

VINYL FLOORING INSTALLATION

Floor Construction and Preparation

Suspended Wood Floors

Suspended floors shall have at least 18" of well ventilated space below. The ground under crawl spaces must be covered with 4 mil polyethylene sheeting.

Wood floors must be double construction or equivalent with a minimum thickness of 1". Wood floors on sleepers over, on, or below grade concrete floors are subject to deterioration from ground moisture. Installation of resilient flooring is not recommended on such floors.

Tarkett® Sheet Vinyl Flooring-Underlayment panels

APA Underlayment exposure I and APA C-C Plugged exposure I Plywood 1/4" or thicker (fully sanded), Multiply Underlayment or Weyerhaeuser 1/4" structurewood underlayment, APA exposure I Floor Base Series Nil8, depending on condition and construction of sub floor, is recommended. Panels shall be lightly butted and installed with cross joints staggered at least 16". Use ring grooved (annular) nails, screw nails, or divergent staples, spaced 6" on center throughout the board and spaced 3" along the edges. Thicker plywood panels will require fewer fasteners. (See plywood manufacturer's recommendations.) Some fasteners used for securing underlayment panels are coated with resin or cement that may stain vinyl flooring. These types of fasteners are not recommended. Sand panel joints to produce a slight dip and fill level with a high quality, non-shrinking, latex fortified Portland cement patching compound. Do not install Tarkett Sheet Vinyl Flooring where a solvent base construction adhesive has been used at plywood tongue and groove joints.

Tarkett® Floor Tile - Underlayment panels.

APA Underlayment exposure I and APA C-C Plugged exposure I Plywood 1/4" or thicker (fully sanded), Multiply Underlayment or Weyerhaeuser 1/4" structurewood underlayment, APA exposure I Floor Base Series N118 is recommended. Panels shall be fastened as recommended above. However panel joints need not be sanded or filled, providing they are smooth and level.

Tongue and groove boards shall be covered with underlayment panels, as above. If floor is single construction, use at least 1/2" plywood with panel joints placed either on joists or in center of board; on double constructed floors, 1/4" panels are satisfactory.

All underlayment panels other than those listed above are not recommended.

Tarkett can not warrant or guarantee underlayment panels used with Tarkett® resilient flooring. Responsibility for warranties and/or guarantees for the underlayment panel rests with the manufacturer of the underlayment and not with Tarkett®.

7. Lay flooring face down and position the felt face down on the back of the flooring. Align felt and fasten to the back of flooring with masking tape. Transfer scribe marks on felt to flooring. See Fig. #15, page 28, for marking and cutting outside corners.

8. Cut off flooring at edge of felt where it will fit into cove molding. Use a straight edge along edge of felt as a guide for cutting. Make cuts on all other scribe marks.

9. When cutting is completed, remove pattern felt, roll up flooring and position in room. NOTE: If more than one width of flooring is needed to cover area, make seam butt joint cut-outs at both ends of first sheet.

10. Fold half of sheet back and apply the adhesive first on the wall up into the cap molding and then on the floor. Place flooring in position and roll horizontal area with a 100 lb. Sectional Floor Roller. Roll vertical areas with a Wall Roller.

11. Tuck sheet into cap molding and roll thoroughly.

12. Repeat same procedure for other half of room.

13. Inside corner: Inside corners seamed in the corner shall be sealed with the chemical seal system. Abrade a band (use 240 grit sand paper) approximately 1/8" wide along the surface of the first corner piece fit against the wall. Then apply a 1/8" wide bead of Tarkett Multi-Seal (Part A) to the abraded area. Position the corner piece of adjoining wall immediately. Remove any excess sealer with a cloth dampened with water or mineral spirits.

14. Outside corner plug. See Fig. 14, page 28. Cut and prefit the material for the plug. Apply FB-600 adhesive to the wall and a thin coating on the back of the plug. Allow adhesive to become slightly tacky. Apply a bead of Tarkett Multi-Seal seam sealer (Part A) along the seam edges on both sides of the corner. Position the outside corner plug in the coated edges of the seams. Remove any excess sealer from the surface with a cloth dampened with water or mineral spirits.

Instructions For More Than One Width of Flooring

Butt first width of felt to cut-outs on each end of first sheet of flooring. Fit additional widths of felt as required. Fasten felt to underfloor. Scribe pattern as instructed previously. Before removing felt make several "Key Point" marks on the felt and first width of flooring. Position the pattern felt on second sheet and scribe the same as the first. Before removing the felt, transfer the Key Point marks to the second sheet. Place the second width of flooring into position and align Key Point marks.

