



Allied Tile Manufacturing Corp.
residential and commercial floor tile solutions

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Subfloor Preparation

1. Curing -concrete must be fully cured, smooth, level, dry, clean and structurally sound. New concrete must be cured at least 28 days. 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.

2. 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.

Moisture Test -A simple moisture test can be performed. Sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon of dry calcium chloride in the center of 1/2" 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 the edges. Leave in place for 36 hours, then check for moisture. If the plastic bag is dry underneath, the concrete moisture level is acceptable to receive the flooring.

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.

3. 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.

4. Recommended Subfloors -1/2" Lauan and exterior grade plywood which have been treated for moisture resistance are all recommended for use as a subfloor.

5. NOT Recommended Subfloors -particle board, chipboard, fiber board, black felt tar paper and Masonite.

6. Existing Subfloors -must be sound with nails 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 1/2" exterior grade plywood or other recommended sub- floor material.

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

8. Existing Tile on Concrete -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 to dry. A latex skim coat will help to act as a moisture barrier.

9. Existing Tile on Suspended Wood Subfloors -follow all instructions in section 8, however instead of applying a skim coat over existing flooring, cover with white felt base paper before installing Allied Tile flooring.

10. 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 scrape 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*.

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

12. Floors with Radiant Heating -Allied Tile flooring may be installed over floors with radiant heating providing the floor temperature does not exceed 80°F, however an epoxy adhesive must be used 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 Mfg. Corp. before installation for special installation instructions.

13. 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.