AMERICAN ★ GUILD®

American Guild® Premium Vinyl Flooring- The Steadcrest Collection Installation Instructions

General Information

- Resilient flooring installation should be scheduled after all other trades have completed their work.
- All products should be inspected for dye lot, style, color, size, quality and shipping damage prior to installation and should not be installed if any irregularities are observed. Any material installed with visual defects will not be considered a legitimate claim as it pertains to labor cost. Inspect all cartons to be sure all colors are the same shade and all materials at the jobsite match the order.
- All substrates to receive moisture sensitive floor covering require proper moisture testing.
- American Guild® Premium Vinyl Flooring is recommended for use over properly prepared concrete, suspended wood, metal and other suitable substrates.

Jobsite Conditions

- Do not install American Guild® Premium Vinyl Flooring products until the work area can be temperature controlled.
- Controlled environments are crucial. Fully functional HVAC systems are the best way to ensure temperature and humidity control.
- The permanent HVAC system must be operational and functional and set to a minimum of 65°F (20°C) or a maximum of 85°F for a minimum of 7 days prior to, during, and after installation. Once the installation is complete the temperature should not exceed 85°F.
- Flooring, adhesive, and subfloor must be acclimated to a stable condition before installation for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
- After installation, light foot traffic should be minimized for 24 hours; point loads and rolling traffic for 48 hours and should utilize only slightly damp mop cleaning for 7 days if needed.

Asbestos Warning: WARNING! DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES. Previously installed resilient floor covering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesives used to install them may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the previously installed product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication

"Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

Storage and Handling

- Flooring material and adhesive must be acclimated to the installation area for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
- Store cartons of flooring flat and squarely on top of one another, in the most "center" area of the installation away from HVAC vents, direct sunlight or any other condition creating extreme heat or cold.

Subfloor Conditions

- All substrates to receive resilient flooring shall be dry, clean, smooth and structurally sound. They shall be free of dust, dirt, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening/parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation/laitance, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials that may stain or prevent adhesion, smooth, flat, sound, fit for purpose, free of movement, excessive moisture and high alkalinity (ACI 302.1 and ASTM F710).
- Remove existing floor covering, all residual adhesive, paint or other contaminants. The use of adhesive removers, solvents, or ANY TYPE OF CHEMICAL ABATEMENT in the removal of old adhesives is prohibited and will void any warranty.
- The surface shall be flat to 3/16" (3.9mm) in 10 ft. (3050 mm) and 1/32" (0.8 mm) in 1 ft. (305 mm). To check flatness, place a 10 ft. straight edge, string, laser level or use another suitable method on the surface to measure any gap.
- Careful subfloor preparation is vital for an excellent floor appearance and good tile/plank adhesion. The subfloor must be smooth, firm, flat, clean, dry, free from defects, and fit for purpose. A suitable smoothing compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. In all cases, the subfloor must meet the moisture and pH requirements before installation.
- Below and on-grade concrete subfloors must have a suitable vapor retarder properly installed directly beneath the slab.

Concrete Subfloors

- American Guild® suggests referencing the current ASTM F710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring" and ASTM F301
- Concrete subfloors must have a minimum compressive strength of 3000 psi. Concrete subfloors shall not consist of lightweight concrete or gypsum.
- Moisture Testing: Perform either the preferred In-situ Relative Humidity (RH) Test (ASTM F2170) or the acceptable
- Moisture Vapor Emission Rate (MVER) Test (ASTM F1869). For acceptable moisture limits please refer to the specifications of the adhesive of choice.

- Alkalinity: Must test surface alkalinity (ASTM F710). A 7.0 to 9.0 pH is acceptable.
- Perform corrective actions necessary for elevated moisture or high alkalinity conditions.
- Record and document site conditions, test results and any corrective actions taken. This documentation must be available throughout the warranty period.
- Slick surfaces such as power troweled concrete shall be abraded or profiled to allow for a mechanical bond between the adhesive and subfloor.
- For concrete subfloors, use only high quality Portland cement based materials (minimum 3000 psi compressive strength according to ASTM C109). Mix with water only, do not use latex. Caution: Do not lightly skim coat highly polished or slick power troweled concrete surfaces. A thin film of floor patch will not bond to a slick subfloor and may become a bond breaker causing flooring to release at the interface of the subfloor and patching material. If in doubt, perform a bond test prior to commencing with the installation.