Apply adhesive as outlined in Nos. 11,12 and 13 above. Double cut seams and seal with Tarkett® Multi-Seal Seam Sealer, including inside and outside corners.

Instructions For Insets

1. Unroll and fit main or feature color of flooring to room size. Do not adhere flooring to underfloor at this time. Overlap seams in additional widths of flooring in the usual manner.

2. Make a template of the drawing to be inset out of heavy paper or cardboard.

Butt the second piece of felt to the first. Align diagonal cut marks in the felt. Double check the setting of the dividers with the control mark on the felt. Place one leg of the dividers on the felt scribe mark. The other leg (with the pin) should be on the flooring. Hold the dividers parallel to the scribe mark and start scribing. Leave a heavy mark with the pin.

Instead of trying to follow the scribe marks on long straight walls, fold the felt on the scribe mark and run the dividers parallel to the edge of the folded felt. Scribe the entire pattern. When the scribing is completed, double check to make sure all marks are transferred to the flooring. If the pattern felt was fitted net at door casings, mark the flooring with a pencil at the edge of the felt. Cuts on these lines should be slightly over-size. Also cut the flooring on the scribe marks made by the needle of the dividers. CAUTION: WHEN SCRIBING ALONG FOLDED FELT, A DOUBLE LINE IS PRODUCED. ALWAYS CUT ON THE OUTSIDE LINE. After all the cuts are made, remove the felt pattern. Turn the flooring face up and roll or tube it lengthwise. Unroll flooring in position and check fit.

If more than one width of flooring is needed, butt joints must be made at each end of the first sheet where the next one is to be fit. This is done by cutting a notch approximately 1/2" wide and 3" to 4" long on each end. When flooring is being coved, this notch must extend up the height of the coved area. The cut must be accurate because it will be a butt joint on each end of the seam and up the wall.

When fitting the pattern felt for the second sheet, butt to the cut-outs on each end of the first sheet. The pattern felt will overlap the factory edge of the first sheet between cutouts. After the pattern felt is fitted, scribe the same as you did for the first sheet.

Lay the second sheet of flooring face down. Make butt joint cut-outs on the ends of the second sheet. Position the pattern felt (face down) on the back of the flooring. The length of the butt joint cut-outs should be the same as made on the first sheet and located where the seam is to be cut. Align the edge of the felt with the cut-outs on each end of the flooring. Fasten the felt and proceed in the same fashion as the first sheet was scribed. After the second sheet is scribed and cut, remove the felt. Position the second sheet. The cut-outs on the ends of both sheets will butt. Cut the seam between these two butt joints with an Airway Knife, using a straight edge as a guide after applying adhesive.

Flash Cove Installations

1. Install cap molding at specified height.
2. Install 1-1/4" cove stick with nails and/or contact bond cement. Miter perfect joints on inside and outside corners.
3. Round off and flatten outside cove stick corners with a rasp. See Fig. #3, page 26.
4. Fit the pattern felt over the cove stick and up the wall to the point inside the cap molding.
Inside Corners: Fit the felt to within 1/2" of end of each wall. Outside Corners: See Fig. #4, page 26.
5. Fit felt for entire width and length of first sheet of flooring. Fasten felt to underfloor with masking tape.
6. Scribe all areas where flooring will not be coved. Also scribe felt at inside corners.

Instructions - Flat Lay Installation

Fit the pattern felt to within 1/2" of all walls or other areas to be scribed. Place felt face up. When the first sheet is fit, make several cut-outs in the felt. Tape the felt to the floor at the cut-outs to prevent movement. Seams in felt should be butted lightly.

Make several diagonal cuts across butt joints in felt. These cuts will serve as a guide when aligning felt on flooring. Make a control mark on the felt with the dividers. If the setting is accidentally changed, it can be reset using the control mark.

Hold the dividers parallel to the floor and at right angles to the wall. Start at a corner and scribe, allowing the needle pin point to make a deep line on the felt. Repeat this operation until all areas to be fit are scribed. Sometimes it is easier to fit the pattern felt next to the door casings and cap molding rather than scribing these areas.

Before removing the felt pattern, it is wise to re-check the divider setting with the control mark to make sure the setting has not been accidentally changed. When transferring scribe marks to the flooring, back scribing is easier than face scribing. When face scribing, the divider pin puts an indentation in the wear surface. This mark usually disappears if the installer scribes the entire pattern before cutting. If you face scribe, you must scribe a short section, then cut on the scribe mark before it disappears.

