

VENETIAN STYLE FLOORING Basic Installation INSTRUCTIONS (8-06-10)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

These basic installation instructions are intended to familiarize the reader with the major concepts to consider when installing Venetian Style Flooring. Venetian Style Flooring is laid in the same manner as most vinyl tiles. When laying Venetian Style Flooring, follow conventional procedures for installing other resilient tile. Remember that substrate surfaces must be properly assessed and prepared prior to applying underlayments, adhesives and the tile. Always lay Venetian Style Flooring in accordance with adhesive directions. Follow all recommendations for notch sizes, cure times and rolling as outlined on product package instructions.

PROJECT CONDITIONS:

Venetian Style Flooring can be successfully installed indoors ONLY on top of substrates and subflooring that are sound. Do not install Venetian Style Flooring over unstable substrates such as particleboard, mahogany or gypsum underlayments. If the subfloor is in need of repair, use panels warranted for use as underlayment by the manufacturer, fastened, as manufacturer requires, or Manufacturer Supplied pozzolanic underlayments. **The Installation environment and the tile must be allowed to condition at 70°F ambient or higher, for at least 48 hours prior to installation.** Maintain this temperature during and after installing the tiles.

ACCLIMATING VENETIAN STYLE FLOORING: Venetian Style Flooring must be acclimated to a minimum of 70°F prior to installing. Venetian Style Flooring is packaged in the carton face-to-face and back-to-back. As a result of packaging and/or colder temperatures, the tiles may not be flat when removed from the carton. Do not attempt to work with tile that is not reasonably flat. It is highly recommended that prior to the installation the tiles be delivered and removed from the cartons and squarely stacked upside down for a minimum of 24 hours or until they are 70°F and flat.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION:

Substrates must be free of all curing compounds, dust and dirt, waxes, sealers, adhesives and any other leftover residues that will prevent the underlayments or adhesives from properly bonding. **OLD ADHESIVES AND SEALERS MUST BE COMPLETELY REMOVED.** All surfaces must be continuous in appearance color; failure to achieve this condition may result in substrate color irregularities unacceptably being visible in the tiles laid. Substrates must be flat within 1/8 of an inch in 10 feet in all directions. With substrates that have been chemically prepared, pH levels must be neutralized, and the substrate must be washed clean and allowed to dry. For information on applying cementitious underlayments, reference the following Manufacturer Supplied product bulletins:

- Manufacturer Supplied Acrylic Primer
- Manufacturer Supplied Fast Trac Self-Leveling Underlayment
- Manufacturer Supplied Fast Setting Underlayment
- Manufacturer Supplied Rapid Setting Underlayment
- Manufacturer Supplied Skim-Coating Underlayment

CONCRETE SUBSTRATES AT ALL GRADE LEVELS:

MOISTURE TESTING: **ALWAYS** test concrete substrates for moisture. Proper moisture testing is the most important step for successfully installing Venetian Style Flooring over a concrete surface. All readings must indicate a dry subfloor if Venetian Style Flooring is to be installed. It is required to use an Anhydrous Calcium Chloride 60-72 hour test kit for our warranty to be effective. Complete instructions are available in ASTM F-1869 or inside the concrete moisture emission test kit. The calcium chloride test kit is the single acceptable method for verifying the rate of moisture vapor emissions of concrete substrates.

Note: Power troweled concrete surfaces reduce vapor transmission and water absorption, which may affect test results and alter adhesive and underlayment curing times and rates of coverage. Conversely, extremely porous and/or dry substrates may need damp-mopping to retard the absorption of adhesives and/or underlayment wetting agents. Coarse substrates will reduce coverage rates of adhesives. Remove projection irregularities by chipping or grinding smooth. Fill depressions and level uneven surfaces with Manufacturer Supplied underlayments – refer to specific underlayment bulletins for proper selection, purpose and method. Do not bridge concrete cold joints with Venetian Style Flooring or Manufacturer Supplied underlayments as movement of these joints will telepath visibly and destructively through the tile and/or displace underlayments. Structural concrete joints must come completely up though the installation so that the purpose of these joints is not defeated. Apply Manufacturer Supplied underlayments to all surface cracks and concrete control saw cuts and feather smoothly. Use only Manufacturer Supplied Brand Poz-Patch I, II or III underlayments for smoothing, use Manufacturer Supplied F-10 for self leveling. Do not spread the adhesive until underlayments are completely dry.

wood floors:

Double construction floors with underlayment quality panels must be sanded with joints filled smoothly. Single construction or warped floors must be stabilized with underlayment grade plywood and finished as described previously. Use Manufacturer Supplied Poz-Patch II or Poz-Patch III underlayments for smoothing, leveling or feather edging.

