



## **Installation and Maintenance Instructions**

# **RUBBER FLOORING**

### **(Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring)**

#### **NOTICE TO INSTALLER**

THIS BROCHURE CONTAINS IMPORTANT INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE INFORMATION, AS WELL AS CAUTIONS AND WARNINGS. PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE FLOOR OWNER. OUR WARRANTY WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE ONLY IF THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE FOLLOWED IN EVERY RESPECT. VPI'S EXCLUSIVE WARRANTY LIMITS VPI'S LIABILITY TO REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, OR CREDIT, AT VPI'S OPTION, ON VPI FLOOR PRODUCTS FOR WHICH A CLAIM HAS BEEN MADE ACCORDING TO VPI'S CLAIM PROCEDURE. CLAIMS FOR SURFACE DEFECTS OR VARIATIONS IN COLOR OR PATTERN MUST BE MADE TO VPI PRIOR TO INSTALLATIONS OF THE MATERIAL. FOR A COMPLETE STATEMENT OF VPI'S EXCLUSIVE WARRANTY, CONTACT: VPI, LLC CUSTOMER SERVICE, P.O. BOX 451, SHEBOYGAN, WI 53082-0451.

#### **GENERAL**

**IMPORTANT.** Before proceeding with installation, ensure that proper floor preparation is completed and that installer is familiar with VPI Floor Preparation and Installation procedures. See Rubber Products Floor Preparation document for further directions.

VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber **Flooring** and **Adhesive** should be stored on the job site 48 hours prior to the start of the installation. Ambient temperature and product temperature should be maintained at 70° F for 48 hours prior to, during, and 48 hours after the installation. VPI does not recommend nor warranty any installation over existing resilient materials. All resilient materials must be removed prior to installation of VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring.

VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring can be heat or chemical welded at the seams. Make sure the adhesive has thoroughly set before the welding process begins.

VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring should be rolled with the finished surface exposed. If any cuts are made and the rolls need to be re-rolled, make sure the cuts are rolled with the top surface exposed.

VPI adhesive must be used with VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring and the use of any other adhesive will void VPI's limited warranty. Report any defects in VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring or installation concerns to VPI prior to starting.

#### **INSTALLATION**

When installing VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring, we suggest dry fitting the entire room to ensure desired visual requirements. It is critical to use the specified trowel and roller. This will avoid excessive adhesive consumption, adhesive seepage at the seams, and shifting and height variance of the rolls. Worn trowels should be re-notched or replaced.

#### **CONCRETE, TERRAZZO, CERAMIC**

Subfloors must be structurally sound, dry, clean, and free of dirt, dust, wax, grease, paint, polish, oil, curing compounds, sealers, and all other materials that would interfere with good bonding action. Floor surface must be smooth and flat with a maximum variation of 1/8" in 10 feet. All cracks, depressions, and other imperfections must be repaired with a high quality, cementitious underlayment. Gypsum-based underlayment products should not be used. Any uncorrected sub-floor irregularities may telegraph through the VPI flooring and be visible on the surface of the finished installation.

VPI recommends that new concrete slabs on or below grade be poured over a permanent moisture barrier such as a 6-mil polyethylene film. Any concrete in contact with earth or with less than 18" of cross-ventilated air space under it is considered to be on grade.

New concrete must be properly cured. A drying time of 3 months is generally required after slab is poured and protected from the weather. Lightweight aggregate concrete floors, floors with steel or plastic pan construction, and floors poured over a permanent moisture barrier usually require an extended drying time. If lightweight aggregate concrete weighs less than 90 lbs. per cubic foot, a topping of regular concrete at least 1" thick is required. To expedite drying time, adequate heat and ventilation should be provided.

VPI's warranty does not cover failure due to moisture emission from subfloor. Concrete sub floors should be tested for the presence of excessive moisture or alkali. Moisture test results must not exceed 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet at 24 hours. Contractors can obtain moisture test units from VPI. The pH should be between 5 and 8 pH. Conduct one pH test for every 1,000 square feet throughout the area. Levels should not exceed 8 pH. If higher than 8 pH, neutralize the slab with one part of muriatic acid and nine parts of water. Flood the concrete with this solution and allow it to remain at least one hour before rinsing with clear water. Allow the floor to dry and retest for pH levels and repeat as necessary to achieve the desired pH level. Follow all safety regulations when using this solution.

