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FLOOR PREP FOR RESILIENT FLOORING

Never use oils or solvents on the surface or integrally mixed in any concrete intended as a base for adhesive applied resilient flooring.

Additives containing oil, wax or resin will prevent proper bonding of flooring unless the wax or resin film is completely removed by sandblasting, grinding or wire brushing. There is no way to completely remove oil from concrete.

Concrete with density of less than 100 pounds per cubic foot must be covered with a minimum 1" thick topping of standard weight concrete. Lightweight concrete uses relatively large quantities of water and consequently, require a longer drying time than regular concrete.

A concrete slab in contact with the ground without a vapor barrier eventually attains the same moisture content as the soil upon which it lies. A slab that appears dry may contain a considerable amount of moisture from ground contact. Under favorable drying conditions of low humidity and high temperature, concrete slabs will generally be ready for flooring installation in not less than four weeks.

Alkali present in the soil or the concrete will be dissolved by ground moisture in its movement to the slab surface and be deposited at the point of evaporation attacking the adhesive and flooring material. A suitable membrane, such as polyethylene film, applied over a sand or gravel bed under the slab will minimize the occurrence of alkali deposits.

Concrete slabs must be dry, clean and smooth, free from crazing, dusting, spalling or imperfections that will either interfere with proper bonding of the adhesive or telegraph imperfections to the finished flooring. Latex underlayment may be used to correct minor defects and level low spots in the slab.

Concrete slabs previously painted with oil base paint must be sanded to completely remove all paint. Latex base paint in good condition need not be removed. A simple test to determine paint base can be performed by adding two teaspoonfuls of lye to a cup of warm water. Apply two or three teaspoonfuls of the solution to the paint at several locations. Oil base paint will disintegrate within ten minutes. Latex base paint will be unaffected.

Neutralize existing concrete slabs known to have an alkaline condition before installing flooring. Rinse the floor, wash it with a 10% solution of muriatic acid or a 28% solution of acetic acid, rinse again and allow the floor to dry thoroughly. Test the floor with Ph ribbon. Repeat the rinsing and washing process if necessary.

Wood floors should be solid, well nailed at the joists and free from spring. Remove wax, grease, solvent spills, dirt or dust to insure proper adhesive bond.

For application over wood strip flooring, replace or re-nail loose or broken boards and sand the floor to level warped or cupped boards. Better results will be obtained by installing APA underlayment grade plywood or underlayment grade hardboard, a minimum of 1/4" thickness. Apply hardboard with smooth side up.

Install underlayment with cross joints staggered at least 16". Fasten underlayment to the subfloor with ring shank nails spaced 6" o.c. throughout the sheet and 3" o.c. at the edges. Fasteners must penetrate at least 1" into the subfloor.

For installations in areas that may be subjected to excessive moisture, use sanded exterior grade plywood or underlayment grade plywood with plies laminated with exterior glue.

Particle board panels are not recommended as an underlayment for resilient flooring.

Vinyl asbestos tile may be installed over existing resilient flooring that is not a cushioned type if the surface is smooth and the existing flooring is tightly adhered to the subfloor. Consult the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for surface preparation requirements.