



Allied Tile Corp
www.alliedtile.com

GENERAL HANDLING INFORMATION AND SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

Delivery, Storage, and Handling

1. Allied Tile flooring materials should not be delivered to the job site until all other work is completed.
2. Flooring and adhesive should be stored at room temperature between 68° F- 72°F.
3. Installation area should be maintained at no less than 68° or more than 72°F for 48 hours prior to installation until at least 24 hours after completion.
4. Installation should take place with job site at room temperature between 68°F- 72°F.
5. Lay tile and plank boxes flat.
6. The installer must check to make sure the tile and adhesive are correct before installation. If tile is incorrect or a defect is detected, the installer should contact the supplier immediately.
7. Loose lay tile in the room prior to spreading adhesive to check appearance and install pattern.

Application

All Allied Tile products can be used for commercial and residential use. Allied No 1 Acrylic Adhesive is required in order to support the warranty. Detailed installation instructions are listed in the Installation Procedures, which, are located at www.alliedtile.com
We recommend a sealer and/or finish be applied after installation for easy maintenance.

Samples

Samples are cut from stock tiles and pattern may vary depending on pattern and size of sample. Samples may vary from actual production run. Colors on website vary by monitor and colors shown in brochures are only as accurate as printing process.

Subfloor Preparation

1. The flooring installer must be sure the subfloor is properly prepared before installation. Poor subfloor preparation could result in eventually telegraphing through the Allied Tile causing visible imperfections. Allied LVT Tile and planks are suitable for surfaces on, above or below grade.
2. Remove existing flooring – All previous adhesive must be removed as well as grease, wax, foreign matter and old cutback adhesive. If old adhesive still remains after scraping, it must be covered with Portland based cement or synthetic gypsum.
3. Curing- concrete must be fully cured, smooth, level, dry, clean, and structurally sound. New concrete must be cured at least 28 days per inch of concrete. Moisture content of the slab should be 16% or lower.

Etching and coarse sanding may be required to obtain adequate adhesion. A weak upper layer, cracks, expansion joints, holes and rough spots must be repaired with a non-asphalt, moisture insensitive, patching compound or latex skim coat.

4. Moisture- check for moisture problems. The slab must be allowed to cure 30-60 days and heat and ventilation must be provided. Then the flooring contractor can perform a moisture test to check for moisture still retained in the concrete. Prior to moisture or ph testing, make sure you follow the current ASTM standards. The ASTM standards are available online.

Moisture Test- A simple moisture test can be performed. Sprinkle ½ teaspoon of dry calcium chloride in the center of ½" thick ring of putty. Press a small piece of glass over the putty so as to exclude the outside air from the calcium chloride. The ring should be at approximately 3" in diameter. If there is moisture present in the concrete, the calcium chloride will be dissolved and will show water spots which can be observed through the glass cover. This would indicate that it is unsuitable to install the flooring. If the calcium chloride is white and dry after eight hours, it is suitable to proceed with the installation. An alternative method is to open a plastic trash bag to 30" x 30", tape it to the concrete securing edges. Leave in place for 36 hours, and then check for moisture. If the plastic bag is dry underneath, the concrete moisture level is acceptable to receive the flooring.

Excessive moisture and/or high ph on any subfloor, notably concrete, can cause product and adhesive failure. The maximum allowable moisture emission rate from the subfloor is 8.0 pounds, as tested according to ASTM F-1869. The required ph rate must be between 7.0-10.0 as tested according to ASTM F-2170. Please make sure when conducting these tests that the spaces HVAC system is fully functioning 24/7 for two weeks prior to installation so the temperature and relative humidity have acclimated to the space.

Note: a positive moisture test still does not fully preclude a moisture or alkali problem. No floor covering contractor can guarantee against moisture problems, they have no way of knowing whether or not capillary action or hydrostatic pressure will occur, thus are not liable for unsatisfactory installations resulting from a moisture problem even when the above directions are followed properly.

5. Underlayment Leveling Compounds-to repair uneven or damaged surfaces of the subfloor an underlayment leveling compound may be used. Proper adhesion of the underlayment compound to the subfloor is as important as using the correct type of compound. To ensure long term performance of the floor, a flooring contractor must determine the proper underlayment compound to be used.

6. Recommended Underlayment Panels - Structurwood, MultiPLY and APA underlayment grade plywood with a minimum thickness of 1/4" is preferred. .

7. NOT Recommended Subfloors- Luan, particle board, chip board, flake board fiber board, Masonite and black felt tar paper.

8. Existing Subfloors- must be sound with nail holes filled in, surface must be smooth and level, sanding may be necessary. Badly warped or springy floors must be reinforced by covering with a minimum of ½" exterior grade plywood or other recommended subfloor material.

9. Painted Concrete Subfloors- all paint, oil, grease and wax must be completely removed prior to applying an underlayment compound or installing tile.

10. Existing Tile or Concrete- ASTM F710 standard practices methods of preparing concrete floors to receive resilient flooring must be followed. Portland cement or synthetic gypsum leveler should be used to cover any irregularities in seams, cracks and indentations. Allied Tile does not recommend plaster, calcium sulfate or gypsum based patching or leveling compound materials. These compounds can promote mildew growth, hold in moisture, poor bonding that affects adhesive and have low indentation resistance.

Old flooring must be smooth (not embossed or cushioned) and firmly bonded to the floor. All traces of wax or floor finish must be entirely removed from the surface to be covered. This should be done by a thorough scrubbing using a wax remover together with an abrasive scouring powder. Damaged areas must be replaced or repaired. Damp mop and allow drying. A latex skim coat will help to act as a moisture barrier.

11. Existing Tile on Suspended Wood Subfloors- follow all instructions in section 10, however instead of applying a skim coat over existing flooring, cover with white felt base paper before installing Allied Tile flooring.

12. Existing Vinyl Asbestos and Asphalt Tile- NEVER install Allied Tile DIRECTLY over these products. White felt lining paper must be installed covering these products before Allied Tile can be properly installed.

Cautionary Safety Warning- NEVER sand or dry scrapes existing resilient flooring, lining felt or cutback adhesive. These products may contain asbestos particles. Installation of new flooring over existing asbestos flooring is considered preferable to removal. The removal of asbestos flooring could cause asbestos to be released into the atmosphere and if inhaled could cause medical problems. When removal cannot be avoided, please follow all proper procedures and safety precautions in the *Resilient Floor Covering Institute Guidelines*.

13. Double Wood Floors and Plywood- Allied Tile flooring may be installed directly over these floors providing they are smooth and level.

14. Floors with Radiant Heating- Allied Tile flooring may be installed over floors with radiant heating providing the floor temperature does not exceed 80°F. Allied recommends an epoxy adhesive for this installation. The heating system should be turned off for 48 hours prior to installation and must not be turned back on for 48 hours after installation is completed. Then turn up the thermostat gradually to normal operating temperature. If the floor temperature exceeds 80°F, the tile will discolor and distort after a period of time. Allied will not be responsible for damages under these circumstances. Please check with Allied Tile Corp. before installation for special installation instructions.

15. Existing Terrazzo, Quarry or Ceramic Tile- old tile flooring must be firm, smooth, and dry. Remove all dirt, floor finishes, and soapy films. Fill and level with compound which will not break down.