When back scribing, lay the flooring face down, flip the pattern felt over and lay it face down on the back of the flooring. Position the first piece of felt on the flooring and tape it in place. Allow sufficient space between edge of felt and edge of flooring for required scribing distance.

Prior to laying sheets in adhesive, apply a 12" band of fresh adhesive along folds in flooring and in seam area. Position flooring and roll with a 100 to 150 lb. sectional roller in both directions except where fresh adhesive was applied.

8. Cut Seams - Chemical or Heat Sealed

Double cut seams with the Tarkett #55 Seam Cutter or straightedge and knife. Carefully remove bottom selvage and use the back edge of a linoleum knife to level the cut at seam. Do not use extreme pressure which may force adhesive up to the surface. Roll seam area with floor roller.

Fold back flooring in remaining areas, apply adhesive and cut seam in same manner as above.

9. Chemically Sealed Seams

Seal seams with Tarkett Multi-Seal Seam Sealer Kit. Prior to applying seam sealer, insert and pull a dull, standard linoleum knife down the seam. Detailed instructions are packed with Seam Sealer Kit. A clean white cloth dampened with mineral spirits (painter's Naptha) is recommended to clean and lubricate the seam before applying sealer. Apply seam sealer inside and on top of the seam by pulling the applicator slowly in one continuous motion. The correct amount of sealer is a band about 1/8" to 3/16" wide covering each side of the seam equally.

IMPORTANT: Seam Sealer must penetrate the seam for 100% of the seam length to be effective.

Begin roll installation sequence with the roll having the lowest sequence number and continue to the highest. For quick identification, the outside of each roll will be marked with a letter or number in the sequence in which it should be installed.

Occasionally, very large jobs may require rolls from more than one jumbo roll. Plan the installation so that open areas are covered with material having the same register number and are installed in the correct sequence.

2. Sheet Direction During Installation

When installing Tarkett® Images, alternate sheets cut from a roll or rolls must be reversed in order to achieve the best color match. Sheets are reversed when every other sheet is turned 180° and placed in the direction opposite to that of the preceding sheet.

3. Unrolling Flooring

Unroll flooring in the room and cut required lengths to fit. The use of unroll dollies is recommended when unrolling full rolls of flooring. Remove tension at ends of each length by back rolling. If back rolling of cut rolls is necessary, do not allow flooring to remain in this position for more than 15 minutes.

4. Cut to Fit

Flooring shall be accurately cut to fit rooms, with a minimum number of seams. Final fit at areas where molding will not be used (door casings, tubs, radiators, etc.) should be made after flooring is cemented in place.

In areas where installation is complex, it is advisable to make a pattern with felt. Seams shall be at least 6" away from underlayment joints.

5. Multiple Widths

Cut sufficient lengths of flooring to cover entire floor. **REVERSE ALTERNATE SHEETS FOR WARRANTED COLOR MATCH.** Color match of side to end seams or factory edge overlap of more than 3", or seams where the middle of a sheet width is positioned against a factory edge is not warranted.

6. Expose the Floor

Two methods can be used to expose the floor before applying adhesive. Be sure to read any supplemental instructions packed with the flooring.

"Tube" material by rolling length wise. Work in strips by tubing one-half of the sheet on either side of the seam.

-or-

Lift one end of each sheet and lay back carefully to expose half of the floor.

7. Adhesive Application

Apply FB 600 adhesive with a notched trowel (1/32" deep X1/16" wide X1/32" apart) to the exposed floor area except a band approximately 8" wide on both sides of seam and approximately 12" short of folds in flooring.

Allow the surface of the adhesive to become slightly tacky to the touch before placing flooring in adhesive. The time for adhesive to become slightly tacky will vary between twenty to forty minutes depending on surface porosity, temperature and humidity. **DO NOT ALLOW ADHESIVE TO DRY TOO LONG.**

Sheet Vinyl Flooring Commercial Inlaid Images™

Flat Lay and Coving Installations General

Maintain room temperature and materials at no less than 70°F for 48 hours before, during and after installation. For best color match on installations requiring more than one roll, be sure the rolls used in the same area are of the same color lot (registry number). The color lot and roll sequence number is a nine digit number which can be found on the label identified as the register number. **IMPORTANT: REVERSE ALTERNATE SHEETS FOR BEST COLOR MATCH.** Tarkett® Images is available in 12' widths.

