Testing Protocol)
GLASBAC™/ GLASBACRE	FLORdots*	None	Unlimited RH	Between 7.0 and 9.0
		XL Brands 9511	up to 97% RH	Between 7.0 and 11.0
	XL Brands Adhesive 2000 Plus (U.S.) or Adhesive 2500 Plus (Canada)	XL Brands RH95	up to 95% RH	Between 7.0 and 11.0
		None	up to 80% RH	Between 7.0 and 9.0
GRAPHLAR®/ GRAPHLEX®	FLORdots*	None	up to 85% RH	Between 7.0 and 9.0
		XL Brands 9511	up to 97% RH	Between 7.0 and 11.0
	XL Brands Adhesive 2000 Plus (U.S.) or Adhesive 2500 Plus (Canada)	XL Brands RH95	up to 95% RH	Between 7.0 and 11.0
		None	up to 80% RH	Between 7.0 and 9.0

NOTE

Moisture and pH test reflect only the conditions of the concrete at the time of testing. Stated moisture and pH limitations must be maintained before, during, and at all times following installation to avoid installation and product failures and to preserve warranty coverage. If the moisture and/or pH test results are outside of the stated allowable limits, STOP and DO NOT PROCEED with the installation. Seek further advice from FLOR before proceeding. Refer to *Preparing the Subfloor* for additional information concerning issues relating to surface conditions of the concrete slab prior to installation.

The required pre-installation moisture and alkalinity tests should be performed to ASTM standards. Per CRI guidelines it is recommended that these tests be performed by a qualified independent testing consultant. FLOR will not be responsible for failures, problems, or damage arising from high moisture, high alkalinity, or other subfloor conditions.

New or bare concrete is defined as concrete free of adhesive residue, paint, sealers, primers, and other applied materials.

*Be sure to use the correct FLORdots connector for the tile backing – GlasBac/GlasBacRE or Graphlar/Graphlex.

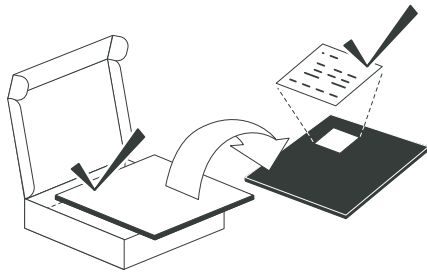
All XL Brands written requirements for product application, including but not limited to moisture and pH testing protocols, must be met for FLOR warranty eligibility. More information concerning the proper use of XL Brands can be obtained through your local FLOR representative or by visiting www.xlbrands.com.

Product Inspection

The labels on each tile indicate product style, pattern, color, run number, and dye lot. Be sure the style, pattern, and color match the specifications for each area of your installation.

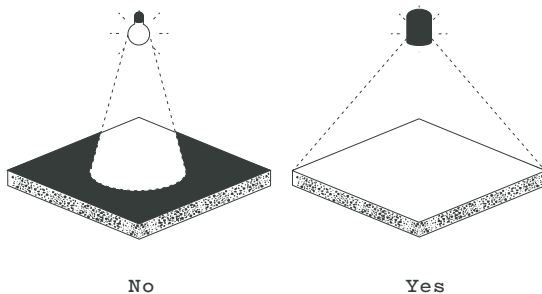
Check to confirm that you have the right quantity and correct installation method. Be sure you also have enough tiles to establish an “attic stock” for future replacements.

Open all cartons to inspect for damaged or defective tiles. If you find any, call the FLOR Commercial Team at 866.481.3164.



LIGHTING

Ensure adequate overhead lighting is provided. Ideally, lighting should mimic or consist of the same conditions expected at time of occupancy.



NOTE

Inspect FLOR carpet tiles to be sure they meet the order specifications. If the wrong product or color is installed, FLOR will not be responsible for correcting the problem.

WARNING

Installation of carpet tiles should be the last item on the construction schedule. Carefully consider the risks if you are asked to install carpet tiles too early. If carpet tiles are installed before construction is complete, any staining, soiling, or damage caused by other trades may void the product warranty.

Preparing the Subfloor (Concrete)

NOTE

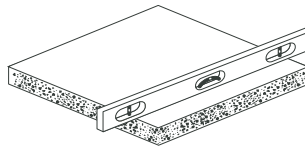
Some patching compounds can be mixed with water while some must be mixed with latex. Follow the manufacturer's specifications and instructions for use.

