



PRODUCT INSTALLATION GUIDELINES



GARAGE FLOORING



PRINT MEDIA



OUTDOOR & MARINE

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Floor Preparation & Material Handling Procedures



Floor Preparation

Moisture Testing

G-Floor® products are intended for use in high-traffic areas, therefore preparation is especially important. In most cases, remove all existing floor coverings before installing these commercial products. You must follow all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the removal of existing flooring. All concrete under floors must be tested for moisture before starting the installation using either the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test following ASTM F1869 procedures and/or the IN-SITU Relative Humidity Test following ASTM F2170. The maximum permissible Moisture Vapor Emission Rate ("MVER") is determined based on product construction and adhesive type. An MVER of up to 5 lb moisture per 1000 sq-ft per 24 hr is the maximum acceptable MVER with G-Floor homogenous vinyl. The Relative Humidity Test readings according to ASTM F-2170 should not exceed (RH) 85%. If both tests are performed, the RH test is the qualifying standard.

NOTE: While either of these industry accepted moisture-testing methods may be used, the results are not interchangeable; if both tests are performed they must both be in the acceptable range to be considered valid.

Floor Cleaning

Floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Remove all foreign substances such as wax, grease, dirt, construction marks and contaminants, and any substance or chemical that would interfere with a good bond. Better Life Technology (BLT) recommends priming extremely porous floors with Taylor Envirotec 2025 Universal Primer™ to prevent over absorption of adhesives, dust containment, and to insure a better bond of the adhesive to the subfloor/underlayment.

Patching & Leveling Compounds

We recommend the use of Latex /Portland cement trowel underlayment or self-leveling cement-like products for repairing or leveling concrete subfloors. Sand and fill approved underlayment panel joints using a latex/Portland cement compound. Do not use gypsum based floor patch.

Material Handling Procedures

It is imperative to maintain the material, adhesive, and job site at a temperature between 65°F and 85°F for 48 hours before and during the installation. If the material has been stored at colder temperatures, it will need to be unrolled and allowed to relax overnight before proceeding with the installation. BLT recommends contracting a qualified commercial flooring installation service for all commercial installations.

NOTE: It may not be the floor covering installer's responsibility to conduct the tests. It is, however, the floor covering installer's responsibility to make sure these tests have been conducted and that the results are acceptable prior to installing the floor covering. When moisture tests are conducted, it indicates the conditions only at the time of the test.

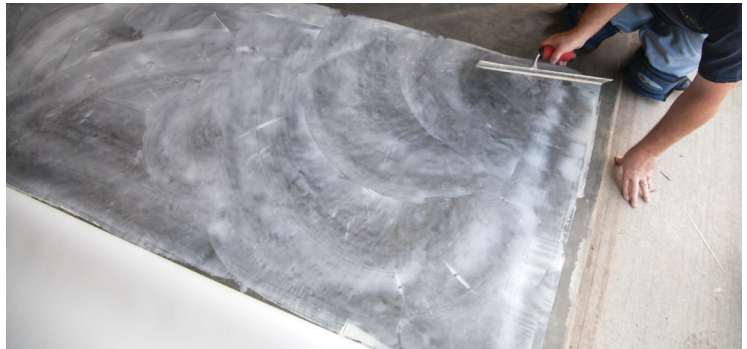
NOTE: If the flooring contractor elects to install new floor covering over an existing floor covering, the flooring contractor assumes all responsibility as to the suitability and continued performance of the existing floor covering. If removal of existing resilient floor covering is required, follow all recommended Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) work practices as described at www.rfci.com.

Inspection of flooring material prior to installation is required. Any defects should be immediately reported to the original place of purchase prior to installation. Better Life Technology will not be responsible for labor costs to repair or replace material with defects that were apparent before or noticed at the end of an installation.

Material Handling Tips:

- Resilient homogeneous sheet products must be tightly rolled face out on a sturdy core designed for that purpose.
- If material is flattened or distorted during storage or transportation, do not attempt to install it.
- Marking pens, felt-tipped markers, or waxed crayons must not be used to write on the vinyl backing nor used to mark layout under the floor, as they could bleed through and stain the material.
- Resilient flooring products can be heavy and bulky. Always use correct lifting techniques when handling these products.

Permanent Installation



Cutting & Fitting

BLT products are flexible and will handle easily when cutting and fitting. This product characteristic enables the installer to fit the material using freehand knifing techniques. Plan your layout before cutting material. Measure and square up area to be installed. If the job site is complex and requires a precise fit, use pattern-scribing techniques. BLT material may also be fit using direct scribing techniques. Once the pattern has been matched and the material has been fit, it is necessary to tube or lap back half of the sheet to expose the underfloor for the adhesive application.

Take care when folding the material back. Always fold the material in a wide radius to avoid sharp kinks and creases, which may cause damage to the image and/or product. Fully adhere material to an approved under-floor.