Tarkett Inc. and its distributors will ship as many rolls as possible having the same register number to a given job site. Occasionally it may be necessary to use rolls from more than one register number. It is the installer's responsibility to use the rolls in the best manner possible to avoid a color difference at the seams.

Tools and Materials Needed

Airway or Utility Knife with straight and hook blade
Straightedge
Trowel (notched 1/32" deep, 1/16" wide, 1/32" apart)
Steel Seam Roller
Tarkett Multi-Seal™ Seam Sealer
Tarkett FB 600 Adhesive
Pattern Felt (for flash cover installations)
100-150 lb. Sectional Floor Roller
Tarkett Hand Groover
Tarkett Special Heat Weld Nozzle for Images (4mm)
Tarkett 4mm Clear Weld Thread
Tarkett #55 Seam Cutter

Installation

1. Color Matching

To assure color matching of material required for a given job involving more than one roll, the key is the proper use of roll identification numbers. This nine digit number is located on each roll label and is identified as the register number.

Here's how register numbers and sequence numbers are assigned to Images: Each jumbo production roll is assigned a six digit number. During inspection each roll cut from the production roll is assigned a three digit number which is referred to as the "sequence number." The sequence number identifies the order in which each length of flooring is inspected, cut and packaged from the production roll.

Example: The roll with register number 446873/001 is the first roll cut from a jumbo roll. Another roll with register number 446873/013 is the 13th roll from the same jumbo roll.

Preparation General

Maintain room temperature and materials at no less than 70°F for 48 hours before, during and after installation. Temperatures below 65° on surface to be covered will affect normal adhesive performance. All surfaces to be covered should be clean, dry and smooth. Level all depressions and construction joints (saw cuts) in concrete with a high quality, non-shrinking, latex fortified Portland cement patching compound. Paint, varnish, oil and wax must be removed from subfloors. Do not mark subfloors or flooring with crayons or solvent type marking pens; color may bleed up through the flooring.

NOTE: Installation of Tarkett Flooring across expansion joints (isolation joints) is not recommended or warranted.

WARNING CONCERNING EXISTING FLOOR: ALTHOUGH RESILIENT FLOOR COVERINGS PRODUCED BY TARKETT INC. DO NOT CONTAIN ASBESTOS, OLDER FLOOR COVERINGS PRODUCED BY OTHER MANUFACTURERS MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS FIBERS. IF SUCH FLOOR COVERING IS SANDED DURING REMOVAL OR PREPARATION FOR NEW INSTALLATION, EXPOSURE TO FIBERS MAY RESULT. DO NOT SAND OR DRY SCRAPE EXISTING FLOORING, BACKING OR LINING FELT THAT CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS. INHALATION OF THE RESULTANT DUST MAY CAUSE SERIOUS BODILY HARM. SMOKING MAY INCREASE THIS HAZARD.

Leaving the old floor covering down under a new installation increases the possibility of indentations, telegraphing of the old floor, and poor adhesion. There is also a high degree of risk with cemented installations over sheet vinyl floorings with unfilled wear surfaces, urethane finishes and old covering on concrete floors, on or below grade, that show evidence of moisture or excessive alkalinity.

Installations over existing floors are often satisfactory, but their success depends on the condition of the original covering. The final decision to cover an existing flooring with new flooring rests with the installer. Tarkett Inc. will not assume responsibility for adhered floor failures where the condition, type, or improper preparation of the existing flooring is the cause for failure.

NOTE: Under no circumstances should Tarkett Vinyl Flooring be installed over an existing embossed flooring containing an unfilled wear layer and foam layer.

If the existing flooring is removed and was adhered with an asphalt adhesive, the adhesive must also be totally removed according to the instructions found in the Resilient Floor Covering Institute Recommended Work Practices Manual. **DO NOT USE SOLVENTS TO REMOVE RESIDUAL ADHESIVES.** If the surface of the concrete is not satisfactory for installation of new flooring, Tarkett recommends the use of a good quality Portland cement self leveling product such as Ardex K-15 or equal before installing new flooring. Trowelable patching and leveling compounds are not recommended for repairing large areas of wood or concrete floors. Removal of asphalt type adhesive from wood floors is very difficult and therefore installation of new underlayment is recommended instead. Lay thin sheets of paper over residual adhesive prior to installing wood underlayment panels.