All adhesives, solvent based materials, and other contaminants should be removed and encapsulated prior to application of adhesive and installation of carpet. Call the FLOR Commercial Team at 866.481.3164.

INSTALLING OVER CONCRETE

All concrete floors must comply with moisture and alkalinity requirements prior to proceeding with installation. See *Concrete Moisture and Alkalinity Testing* on pg. 10.

Level the floor to the standards outlined in the American Concrete Institute specifications for Concrete Buildings in regards to troweled finish and finishing tolerances. Leveling compounds must be cementitious based.

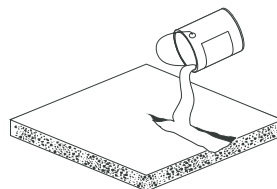


Level

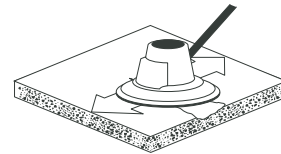
Reference 10' straight edge method. Level is defined as having up to 1/4" maximum gap within 90% of samples taken. No sample should exceed a maximum gap of 3/8".

EXISTING CONCRETE

Patch cracks and holes with one of the following approved patching compounds: Ardex Feather Finish, Ardex K-15, Henry's 547, Armstrong S-184, or similar cement based compound.



Patch
Compound



Sand

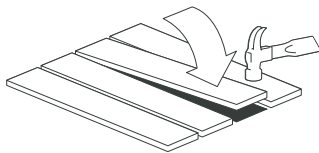
NEW CONCRETE

New or bare concrete is defined as concrete free of adhesive residue, paint, sealers, primers, and other applied materials. FLOR recommends that dusty and / or porous conditions be primed using XL Brands Prelude or a similar product.

Preparing the Subfloor (Wood, Plywood, or Particle Board)

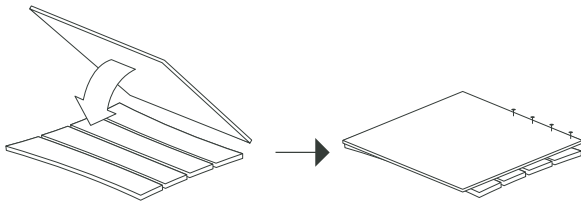
INSTALLING OVER WOOD, PLYWOOD, OR PARTICLE BOARD

Repair loose or broken boards. Secure with 8-D cement-coated screw nails.



Repair

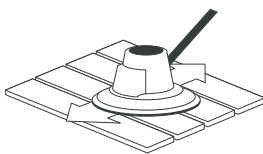
If the majority of the boards are worn or badly cupped, cover with 5/8 inch (1.6 cm) exterior grade AD plywood secured with 8-D cement-coated screw nails spaced 6 inches (15.2 cm) apart. Sand seams smooth.



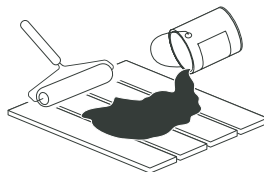
Plywood

Nail 6" Apart

Sand the finish down to bare wood. Remove dust by sweeping, then wiping with a tack cloth. All wood surfaces should be primed prior to application of an adhesive. FLOR recommends XL Brands TriSeal or similar product.



Sand



Barrier Coat

NOTE

All adhesives, solvent based materials, and other contaminants should be removed and encapsulated prior to application of adhesive and installation of carpet. Contact the FLOR Commercial Team at 866.481.3164.

Preparing the Subfloor (Vinyl)

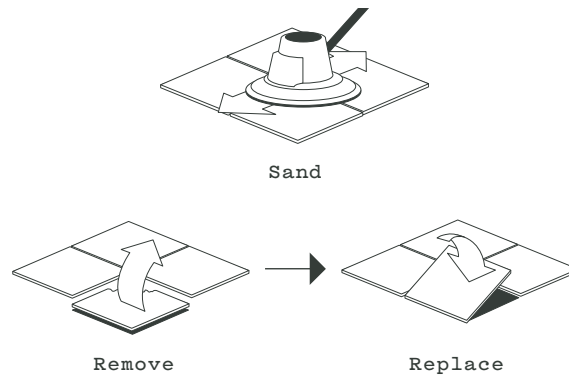
WARNING

Existing floor covering may contain asbestos or other hazardous materials. In the event asbestos-containing materials or other hazardous materials are encountered, you should stop the installation immediately and obtain assistance from a qualified remediation consultant or contractor prior to proceeding.

