

INSTALLATION SYSTEM

If properly installed and cared for your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will look great for years to come. These directions are based on industry standards and best practices. Failure to follow these installation instructions may result in damage to the flooring and void the floor's warranty.

For technical or installation questions, or to request a Safety Data Sheet, please call your retailer.

WARNING: REGARDING EXISTING IN-PLACE RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING AND ASPHALTIC ADHESIVES. DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC “CUTBACK” ADHESIVE OR OTHER ADHESIVE.

These **existing in-place** 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 serious bodily harm.

Unless positively certain that the existing in-place 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 and may govern removal and disposal of material.

Visit rfci.com to see the current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for instructions on removing all resilient floor covering structures or contact your retailer.

These floor coverings and adhesives do NOT contain asbestos.

Adhesive	Trowel	Set-in-Wet	Dry-to-Touch	Comments
Bruce Tufflink or similar adhesive	1/16" deep; 1/32" wide; 1/32" apart U-notch	N/A	Dry to Touch Approximately 30-60 minutes (tacky to touch with no transfer to fingers)	Foot Traffic: Immediately Heavy Rolling Loads: 48 Hours
Bruce Apex Pro or similar adhesive	1/16" deep; 1/32" wide; 1/32" apart U-notch	~10 minutes	N/A	Foot Traffic: 3 hours Heavy Rolling Loads: 8 hours

***Note: When installing LVT in areas subject to direct sunlight, topical moisture, temperature fluctuations, Bruce Apex Pro or similar adhesive must be used.**

Do not wash or scrub the new flooring for at least 5 days after the installation. This will allow the tile to become “seated” in the adhesive and prevent excess moisture and cleaning agents from interfering with the adhesive bond.

Installation:

Location: All grade levels
Fitting: All methods

Tools:

Tape measure, chalk line, utility knife, pencil, straight edge, vacuum or broom, optional tile cutter or cutting shears. Subfloor prep supplies. Recommended adhesives.

General Information:

CHECK RUN NUMBERS AND MANUFACTURE DATE

Upon receipt, immediately check material for damage and that the material is of the correct style, color quantity, and run number. Immediately report any discrepancies.

Locate the run number on the short end of each carton and verify that all the material for your job is from the same run.

Keys to Successful Glue Down Installation:

- Most installations will need approximately a 10% cutting allowance added to the square footage of the room.
- Proper conditioning of the job site is necessary. Flooring planks should not be exposed to sudden changes in temperature.
- Store, transport and handle the flooring planks in a manner to prevent any distortions. Distortions will not disappear over time. Store cartons flat, never on edge. Ensure that the flooring planks are lying flat during installation.
- Installations of carpet, metal strips and other transition moldings should not pinch the flooring against the subfloor and should allow for some slight movement wherever practical.
- Protect the floor from heavy-rolling loads, other trades, and movement of appliances by using sheets of plywood or similar.
- **Acclimation of this product is not required**, although, it is best to store these products in the environment in which it is expected to perform prior to installation. Check adhesive label for adhesive storage limitations.

Suitable Substrates:

All substrates listed below must be properly prepared and meet certain requirements. There may be other exceptions and special conditions (as noted below) for these substrates to be suitable for the glue down installation system.

- Concrete – dry and smooth on all grade levels
 - Suspended wood subfloors with approved wood underlayments – must have minimum of 18” well-ventilated crawl space underneath including:
 - Properly prepared OSB
 - Luan Plywood: Use only Type 1 luan exterior grade “BB” or “CC” for underlayment. The use of lesser grades of luan plywood is unacceptable and may cause severe problems when used as an underlayment, including discoloration, indentation, loss of bond and delamination.
- NOTE: The use of luan plywood and other extremely porous wood underlayments will reduce the flash and working time of adhesives. It is best to apply an acrylic-based primer to any porous substrate prior to applying the adhesive. A manufacturer's certification of luan grade must accompany any claim involving the use of a luan underlayment.

