GRIP-STRIP FLOATING FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

This product is intended for interior use only and is suitable for above-grade, on-grade and below-grade applications. However, it should not be installed in locations where the substrate beneath the building structure is exposed to the elements.

This product is a floating floor and should be allowed to expand and contract freely. It must not be glued, nailed, or fastened to the substrate in any way. Install permanent cabinets, vanities, island counters and similar items first, then cut in Flooring around them, leaving a ¼-inch space for expansion and contraction. Fill expansion spaces around potentially wet areas such as refrigerators, tubs and appliances with premium waterproof 100% silicone caulk.

Acclimate and install this product in climate-controlled structures consistently maintained at temperatures no lower than 65°F and no higher than 85°F before, during and after installation. Ambient relative humidity should be maintained between 35% and 85%

Direct sunlight may cause the flooring to fade or the grip-strip to separate. Protect the product from direct sunlight using window treatments or UV tinting on windows. This product is not recommended for use in sunrooms.

Although this product is water resistant, constant exposure to excessive moisture may affect the product. Moisture issues must be addressed and corrected at the job site prior to installation.

PRE-INSTALLATION

Evaluate the Job Site

Exterior
Damage caused by water and high humidity should be addressed prior to installing this product. Examine the driveway and landscaping surrounding the building. Be sure that they slope and direct water away from the foundation. Inspect gutters, down spouts and drains for blockage. Remove clogs caused by leaves, dirt and debris, allowing runoff to flow freely away from the foundation. Check crawl spaces for cross-ventilation air vents equaling at least 1.5% per 100 square feet of floor space. Crawl spaces should measure a minimum of 18 inches high and should be insulated according to the latest building code requirements. The ground should be covered with a minimum 6-mil vapor barrier.

Interior
Although this product is water resistant, moisture issues must be identified and corrected at the job site prior to installation.

Examine the installation site for leaky plumbing, including leaks from water heaters, dishwashers, washing machines, or any other water-bearing fixtures or pipes. Inspect substrates for level. They must be sturdy, sound, and flat within 3⁄16 of an inch within a 10-foot radius. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction. Test concrete substrates for relative humidity, moisture and pH before installing the product. Test results must not exceed 85% relative humidity (RH). The Calcium Chloride Test for moisture should be no more than 8lbs per one-thousand square feet in 24 hours MVER, (Moisture Vapor Emission Rating) and pH tests for alkalinity levels should register between 7 and 9. Check wood substrates for moisture. Obvious signs of moisture issues include warping, peaking, degradation of the integrity of the substrate, rusted fasteners, and rusted floor registers. Even if obvious signs are not present, the material should be tested using an invasive moisture meter and moisture levels should not exceed 14%.

Identify Your Substrate

Approved Substrates

Concrete
Concrete substrates must be prepared in accordance with the most current version of ASTM F710 (Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring). Concrete substrates must be sturdy, sound, and flat within 3⁄16 of an inch within a 10-foot radius. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction. Allow new concrete, including lightweight and gypsum toppings, to cure for at least 90 days before conducting moisture tests. Regardless of the age or grade of the concrete, always perform the most current version of either RH Test ASTM F2170 or Calcium Chloride Test ASTM F1869 and pH Test ASTM F710 prior to installation. RH Test results must not exceed 85% relative humidity. The Calcium Chloride Test for moisture should measure no more than 8lbs per one-thousand square feet in 24 hours MVER, and pH tests for alkalinity levels should register between 7 and 9. Always use a moisture vapor barrier when installing over concrete. If moisture levels exceed 85% RH or 8lbs per 1,000sf in 24 hours MVER, the moisture issues must be corrected by using a moisture mitigation system before installing Flooring. A 6 mil polyfilm is required when installing over concrete.

Radiant Heat
Radiant heating systems must be cast ½-inch below the surface of the concrete slab, and should be operating at least 2 weeks before installing the flooring. Set the temperature of the radiant heating system to 68°F 48 hours before, during, and 72 hours after installation. The temperature of the radiant heat floor may be increased gradually 72 hours after installation, but the surface temperature should never exceed 85°F. Contact the manufacturer of your radiant heating system for further recommendations.

Plywood, OSB, Particleboard & Chipboard
Wood substrates must be A.P.A. approved with a minimum grade of "BB" or "CC". They must be sturdy, sound, clean, dry, and flat within 3⁄16" in a 10 foot radius without any abrupt height differences. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction. It is recommended to perform moisture tests prior to installation to prevent serious damage to the subfloor and surrounding structure, and to discourage the growth of mold and mildew. Moisture readings should never exceed 14% for plywood, OSB, particleboard and chipboard

substrates. If moisture readings exceed 14%, it is advisable to correct moisture issues at the jobsite before installation. 6 mil poly moisture vapor barriers should never be used over wood substrates.