CUTTING VENETIAN STYLE FLOORING: Venetian Style Flooring can be cut to a raw edge with a guillotine cam/lever tile cutter, tungsten/carbide, grit edge saber saw blade, a diamond edged wet saw or a hand held 2"- 4" power grinder tool. When cutting tiles to be laid within the field of the installation, the use of a wet saw for straight cuts is recommended. Venetian Style Flooring is a product that is shaped at the factory by grinding processes that with some tiles leaves a slightly thinner tile edge than the body of the tile. Determine if it would be better to lay wet saw cuts against wet saw cuts as opposed to wet saw cuts against factory edges.

ADHESIVE APPLICATION: Apply adhesives in accordance with directions as stated on the product package labels. Follow all recommendations on notch sizes and cure times as printed on the labels. Failing to do so will inhibit the tile from bonding properly and performing as specified. All installations require the use of Manufacturer Supplied FA -88 or FA-1100MP adhesive. For residential applications and over steel, Manufacturer Supplied FA-1100MP adhesive may be used. Manufacturer Supplied FA-1100MP adhesive is limited to concrete moisture emission levels of 3-pounds or less while Manufacturer Supplied FA -88 is limited to 10-pounds or less. Once the installation is laid, the adhesive must dry for at least 12 hours before the floor can be exposed to water or cleaning products. For information on applying Manufacturer Supplied adhesives, refer to bulletins on FA-1100MP and FA-88. Do not use these adhesives for wall applications of Venetian Style Flooring. Use a white acrylic-based ceramic tile multi/purpose or acrylic cove base adhesive for wall applications.

LAYING VENETIAN STYLE FLOORING: Venetian Style Flooring is laid in a butt joint, tile-to-tile method. It is important to be aware that Venetian Style Flooring is 11.92 inches square while marking layout lines. As an example, 25 tiles laid in one row equal a covered distance of 24 feet and 10 inches – it does not cover 25 lineal feet. Determine the starting point of the installation and mark layout lines so that greater than one half (1/2) of a full tile meets the walls, and design elements or patterns are on their marks. To lay Venetian Style Flooring, place each tile firmly into position. Butt each tile cleanly, evenly and snugly against adjacent tile. Remove adhesive smears as they occur. Once the tiles are set into the adhesive, roll the floor with a 150-pound roller, as per manufacturer's requirements. The tile must be rolled in a direction diagonal to the run of the tiles. Continue rolling the floor until the adhesive has set and complete bonding of the tile and adhesive has occurred. This bonding is necessary for proper adherence. Failure to roll the floor properly could result in adhesive bond failure or high tile edges or high corners in the finished installation. Always lift the roller onto the new installation - do not roll the roller onto it. Restrict foot traffic for 24 hours.

PERIMETER PROTECTION: Seal all exposed perimeters and areas where tile edges terminate at upright structures with silicone to avoid the chance of maintenance solutions from staining the natural Marble or Granite chips .

PRECAUTIONS AND CARE AFTER INSTALLATION: Adhesives must cure at least 12 hours before a new floor is exposed to water or cleaning materials. After the adhesive has cured Venetian Style Flooring MUST be topcoated with sealers and polishes. For commercial installations, Venetian Style Flooring must receive two (2) coats of Manufacturer Supplied Floor Sealer and two (2) coats of Manufacturer Supplied Duro-Gloss. DO NOT USE MANUFACTURER SUPPLIED FLOOR SEALER FOR RESIDENTIAL INSTALLATIONS. Using a non-linting rayon string mop, apply two (2) coats of each product with the first coat in an east/west direction, followed by the second coat in a north/south direction, allowing sufficient drying times between coatings. Additional sacrificial coatings of Manufacturer Supplied Duro-Gloss should be applied within 30 days or as the gloss level or traffic pattern requires. Note: Installations restricted to residential areas require three (3) coats of Manufacturer Supplied Duro-Gloss at the time of installation. For further information on maintaining Venetian Style Flooring, reference product bulletins for Manufacturer Supplied Duro-Gloss, Manufacturer Supplied Floor Sealer, Manufacturer Supplied Stripper and Manufacturer Supplied Neutral Cleaner.

Procedures for Sealing and Maintaining Venetian Style Flooring

NEW INSTALLATIONS:

Venetian Style Flooring is factory sealed and should NEVER be stripped or flooded immediately after installation. Never apply strong acids, alkaline cleansers or wax to a Venetian Style Flooring installation. These materials cause yellowing of the tile and will result in the tile requiring additional maintenance. Hard plastic casters and seating furniture designed for carpets will also cause damage to Venetian Style Flooring's surface. Use rubber casters with steel bearings or plastic floor mats around desk areas. Venetian Style Flooring contains real marble or granite chips set in a flexible thermoset resin matrix. Each Venetian Style Flooring is coated with a factory sealed finish that should never be removed. This finish protects the tile surface during installation and allows the rock colors to be best appreciated. Once the installation is laid, the adhesive must be allowed to dry for a minimum time of 12 hours before the floor can be exposed to water or cleaning products. After the adhesive has had time to properly cure, Venetian Style Flooring MUST be top-coated to help protect the new installation from other construction trades. Failure to perform this procedure immediately will result in an incomplete and unprotected installation that will allow tile joints to become irreparably soiled. Follow these procedures for preparing the floor and applying Venetian Style Flooring cleaners, sealers and finishes:

1. Vacuum and/or dust mop with an untreated non-linting mop to remove all loose dust and dirt.
2. Damp mop using a mixture of two (2) ounces of Manufacturer Supplied All-Purpose Cleaner to one (1) gallon of clean water. Follow all precautions on the product container. Rinse the floor with clear water. Be careful to avoid flooding the new installation. Do not scrub the floor, and do not allow water or dirt to penetrate the tile junctures. Let the floor dry completely. Note: In areas with water containing a high mineral content, using a new non-linting, soft polishing pad on a slow speed buffer may be necessary to remove dried mineral deposits. If this technique must be applied, dust mop afterwards with a non-linting, untreated mop.
3. Once the floor is completely dry, seal exposed perimeters with silicone. The silicone should be applied to create a water barrier protecting the tile edges at the installation perimeters.
4. For commercial (non-residential) installations apply two (2) very thin coats of Manufacturer Supplied Floor Sealer with a clean, non-linting rayon string mop. During application the mop should be full, but not dripping with solution. Apply both coats all the way to the edges of the floor. Do not allow the coating to pool or puddle. Allow the floor to dry completely (at least 45 minutes) between coats. The second coat of Manufacturer Supplied must be applied in a direction perpendicular to the first coat.
5. Apply two (2) **very thin** coats of Manufacturer Supplied Duro-Gloss Floor Finish with a clean non-linting rayon string mop for commercial installations and (3) **very thin** coats for residential installations. Residentially Manufacturer Supplied Duro-Gloss can be applied with edged cheesecloth. Allow each coat to dry before applying the next coat. Manufacturer Supplied Duro-Gloss can be high speed burnished after 48 hours for a "snap-gloss" or can be left as applied for a more subtle gloss.

DAILY MAINTENANCE:

Dust mop the floor daily to remove all loose dirt. Damp mop as needed. When the floor becomes soiled, clean the surface with Manufacturer Supplied All-Purpose Cleaner. Dilute eight (8) ounces of Manufacturer Supplied All-Purpose Cleaner to one (1) gallon of clean potable water. Do not allow any cleaning solutions to dry on the floor. Pick up the solution with a wet vac. Rinse the floor and allow it to dry. To maintain gloss, reapply Manufacturer Supplied Duro-Gloss as needed.

RESTORATION OF EXISTING FLOORS:

Stripping, resealing and refinishing a Venetian Style Flooring floor will occasionally be necessary to maintain the gloss and appearance of the floor.

STRIPPING & REFINISHING:

1. Remove all old finishes from the floor surface using a mixture of eight (8) ounces of Manufacturer Supplied Floor Finish Stripper to one (1) gallon of warm water. Avoid high alkali strippers. Scrub the floor using a suitable stripping pad under a single disc floor machine. Pick up the stripping solution with a wet vac. It is advised that pads and techniques be practiced first in inconspicuous areas to ensure that the procedure does not remove the factory-applied coating. Do not allow solutions to dry on the floor or be left on the floor for more than 15 minutes
2. Rinse the floor three (3) times with clean neutral pH water. This ensures that all of the detergent film has been removed from the tile surface.
3. Follow procedures for sealing and refinishing as explained in PRECAUTIONS AND CARE AFTER INSTALLATION instructions in this document, skipping step 4.

LIMITED WARRANTY:

Venetian Style Flooring is backed by a 20 year limited warranty against wear-through. The limited warranty applies to Venetian Style Flooring that has been installed using Venetian Style Flooring manufacturer's approved support products, in strict conformity with Manufacturer Supplied installation and maintenance instructions. In the event of any such failure of wear-through within the warranty period, Manufacturer Supplied Industries sole obligation is, at its expense, to furnish like or similar Venetian Style Flooring for the replacement of the individual tiles. The user, at his expense, will perform the replacement. The Mat King™ shall not be liable under any circumstances for incidental or consequential damages of any kind whatsoever such as labor, inconvenience or injury. VENETIAN STYLE FLOORING Provides No Warranty of Merchantability or Fitness for a Particular Purpose; user shall determine suitability of this product for its intended use and assumes all risks of its use and handling.

This warranty does not cover:

1. Dissatisfaction due to improper installation, maintenance or misapplication of maintenance materials.
2. Damage from stains, scratches, and scuffs, discoloration caused by tracking residue from other surfaces or any intentional misuse of the product.
3. Problems due to moisture, alkali or hydrostatic pressure in underfloor.
4. Materials installed with obvious visible defects, color variation or shading.
5. Dissatisfaction due to subfloor failure or staining and shading originating from the subfloor or improper maintenance.
6. Premature wear caused by furniture or other mechanical misapplications or heavy rolling loads.
7. Catastrophic occurrences due to weather or fire or flood or geological or terrorist or wartime events.
8. Improper selection or use of adhesives.

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