INSTALLING OVER VINYL TILE

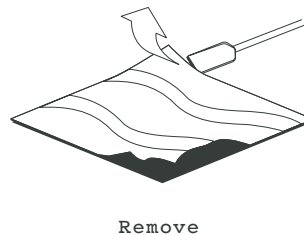
Use an appropriate non-solvent stripper or a sander to remove the wax top coat.

Remove any damaged or loose vinyl tiles and replace with comparable thickness tile or patching compound.



INSTALLING OVER SHEET VINYL

Do not install FLOR carpet tile with adhesive over sheet vinyl. The sheet vinyl must be removed with a scraper. Any existing adhesive remaining on subfloor should be removed by grinding/scraping and residue encapsulated. Once removed, follow instructions for subfloor found under the sheet vinyl.

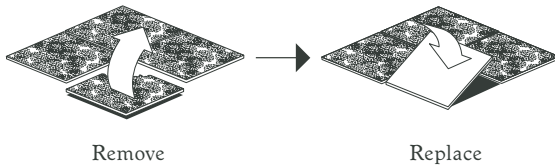


If installing FLOR carpet tiles with our FLORdots, you may install over sheet vinyl. The sheet vinyl must be secure to the subfloor, and you must use an appropriate non-solvent stripper or a sander to remove the wax top coat.

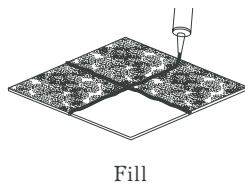
Preparing the Subfloor (Natural Materials)

INSTALLING OVER NATURAL MATERIALS

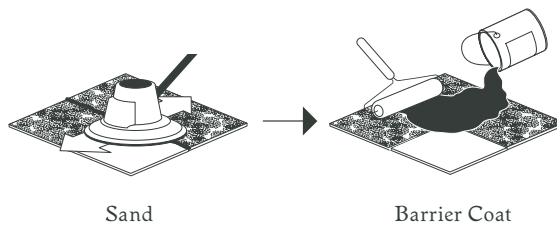
For natural materials such as granolithic, terrazzo, marble, ceramic tile, etc., either breakout and remove all material or replace damaged areas with substitute material of the same thickness to create a flat, level floor.



Patch and fill cracks and irregularities, including grout lines, with one of the following approved patching compounds: Ardex Feather Finish, Ardex K-15, Henry's 547, or similar cement based compound.



Sand top surface to remove glaze. Remove dust by sweeping, then wiping with a tack cloth.



NOTE

Some patching compounds can be mixed with water while some must be mixed with latex. Follow the manufacturer's specification and instructions for use.

All porous surfaces should be primed prior to application of an adhesive.

Preparing the Subfloor (Raised Access Floors)

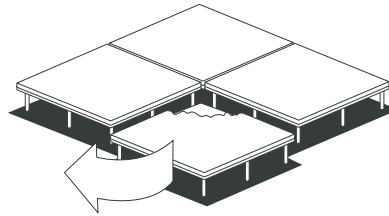
NOTE

All adhesives, solvent based materials, and other contaminants should be removed and encapsulated prior to application of adhesive and installation of carpet. Please contact the FLOR Commercial Team at 866.481.3164 with any additional questions.

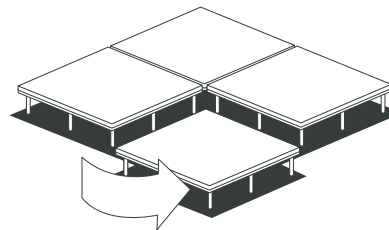
INSTALLING OVER RAISED ACCESS FLOORS

Patch or replace any damaged floor panel inserts.

Panels should be free of any dirt, grease, oil, paint, sealer, adhesive, or other materials from floor.