- Single-layer, fully-adhered, existing resilient floors – must not be foam-backed or cushion-backed.
- Ceramic tile, Terrazzo, Marble
- Polymeric Poured (seamless) Floors

DO NOT INSTALL OVER:

- Existing resilient tile floors that are below grade
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring
- Carpet
- Hardwood flooring installed directly over concrete
- Existing floating floors
- Particleboard 40lb. density or waferboard

Job Conditions/Preparations:

- It is necessary to maintain a consistent temperature between 45°F (7°C) and 120°F (49°C) before, during and after the installation.
- All substrates must be structurally sound, dry, clean, flat, and smooth with minimal deflection. Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, and other foreign matter, and contaminates.
 - Subfloors must be flat within 3/16” in 10’ or 1/8” in 6’
 - For concrete substrates, moisture testing should be conducted. Acceptable levels are determined by the adhesive being used. Check adhesive label for limitations.
- High spots on the substrate should be leveled and low areas filled with appropriate underlayments.
- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents, or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.
- For renovation or remodel work, remove any existing adhesive residue so that 100% of the overall area of the original substrate is exposed.
- Ceramic tile floors, ceramic and marble grout joints, and irregularities in concrete should be filled and leveled using a cementitious patch to fill and smooth any embossing in the old floor.
- The area to receive resilient flooring materials and adhesives should be maintained between 45°F (7°C) and 120°F (49°C) for 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation. Maintain minimum temperatures of 32°F (7°C) and 160°F (71°C) thereafter.
- Radiant heated substrates must not exceed a maximum surface temperature of 85°F (29°C).
- The subfloor panels must have a smooth, sanded face and show no swelling of edges or surface due to exposure to weather conditions or construction traffic.
- There are numerous products available for use as floor fills, patches, self-leveling underlayments, and trowelable underlayments. They include proprietary blends of compounds such as Portland cement, calcium aluminates, and gypsum-based products. These are recommended by their manufacturers for smoothing rough or uneven subfloors, enhancing acoustical and fire characteristics of structures or as substrates to receive floor covering for otherwise unsuitable subfloor conditions. If the subfloor surface appears to be dusty then apply a primer to the surface.

Installation Preparation:

Remove baseboard, quarter-round moldings, wall base, appliances and furniture from room. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.

Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. The end joints of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 6” apart. Do not install over expansion joints.

Determine which direction the plank will run. Find the center of each of the end walls (the walls perpendicular to the long dimension of the planks) and place a pencil mark on the floor. Connect these points by striking a chalk line down the center of the room. Do a dry layout of planks from the center line to the wall running parallel to the long direction of the planks to determine the width of the last row of planks (refer to Fig. 1).

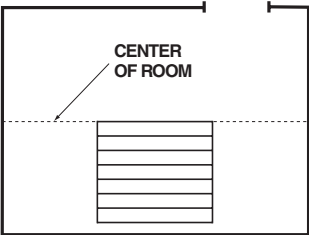


Fig. 1 – Dry layout to determine width of border plank.

Avoid having border pieces less than half with width of the planks. If you find the border planks will be less than 1/2 the width of the plank, the center starting line should be shifted a distance equal to 1/2 the plank width. This will "balance" the room and provide for a larger cut piece at the wall.

Note: The subfloor must be thoroughly free from dust and debris. If the subfloor is dusty this may affect the product performance.

Note: Stagger end joints by 6", cut pieces at ends of row should be 8" or longer for planks.

For ease of installation, follow the steps below. Refer to the appropriate adhesive procedure below before installing any planks:

Roll the planks gently into a cylinder so that the backing is facing out. This will allow you to keep the edges straight on your starting line and butt up tight to planks in adjacent rows (Fig. 2). To begin the first row, place the edge of the plank on the starting line (avoid applying pressure) (Fig. 3). Carefully unroll the plank along the starting line, ensuring that it is tight on the line (Fig. 4). Continue to unroll the plank until you reach the end, pulling the plank towards you. **DO NOT APPLY PRESSURE UNTIL THE PLANK IS SEATED PROPERLY** (Fig. 5). Continue these steps as you build your remaining rows.