If concrete surface is exceptionally smooth, it should be acid etched with a 15% solution of muriatic acid/water before installing flooring. Neutralize concrete after etching by rinsing with clear water to which a few ounces of ammonia have been added.

Terrazzo floors may have a sealer or film on the surface. This must be removed before proceeding with the installation

Ceramic tile must be solidly adhered. Any loose tile must be removed. Clean existing ceramic tile using the 15% muriatic acid solution as directed above. After floor has dried, apply a thin rich coat of Portland cement underlayment with a liquid latex binder to achieve a smooth surface.

Tile may be installed on radiant-heated floors, provided surface temperature does not exceed 90° F. If radiant-heated floors have cooled after installation, it is recommended to gradually increase the temperature to prevent adhesive bond from being adversely affected. Caution: Rubber flooring acts as an insulator and will act as a heat barrier.

### **TERRAZZO, CERAMIC**

These types of surfaces create potential installation problems due to the glazed or polished surface. These may also have a sealer or wax applied to them. Remove all glaze or polished finish, any waxes, sealers by sanding or other acceptable means. The surface must be free of dirt, debris or any extraneous material that will prevent proper adhesion of the tread to the surface. All cracks, depressions, and other imperfections must be repaired with a high quality, cementitious underlayment. Gypsum-based underlayment products should not be used. Any uncorrected sub floor irregularities may telegraph through the VPI flooring and be visible on the surface of the finished installation. Make sure the underlayment is thoroughly dry before proceeding with the installation.

### **METAL**

These surfaces must be smooth, dry, clean and free from dust, paint, asphalt, old adhesives, grease, oil, rust and any other extraneous materials. Level all surface irregularities with a Portland cement/liquid latex underlayment. Metal surfaces should be lightly sanded or sand blasted for better adhesion.

### **ADHESIVES**

Caution: As with all installations the proper use of adhesive is important for a successful installation. VPI 230SF Solvent-Free Polyurethane Adhesive is the recommended adhesive for VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring.

**VPI No. 230SF Polyurethane** is a 2-part solvent-free adhesive designed for use where high performance is required.

### **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Measure the area and determine the required amount of VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring that will need to be cut from the rolls. Cut the drops long enough to leave approximately 2 to 3 inches of material that will run up the wall at each end.
2. As the drops are laid down on the subfloor, make sure the distance between the pieces against the walls is equal on both sides
3. Place the first drop against the wall and scribe the wall line onto this drop about ½".

4. Trim the excess material from the scribed line with a sharp hooked knife.
5. Place the scribed side of the roll against the wall, trim ½ inch from the opposite (salvage) edge of the roll using an edge trimmer or sharp knife and a straight edge.
6. Cut the next length and position the edge of this length over the wall piece approximately ½-1” at the seam and trim off ½” from the salvage edge.
7. Repeat this procedure for each drop until there is enough material to install in a day. Make sure if the drops are going to be re-rolled that the surface shows on the lengths that are re-rolled.
8. Snap a blue chalk line where the adhesive is to be spread.
9. Spread the adhesive on the first length of material making sure not to spread adhesive beyond the chalk line. Set the flooring into the wet adhesive.
10. Roll the width of the material with a 150-lb. sectional roller and then cross roll the length, rolling the material in such a way as not to trap air bubbles.
11. Repeat steps 8, 9 and 10.
12. After rolling the second length, scribe the overlap material at the walls and trim with a sharp knife and roll into the adhesive with a hand roller.
13. Repeat these steps for the remainder of the installation.
14. Allow the adhesive to fully cure before proceeding with the welding process.

## **WELDING PROCESS**

### **HEAT WELDING**

1. After the adhesive has fully cured, set the depth of the mechanical router to approximately 2/3 of the material thickness and rout out a piece of scrap material to determine the correct depth of cut. Adjust the cut depth as needed. Where the router can't reach, use a hand-grooving tool making sure the depth and width of cut is consistent with the router cut.
2. Remove all dust and debris from the entire floor making sure the grooves are completely free of dust and debris.
3. Using a variable heat-welding gun, preheat the gun. Taking scraps of material that are grooved, practice welding to achieve the desired weld by adjusting the heat on the welding gun.
4. Cut a length of VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring Welding Rod sufficient to cover the length plus approximately 12 extra inches.
5. Starting at the wall proceed to weld the seam. Slight pressure can be applied to the gun to help force the heated rod into the groove. Move at a consistent welding speed to affect a solid weld between the drops.
6. Allow the welding rod to completely cool before trimming.
7. To help in the trimming off the excess rod, mix 1 part liquid soap to 10 parts water and apply this mixture about 1” on either side of the welding rod.
8. Take a freshly sharpened crescent knife and a trim plate, trim off the excess welding rod. The finishing cut should be done using only the crescent knife.
9. Clean the entire area with a vacuum or broom. Keep all traffic off until rods have cooled and protect floor from traffic.