Applying Adhesive

WARNING: DO NOT USE MULTI-PURPOSE OR VCT ADHESIVE. ADHESIVE MUST BE PLASTICIZER MIGRATION RESISTANT.

Better Life Technology recommends Taylor Resolute Adhesive for permanent G-Floor Graphic® applications.

The adhesive, floor covering, and area to receive flooring must be maintained at a temperature of 65° to 95° F (18° to 35° C) and at a relative humidity of 30% to 60% for 72 hours before, during, and after the installation.

When applying adhesive, use a notched trowel, size- 1/16 in. x 1/32 in. x 1/32 in. If the notches are too large they place too much adhesive which can lead to trowel-marks showing through the material and/or excessive indentations. This can cause swelling and buckling throughout the material. If the trowel notches are too small the adhesive will not hold the flooring down.

Spread adhesive covering 100% of the exposed subfloor, leaving no gaps or puddles. Keep trowel away from vinyl backing as it may scratch the flooring and show through. Maintain uniform coverage by keeping the trowel clean and properly notched.

Taylor Resolute

Use Wet Set Method - The wet set method is essentially what its name infers the adhesive is troweled on the substrate, with the appropriate trowel, and lay sheet goods immediately into wet adhesive. Adhesive must wet transfer 100% to flooring product to ensure proper bond. Adhesive working time is approximately 45-50 minutes, but will vary with ambient job site conditions. After installation of the flooring, roll installation with a 75-100 lb. roller.

Seams - Cold Weld

Traditional Double-cutting method using Johnsonite Cold Weld Liquid:

1. After aligning the pattern and providing adequate overlap, adhere the sheets of material up to the designated dry zone.
2. Cut the seam using a utility knife with a new, sharp blade. Using a steel straightedge, cut through both sheets of flooring at a 90° angle to the floor covering.
3. Do not lift knife out of floor during seam cutting.
4. Once you have cut the seam, remove the selvage and fold back the sheets to expose the dry zone.
5. Apply adhesive with a properly notched trowel across the dry zone.
6. Allow the adhesive to develop tack and lay the sheet that was on the bottom during the cutting process into the adhesive first.
7. Place masking tape over the seam and press it down firmly.
8. Cut through the masking tape over the join between the two sheets using a straight knife
9. Press the needle of the tube firmly into the seam and pull the tube along the joint. Control the flow of liquid so that a 5 mm wide glue line appears on top of the masking tape.
10. Wait about 10 minutes for the glue to bond and then pull the masking tape off.

Seams - Heat Weld

Heat welding is the process of heat fusing two sheets of resilient sheet vinyl flooring together at the seam. A properly executed heat welded seam offers impervious, reinforced seams recommended for areas of high traffic, including those subjected to heavy rolling or wheeled loads, areas exposed to excessive moisture (frequent washing), healthcare applications (sanitation), laboratories, and clean rooms.

G-Floor welding thread is 3 mm in diameter and is meant to be used with a 3 mm nozzle. Use of a larger nozzle will cause improper bonding or permanent damage to the flooring, including burning or glazing of the vinyl wear layer surface.

Follow instructions 1-6 of Cold Seam Instructions

Grooving

Using a grooving tool and a straight edge, groove the seam to a consistent depth of approximately 2/3 the thickness of the floor or half the thickness of the welding thread, whichever is less. Take care not to groove completely through the backing layer.

Welding

Using a heat gun set between 350 °F – 400 °F, insert the welding thread into the 3mm speed nozzle as it comes into contact with the grooved seam. Keeping the nozzle perpendicular to the floor, apply slight downward pressure, and draw it along the seam at a smooth and constant speed. If stopping at any point along the seam, pull the heat gun away from the flooring, and cut the welding thread. This will prevent the heat gun from scorching the surface of the flooring and welding thread. Test seam strength by tugging a length of welding thread. If fused properly, it should break before pulling away from the seam.

Trimming

After allowing the thread to cool to room temperature it may be trimmed and skived. This must be done in two passes. The first pass is done using a trim plate and crescent knife, which will trim off the top half of the thread. The second pass is done using the spatula knife only, and will trim the thread flush with the surface of the flooring. Note that for embossed products, the thread can only be skived to the top of the embossing.