Tile, Terrazzo, Asbestos Tile, Resilient Tile, Non-Cushion Sheet Vinyl, and Metal
Existing floors must be firmly attached to the structural floor. They must be sturdy, sound, and flat within ³⁄₁₆ of an inch within a 10-foot radius. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction. Fill in grout lines on ceramic tiles, terrazzo, quarry tiles and similar floors with cementitious leveling and patching compound.

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NON-APPROVED SUBSTRATES

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Remove the floors noted below and remove old adhesive before installation. Encapsulate adhesive and cutback residue.
- Parquet Over Concrete
- Hardwood Over Concrete
- Cushion Back Sheet Vinyl
- Engineered Hardwood Over Concrete
- Carpeting/Carpet Pad
- Floating Floors
- Sleeper Substrates

NOTE: Various Federal, State and Local government agencies have established regulations governing the removal of in-place asbestos-containing material. If you contemplate the removal of a resilient floor covering structure that contains (or is presumed to contain) asbestos, you must review and comply with all applicable regulations. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphalt "cut-back" adhesive, or other adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content. The RFCI's Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Covering are a defined set of instructions addressed to the task of removing all resilient floor covering structures. For further information, contact the Resilient Floor Covering Institute website at www.rfci.com.

ATTENTION: Mold and mildew grow only in the presence of moisture. Moisture issues must be addressed and corrected at the job site prior to installation. Please visit www.epa.gov/mold for information about safely preventing and removing mold, mildew and other biological pollutants.

Prepare the Job Site

Careful preparation is the key to outstanding results. All trades must finish before installation.

- Install Permanent Exterior Doors and Windows
- Turn on HVAC at Least One Week Prior to Installation Room temperature should be maintained between 65°F – 85°F at least 48 hours prior to installation.
- Allow all other Trades to Finish
- Perform Recommended Moisture and pH Tests See the "Identify Your Substrate" section of this manual (pages 3-4) for further information about suggested tests.
- Level Uneven Surfaces Fill large cracks and voids with cementitious leveling and patching compound. Substrates must be sturdy, sound, and flat within ³⁄₁₆" in a 10 foot radius without any abrupt height differences. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction.
- Remove Floor Moldings Quarter round and wall base should be carefully removed before installation begins. It will be used to conceal the expansion space once the job is finished.
- Fill Grout Lines. Skim coat grout lines on ceramic tile, terrazzo, quarry tile and similar surfaces using cementitious leveling and patching compound.
- Remove Non-approved Substrates
- Remove or Encapsulate Old Adhesive Old adhesives must be scraped up and left so that no ridges or puddles are evident and all that remains is a thin, smooth film. Then, encapsulate residue.
- Undercut Wood Door Casings Wood door casings should be undercut so that the product will fit neatly beneath them, concealing the expansion space. Position the plank on the substrate against the door casing. Lay the handsaw flat against the scrap plank and carefully cut the door casing to the height of the plank.
- Cut Around Metal Door Casings Do not cut metal door casings. Cut the product around them, leaving the appropriate expansion space. - After installation, fill the space with a coordinating premium waterproof 100% silicone sealant.
- Clean Up the Job Site Remove all debris, sweep and vacuum the subfloor. Smooth, non-porous floors should be damp-mopped after vacuuming and allowed to dry thoroughly before installation. All dust must be removed prior to installation.

Check Run Numbers and Manufacture Date

Locate the run number on the short end of each carton and verify that all of the material for your job is from the same run. Minor shade variations within the same run number contribute to the natural look of the product. To avoid noticeable shade variations, do not install material from different runs across large expanses.

To determine manufacture date, locate the run number on the short end of the carton. It is the eight-digit number separated by decimal points beginning with the two-digit day, then the two-digit month, and finally the four-digit year.

ACCLIMATE THE PRODUCT

Correct acclimation prevents the product from expanding and contracting excessively after installation. Move the flooring to the job site and allow to acclimate at least 48 hours prior to installation. Spread unopened cartons no more than 3 cartons high and at least 4 inches apart. Cartons should be stacked away from heating and cooling ducts and direct sunlight. Maintain a constant room temperature between 65°F and 85°F before, during and after installation. Maintain ambient relative humidity between 35% and 85% at all times.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

1. **IDENTIFY THE STARTING WALL** Select your starting wall. For instance, choose the longest wall in the room, or a wall running towards a window or natural source of light. Facing the starting wall, installation will move from left to right beginning in the left corner. The under-edge side of the first row of planks should face the open field.