Remove



Replace

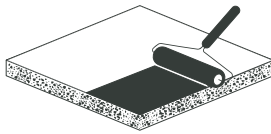
Adhesive Installation

APPLYING ADHESIVE

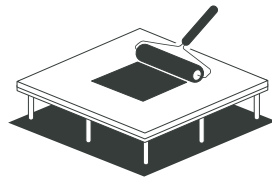
If you choose spread adhesive, use only XL Brands Adhesive 2000 Plus (U.S.) or Adhesive 2500 Plus (Canada).

FULL SPREAD ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Apply adhesive with a 3/8" nap paint roller. Expect a spread rate of 39-44 square yards per gallon using a 3/8" nap paint roller.



Spread Rate:
39-44 Sq. Yds.
per Gallon



Raised Floor
Systems

LAYING TILES

Lay an initial tile at the established starting point. Following the center lines closely, lay an anchor row of 10 additional tiles aligned with the center line. In smaller rooms, your anchor rows may consist of fewer than 11 tiles.

Measure your anchor rows. For an installation of square tiles, each should equal 550 cm (11 tiles x 50 cm each, or 216 17/32") with no more than a 3mm (1/8") gain. If the gain is more than 3 mm, the tiles aren't tight enough and should be laid again. After relaying, measure again. If tiles are less than 550 cm they are too tight and should be laid again.

Tip Into Place

Don't position tiles by sliding them across the adhesive. This will cause the corner to bend under. Instead, brush the pile back with one hand, then tip a corner of the tile into place. Position the rest of the tile once the corner is properly aligned. Do not catch the pile in the joints.

Continued on next page.

Adhesive Installation, cont.

Lay Tiles in Step or Pyramid Pattern

- (1) Lay two tiles vertically, and check that they are square to the anchor rows.
- (2) Lay two tiles horizontally, and check that they are square to the anchor rows.
- (3) Lay one tile to complete the step.
- (4) Follow the ABCD pattern laid out here until you reach the end of your anchor rows. Repeat laying anchor rows and ABCD patterns in all quadrants until complete.

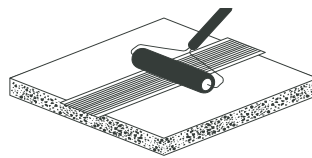
ADHESIVE IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Uneven areas

Any surface that cannot be leveled may require adhesive or double-sided tape to hold a tile in place.

Flatwire

Never apply adhesive directly over flatwire. The flatwire may be damaged if the tiles need to be removed.



NO

Standard Practice for pH Testing Concrete Floors

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

All concrete floors, old and new, should be tested for alkalinity using an approved pH test kit. The approved pH test kit should include pH test strips capable of measuring a range of 0 - 14 along with deionized or distilled water. The area to be tested must be weather-tight and conditioned, via the building's HVAC system, to a temperature range of 65°F (18.3°C) and 85°F (29.5°C) and a relative humidity range of 40% - 60%. These temperature and humidity ranges must be maintained for at least 48 hours prior to commencing the test and at all times during the test. The concrete surface temperature should not be less than 65° Fahrenheit (18.3° Celsius).

All adhesives, coatings, finishes, dirt, curing compounds, sealants, and other substances should be removed from the area to be tested. Non-chemical methods, such as sanding, grinding, or bead blasting should be used to remove these substances to achieve an appropriate state for testing. Any cleaning should take place a minimum of 48 hours before testing.

ONCE THOSE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN MET

- (1) Abrade the surface using 100 grit sand paper to a minimum depth of 1/32" but no more than 1/8".
- (2) Apply a small amount (approximately 1" in diameter) of de-ionized or distilled water.
- (3) Allow the de-ionized/distilled water to stand for 60 seconds.
- (4) Dip the 0-14 pH test strip into the puddle and remove.
- (5) Allow the test strip to stand for 15 seconds.
- (6) Compare to the pH chart in the test kit to determine pH level.
- (7) At least three pH tests must be performed for the first 1,000 square feet of space. One additional test should be performed for each additional 1,000 square feet thereafter.

The concrete slab should have an alkalinity level between 7.0 and 9.0 to be suitable for carpet installation without a primer. *Refer to the chart on pg. 11.* If pH levels fall outside of acceptable ranges STOP, and DO NOT proceed with installation. Call the FLOR Commercial Team at 866.481.3164.

NOTE

Results obtained by this method reflect only the conditions of the concrete at the time of testing. Stated pH limitation must be maintained for the life of the installation to avoid installation and product failures and to preserve warranty coverage.



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