Glazing

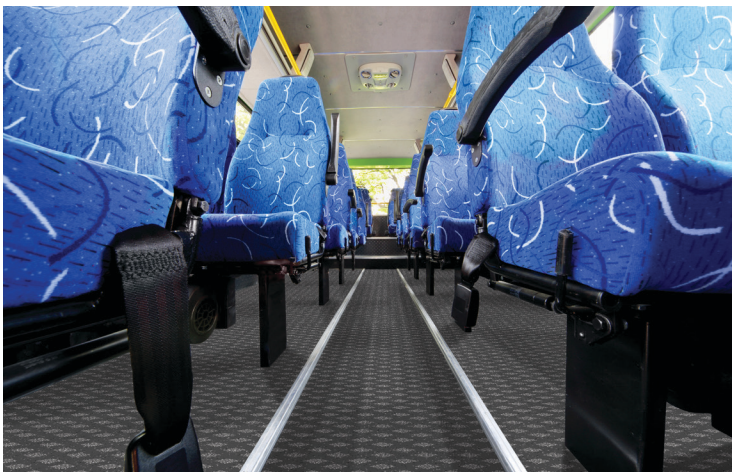
Using a heat gun with the nozzle attached, draw it along the seam with the nozzle approximately 1/4" above the thread. Move the gun slowly enough to melt the surface of the thread, but fast enough to avoid damaging the flooring on either side. Note that glazing of the thread after trimming is required, and will ensure correct color matching of the thread to the material, and prevent the seam from collecting excessive soiling.

Additional Notes:

- Always inspect the flooring thoroughly before installation. Report any defects prior to installation.
- DO NOT mop your floor for about five days. The adhesives need time to cure
- After installation is complete, keep traffic off of floor for at least 24 hours and heavy objects or rolling loads for 72 hours.
- DO NOT slide heavy appliances or furniture over or across the flooring. Always lift objects and place them on a hard board between the flooring and object and gently reposition them.
- Use permanent caulk next to bathtubs, showers, sliding doors, patio doors, around metal door jambs or similar areas.
- For bathroom installations, apply caulk around the toilet, next to the bathtubs and showers to prevent moisture from getting under the vinyl. Note: if there is a ceramic sanitary cove and no place to install trim mold, you can apply silicone caulk around the walls.
- Make sure furniture legs have large surface, non-staining plastic floor protectors or non-staining felt pads. The protectors should be at least one inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor.

Notes

Other Installation Types



Suitable Substrates:

- Wood
- Concrete
- Steel
- Aluminum
- Epoxy
- Fiberglass

Unsuitable substrates include:

- Rubber
- Cushioned Flooring
- Stripwood
- Gypsum Based Underlayment
- Lightweight Concrete

Suitable Substrate Floor Preparation Instructions

BLT recommends removal of all existing flooring whenever possible; however in certain circumstances it may be possible to install over an existing floor. BLT flooring material may be installed over existing flooring surfaces such as terrazzo, epoxy, ceramic tile, quarry tile, metal floors, and in certain cases resilient floors and VCT, provided they are dry, well bonded, sound, smooth, and free of waxes, polishes and/or any other foreign materials. The responsibility of determining if the existing floor is a suitable subfloor rests solely with the installer and flooring contractor. If there is any doubt, the existing floor should be removed.

Concrete Floors

Concrete Floors must be smooth, clean, and permanently dry. Floors must be free of all foreign materials, including dust, sealers, paint, grease, oils, solvents, curing/hardening compounds, asphalt, old adhesive, residue, and any other contaminants.

Metal Subfloors

Metal subfloors must be clean, rigid, and free from all rust, oil, grease, coatings and all other contaminants.

Wood Floors

Wood floors should be double layer construction with a minimum total thickness of 1". The subfloor must be rigid, free from movement, and have at least 18" of well-ventilated air space below. Wood subfloors must not exceed 8% moisture content when measured with a Delmhorst Wood Moisture Tester. Do not install over particle board, chip board or Masonite™.

Trade Shows and Loose Lay Flooring Installs

1. Sweep and clean floor before rolling out product.
2. Unroll BLT flooring on flooring and allow it to relax and lay flat. Initially, edges may be curled due to being rolled on a core (This is normal).
3. Use a broom to push out any air underneath and let the BLT flooring acclimate to surroundings.
4. For temporary installation, we recommend using G-Floor Seaming Tape to the backside seams and double sided carpet tape for around the perimeter.
5. You must first apply clear box tape to backside of the G-Floor wherever you will have G-Floor Seaming Tape to ensure that the print will not be damaged during removal.
6. For large areas with more than one panel, edges may be butted together for a seamless appearance.
7. Always package BLT material tightly on a core. All images should be face out, and entire roll should be shrink wrapped.

Technical Data

ASTM Standards Legend

ASTM F710

Standard Practice for preparing Concrete floors to receive resilient flooring

ASTM F186

Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete subfloor using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride

ASTM F148

Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayment's to Receive Resilient Flooring

ASTM F2170

Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs using In-Situ Probes

ACI 302

Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction

Accredited Organizations for Standard Practices

American Concrete Institute (ACI)

P.O. Box 9094 | Farmington Hills, MI 48333

www.concrete.org

APA – The Engineered Wood Association (APA)

7011 S. 19th Street | Tacoma, WA 98466-5333

www.apawood.org

ASTM International

100 Barr Harbor Drive | West Conshohocken, PA, 19428-2959

www.astm.org

Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI)

115 Broad Street, Suite 201 | La Grange GA 30240

www.rfci.org

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