2. **BEGIN THE FIRST ROW** Remove the over-edge from the long and short sides of the first plank. Trim off the over-edge from ONLY the long side of each additional plank as you install the entire first row.

3. **POSITION THE FIRST PLANK** Create an even ¼-inch expansion space between the perimeter planks and the wall using spacers. The expansion space will allow the floating floor to expand and contract freely after installation. Position the first plank in the left hand corner of the starting wall against the spacers.

4. **INSTALL THE FIRST ROW** Secure the planks in the first row by angling and connecting the short ends. The over-edge is always placed on top of the under-edge. Use one hand to hold the plank in position and the other hand to guide the edge into place for a tight, gap-free fit. The long under-edge must be perfectly aligned from plank to plank. Immediately use a hand roller to roll the joints as they are installed. Always roll as you go. Continue placing the spacers along the wall as you install the first row.

5. **MEASURE THE LAST PLANK OF THE FIRST ROW** Place a spacer against the wall at the end of the first row. Measure the distance from the spacer to the decorative edge of the last full plank on the first row. Make note of this measurement. Transfer the measurement onto a new plank starting from the short over-edge side and mark using a marker or pencil. Use a straight edge and utility knife to score across the plank. Snap the plank, using your knee as leverage.

6. **INSTALL THE LAST PLANK OF THE FIRST ROW** After measuring and cutting the last plank, position and install it, following the same procedure used for the previously installed planks on the first row. Roll the joint using a hand roller.

7. **BEGIN THE SECOND ROW** Maintain a minimum 6-inch end-joint stagger from row-to-row throughout the entire installation. Do not stair-step the end joints. If the leftover piece from the end of the first row measures 6 inches or more, it may be used as-is to begin the second row. Otherwise, select a new plank. Position it with the under-edge facing you, then measure 1⁄3 the length of the plank from the right-hand short edge. Mark, score, and snap. Position a spacer against the wall to maintain a ¼-inch expansion space. Place the cut edge against the spacer and align the long over-edge on top of the under-edge. Guide the edge into place for a tight, gap-free fit. Hand roll the joint.

8. **INSTALL THE SECOND ROW** To install the second plank in the second row, angle and connect the short over-edge into the short under-edge of the first plank. While pushing them together, press and rotate the long over-edge downward into the long under-edge of the first row. Be sure that the two planks are aligned perfectly prior to rolling. The planks should fit together tightly along the short and long sides and all edges should be even, with no separation or gapping. Immediately use a hand roller and roll as you go. Follow the same procedure along the entire row.

9. **INSTALL THE REMAINING ROWS** Follow the steps noted for the second row and repeat for the entire installation. Carefully observe the recommended spacing and stagger pattern throughout the job. Consistently hand roll the joints and always roll as you go.

10. **INSTALL THE LAST ROW** The final row of planks will be cut to fit along the wall. Measure the width of the final row and make note of the measurement. Maintain the expansion space using ¼-inch spacers. Continue to observe the suggested staggering method for the last row of planks. Transfer the measurement from the long over-edge side of each new plank intended for the last row. Score, then snap. Fit the last row into place for a tight, gap-free fit. Hand roll the joints using a hand roller.

11. **FINISH INSTALLATION** When installation is complete, remove the spacers and roll the entire floor in both directions using a 100-pound three-section roller. You may fill the ¼-inch expansion space around high-moisture areas like tubs, showers and appliances using premium waterproof 100% silicone caulk. Cover the expansion space with wall base, making sure not to trap or pin down the floor in any way.

ROUTINE CARE & MAINTENANCE

- Sweep, dust mop or vacuum daily. Do not use vacuums with any type of beater bar assembly.

- Lightly damp mop with a pH neutral cleaner. Remove excess soil by carefully scrubbing with a soft nylon brush or magic eraser sponge and a pH neutral cleaner.

- Remove scuffs using a pH neutral cleaner and a soft nylon brush or magic eraser sponge.

- Heavily soiled floors may require an occasional deep cleaning using a pH neutral cleaner and a low-speed buffer not exceeding 175 RPM. Fit the buffer with a red or white scrubbing pad and work the solution over the floor. Remove the dirty residue by damp mopping with clear water.

- Remove standing water, pet urine and other liquids promptly.

PREVENTIVE CARE

- Use non-staining walk-off mats at all outside entrances.

- Use flat glides at least 2" in diameter under furniture legs to prevent indentations and scratches.

- Use broad surface non-staining casters at least 2" in diameter on rolling furniture.

- Do not use vinegar, polishes, waxes, oil soaps, abrasive cleaners, harsh detergents, "mop and shine" products or solvents.

- Do not expose to direct sunlight for prolonged periods.

- Do not use steam cleaners.

- Do not flood floor or subject to standing liquids, including pet urine.