Concrete Floors

Concrete underfloors shall meet the American Concrete Institute (ACI) 302 Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction, Class 2 or 4. Floors shall be finished and cured as specified by ACI with a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi. Floors shall be smooth, clean, dry and free of oil, paint or other color bodies. Floors shall be free of any curing, hardening or parting compound that would adversely affect the adhesive used with the flooring. For optimum performance and protection a moisture barrier such as 1/8" Sealtight manufactured by W.R. Meadows Inc., or equal, shall be used beneath the slab.

NOTE: Tarkett® Flooring is not recommended for installation over gypsum-type underlayments or for use on stairs.

In many cases it is difficult to determine whether a concrete curing agent or sealer has been used. Therefore, as a general precaution, a moisture and bonding test, as described below, shall be run. The bonding test shall be made on a sanded or abraded surface of the concrete as well as on an unabraded surface. Moisture shall not exceed 3 lbs. /1000 sq. ft. /24 hours as per RMA calcium chloride test method.

Bonding Test-Install the flooring with adhesive to be used in 2' x 2' areas approximately 50' apart throughout the area of intended use. Allow bond strength to develop for 72 hours. Pry the flooring loose between the concrete and the back of the flooring. The bond is considered satisfactory if the flooring cannot be removed intact without great force. It is normal for felt backed flooring to separate in the felt layer when attempting removal. Although the dryness of an on or below grade concrete slab can be determined at the time of installation, it is not a guarantee that the slab will be free of excess moisture forever.

Mat Moisture Test - To help determine whether an on or below grade concrete slab is sufficiently dry for installation of Tarkett Vinyl Flooring, a "mat moisture test" should also be performed, as follows. Cut several 2' square pieces of heavy gauge polyethylene and place against the slab in various areas throughout the floor. Fasten the edges of the polyethylene with single face vinyl tape. Remove test samples after 48 to 72 hours. Visible moisture indicates the slab is still too wet. Damp spots on the surface of the concrete indicate that moisture is present. This does not indicate the concrete is too wet to install the flooring. However, it does indicate that a bonding and RMA calcium chloride test should be performed. Installations where moisture exceeds 3 lbs./1000 sq. ft./24 hrs. is not warranted.

Above Grade Concrete Slabs-New above grade concrete slabs are often assumed to be dry simply because they are not in contact with the earth. However, moisture and bonding tests as recommended above shall be conducted, especially if steel or plastic pan construction supports for the concrete were used.

Metal Floors-Tarkett Commercial Sheet Vinyl Flooring may be installed over metal surfaces. Metal must be thoroughly cleaned and abraded prior to installation. Apply recommended adhesive for each specific product with trowel having notches 1/32" deep x 1/16" wide x 1/32" apart.

NOTE: Do not install Tarkett Floor Tiles over metal surfaces.

3. With a soft lead pencil, trace template on an oversize piece of the contrasting or complementary flooring color to be inset.

NOTE: To enlarge the size of a drawing, mark a grid of squares on the original drawing and a larger grid of squares on another plain sheet of paper or cardboard. Then hand draw the design using squares of the grid as reference points.

4. Place piece of flooring to be inset in position over main or feature color of flooring. Fasten in place with masking tape.

5. Cut inset to fit. Use a Utility Knife with a sharp blade and cut through (double cut) inset and main or feature color below. Hold knife at a 90° angle to the floor to produce a vertical cut.

6. Remove inset piece of flooring and seldedge. Lift out field piece of flooring below inset. Make sure all corners and edges are clean cuts with no felt residue.

7. Place inset into position. Cup or bend down edges, points, and corners of inset piece for ease of fitting. Smooth and level edges with the back edge of a linoleum knife or hand roller.

8. Use masking tape on surface of flooring to secure inset in place.

9. Follow recommended procedure to expose floor for application of adhesive. Apply adhesive, embed flooring in adhesive with roller, and cut seams at overlap of multiple widths.

10. Remove tape and clean seams of any pencil marks along cuts in inset. Seal all seams with Tarkett® Multi-Use Seam Sealer. Apply Seam Sealer with Applicator #66.

11. Multi-color insets—For multi-color and complex insets it is better to make them up in the shop on a large oversized background piece of flooring. This may in turn be inset on the job by merely double cutting the entire piece as a single unit.

For multi-color insets the procedure is much the same as for one color, with the following additions:

a. A template must be made for each separate piece.

b. In making templates for separate pieces, not only draw the outline but also the crossover lines from adjoining pieces. These are used as key points when aligning the pieces and must be traced onto each inset piece.

c. Begin by cutting the largest piece first and cut-in only where it meets the field color. Tape in place.

d. Continue until all pieces are cut.