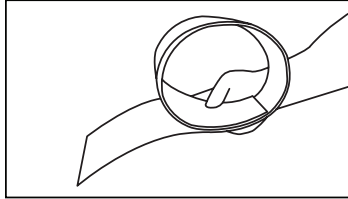


Fig. 2

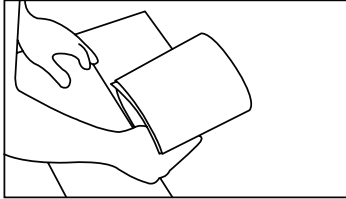


Fig. 3

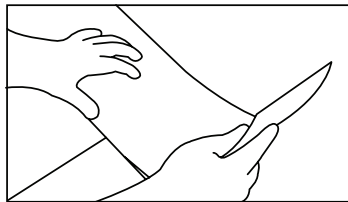


Fig. 4

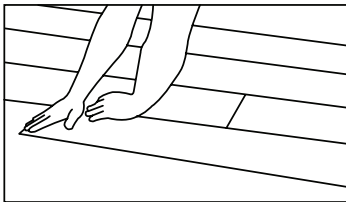


Fig. 5

PROCEDURE – Bruce Tufflink or similar adhesive:

1. Apply Bruce Tufflink Flooring Adhesive or similar product at the starting area, ensuring the area can be covered within the working time of the adhesive. Be sure not to apply adhesive too far ahead of your work area. It is important to use the correct trowel notching. Inspect and replace worn trowels frequently. Follow adhesive open time and working time recommendations on the adhesive label.

2. Allow enough time for the adhesive to dry until tacky with no transfer to the finger (dry to-touch) before placing the material into it. This normally takes 30 minutes or more, depending on temperature and humidity. After the adhesive has reached this condition, there is at least one hour working time in which to install and roll the flooring.

NOTE: Allowing proper open time will help to minimize knee marks, roller marks and trapped blisters. The amount of open time will vary according to job conditions— temperature, humidity, air flow and type of substrate.

3. Install the plank as recommended above, carefully aligning each plank with the chalk lines or adjacent row.

4. **Roll Thoroughly.** Starting at the center and working toward the edges, roll in two directions using 100 lb. roller. Use a hand roller in confined areas where the large floor roller will not reach, such as under toe kicks. Give special attention to cleaning adhesive residue from the joint areas. Clean excess adhesive from the surface of the flooring using a clean, white cloth dampened with detergent and water. Mineral spirits will remove dried adhesive residue.

5. The planks may be walked on immediately; however, the floor should not be exposed to heavy rolling load traffic for 72 hours after the installation. Use pieces of hardboard or underlayment panels to protect the floor when moving heavy furniture and appliances back into the room.

PROCEDURE – Bruce Apex Pro or similar adhesive:

1. Apply Bruce Apex Pro Adhesive or similar product at the starting area, ensuring this area can be covered within the working time of the adhesive. Be sure not to apply adhesive too far ahead of your work area.

It is important to use the correct trowel notching. Inspect and replace worn trowels frequently. Follow adhesive open time and working time recommendations on the adhesive label.

2. Install the flooring into the wet adhesive after 10-20 minutes of open time. After this time, there is approximately 45 minutes working time in which to install and roll the flooring. Install the plank as recommended above, carefully aligning each plank with the chalk lines or adjacent row.

NOTE: Allowing proper open time will help to minimize knee marks, roller marks and trapped blisters. The amount of open time will vary according to job conditions— temperature, humidity, air flow and type of substrate.

3. **Roll Thoroughly.** Starting at the center and working toward the edges, roll in two directions using 100 lb. roller. Use a hand roller in confined areas where the large floor roller will not reach, such as under toe kicks. Give special attention to cleaning adhesive residue from the joint areas. Clean excess adhesive from the surface of the flooring using a clean, white cloth dampened with detergent and water. Mineral spirits will remove dried adhesive residue.

4. The planks may be walked on immediately; however, the floor should not be exposed to heavy rolling load traffic for 8 hours after the installation. Use pieces of hardboard or underlayment panels to protect the floor when moving heavy furniture and appliances back into the room.

Safety and Clean Up:

- Wet adhesive overspray or drips should be cleaned up immediately with soap and water on a clean cloth. Dried adhesive may be removed with mineral spirits and a clean white cotton cloth.

Precautions for All Installation Methods:

- When moving appliances or heavy furniture, lay a plywood panel on the floor and "walk" the item across it. This protects the floor from scuffing and tears.
- Use floor protectors on furniture to reduce indentation. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector needed.