### **CHEMICAL WELDING**

1. Measure the area and determine the required amount of VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring that will need to be cut from the rolls. Cut the drops long enough to leave approximately 2-3” of material that will run up the wall at each end.
2. As the drops are laid down on the subfloor, make sure the distance between the pieces against the walls is equal on both sides.
3. As these drops are positioned on the subfloor, make sure there is at least ½” overlap on each side to allow for double cutting of the length-wise seams.
4. Place the first drop against the wall and scribe the wall line onto this drop about ½ inch.
5. Trim the excess material from the scribed line with a sharp hooked knife.
6. Position this scribed place against the wall and mark the opposite edge with a blue chalk line.
7. Spread the adhesive in this area ensuring no adhesive is spread beyond the chalk line.
8. Install the first drop of VPI Decorative Rolled Rubber Flooring into the wet adhesive by rolling the material in such a way as not to trap air bubbles.
9. Lay the second drop over the first one leaving an overlap of at least inch of material.
10. Use a straight edge and a sharp knife to trim both edges by holding the knife vertical and trim through both surfaces.
11. Remove the salvage cuts from both pieces.
12. Carefully folding the second drop length wise, spread adhesive onto the subfloor.
13. Clean the adhesive off of the subfloor approximately 1/8” back from the edge of the first drop with a spatula or knife.
14. With a chemical weld applicator, apply a bead of chemical sealer to the edge of the first drop and the subfloor.
15. Roll the second drop into the adhesive making sure the edges are coated with the seam sealer.

16. Clean excess sealer that may have squeezed up using water and a damp cloth. Do not allow sealer to dry before removing. Hand-roll seams.
17. Roll the second half of the drop back and spread the adhesive. Follow this by rolling the material back into adhesive.
18. Roll the installation with a 150 lb. sectional roller. Clean any seam sealer that may ooze at the seams.
19. To hold the cross seams in place until the adhesive has set, apply 4” masking tape to seams and allow in place for 24 hours or until the adhesive has set.
20. Repeat this procedure until the area is completely installed.

## **MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES**

### **INITIAL MAINTENANCE**

- After the adhesive has fully cured, clean the floor by using a solution of 8 ounces of VPI Rubber Floor Stripper with 1 gallon of warm water.
- Mop this solution evenly across the floor but take care not to flood the floor. Wait 5 to 10 minutes with this solution on the floor before scrubbing. Machine scrub this solution using a 175 to 350 RPM (low speed) machine with a red pad.
- Remove this solution and residue with a mop or wet vacuum.
- Mop on a clear, cold-water rinse and remove with a wet vacuum or mop.
- Allow the floor to dry thoroughly.
- For a Satin finish, dry buff the entire floor with a medium or white pad.
- For a Glossy finish, apply 2 coats of VPI Rubber Floor Conditioner with a waxing mop. Allow the first coat to thoroughly dry before applying a second cross coat.
- If needed, buff to reduce streaking.

### **ROUTINE MAINTENANCE**

These steps are completed based on soiling conditions of the flooring and usage.

- Remove surface dirt by sweeping or vacuuming or wet mopping.
- Excessive debris can be removed by wet mopping with VPI Rubber Floor Neutral Cleaner.
- For floors that are soiled, use a red pad on a slow speed machine and VPI Rubber Floor Neutral Cleaner and water.
- Vacuum or damp mop any residue and allow the floor to dry.
- For a Satin finish, dry buff the entire floor with a medium or white pad.
- For a Glossy finish, apply VPI Rubber Floor Conditioner in 2 coats.
- Spray buffing can be done as well using VPI Rubber Floor Spray Buff and a 350-RPM machine with a white buffing pad or buffing brush.
- If the floor needs a thorough cleaning, refer to the initial maintenance procedures.

Any questions about surface preparation, sub floor conditions or general installation questions or maintenance not covered in these instructions, please contact VPI.



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