Moisture Suppressant System

- Concrete subfloors that exceed adhesive specifications will require a Moisture Suppressant System. Due to complexities associated with moisture vapor transmission, emissions and movement of soluble salts (alkalinity) in concrete subfloors, we do not offer, recommend, or warranty a specific solution for excess moisture in concrete slabs. However, there are many companies that offer solutions with warranties for excess moisture in concrete slabs. Reference the current ASTM F710, “Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring” and ASTM F301 Standard Practice for Two Component Resin Based Membrane Forming Moisture Mitigation Systems for Use Under Resilient Flooring Systems.

Wood Subfloors/Underlayment

- Wood subfloors and underlayment panels shall have the moisture content tested using a suitable wood pin meter. Readings between the wood subfloor and underlayment should be within 3% and have a maximum moisture content of 14% or less.
- Wood subfloors require an underlayment (double layer construction) with a minimum total thickness of 1” (25 mm). Use minimum 1/4” (6 mm) thick APA rated “underlayment grade” plywood with a fully sanded face or other underlayment panel that is appropriate for the intended usage. Install and prepare panels and seams according to the manufacturers’ instructions. Also refer to ASTM F 1482 Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Underlayments to receive Resilient Flooring.
- Many times wood panel subfloors are damaged during the construction process or are not underlayment grade. These panels must be covered with an appropriate underlayment. Underlayment panels are intended to be used to provide a smooth surface on which to adhere the finished floor covering. It should be understood that underlayment panels cannot correct structural deficiencies.
- Panels intended to be used as underlayment should be specifically designed for this purpose. These panels should have a minimum thickness of 1/4” (6mm) any panels selected as an underlayment must

meet the following criteria:

- o Be dimensionally stable
- o Have a smooth, fully sanded face so graining or texture will not telegraph through
- o Be resistant to both static load and impact indentation
- o Be free of any surface components that may cause staining such as plastic fillers, marking inks sealers, etc.
- o Be of uniform density, porosity and thickness
- o Have a written warranty for suitability and performance from the panel manufacturer or have a history of proven performance

- Any unevenness at the joints between panels must be sanded to a level surface.
- Gaps between panels, hammer indentations, and all other surface irregularities must be filled and sanded.
- It must be understood that underlayment panels cannot correct structural deficiencies. Particleboard, chipboard, construction grade plywood, OSB, flake-board and wafer board are not recommended as underlayments. These have inadequate uniformity and poor dimensional stability. In every case, the underlayment manufacturer or underlayment installer is responsible for all underlayment warranties

Installation

- Ensure that all recommendations for subfloor and jobsite conditions are met prior to beginning the installation.
- Refer to adhesive instructions for proper usage, trowel size recommendations and moisture tolerances. Failure to do so risks voiding the warranty.
- Start of flooring installation indicates acceptance of current subfloor conditions and full responsibility for completed work.
- Flooring installation layout shall be specified by the architect, designer or end user.
- Install using conventional tile and plank installation techniques.
- Plank products should have a minimum of 6” seam stagger to achieve a random appearance with the arrows on the back of the plank all pointing in the same direction.
- Tiles should be installed with the arrows on the back running in the same direction (block or staggered), when quarter turned, arrows should alternate.
- Working out of multiple boxes at a time is recommended.
- Center rooms and spaces so borders are not less than half a tile or plank.
- Establish center marks and determine start point to balance installation in room. Dry lay the flooring marking base lines, so that there are equal tile widths on opposite sides of room.

- Create work zones with chalk lines to spread adhesive so it aligns with the established base line. This way the room will be laid out so all flooring can be installed while staying off freshly installed flooring. This minimizes adhesive displacement and adhesive bleed between the flooring.
- Cut edges shall always be against the wall.
- To ensure the cleanest cut, score the top side of the material with a utility knife, bend the product and finish the cut through the backside.
- When all preparatory work is satisfactorily completed, including dry fitting cut tiles (if applicable), proceed with installation.
- Inspect each tile for visual defects before installing. Installation of American Guild® flooring implies acceptance of materials.
- Roll the flooring with a 3 section 100 lb. roller Re-roll the entire glued floor area with the 100 lb. roller within the working time of the adhesive of choice.
- It is recommended to use floor protection after installation. Do not use a plastic adhesive based protection system.
- American Guild® does not warrant installers' workmanship. Workmanship errors should be addressed to the contractor who installed the floor. Your American Guild® floor should be professionally installed by contractors who have demonstrated expertise in installing commercial floors.

Questions regarding the installation of your American Guild® floor, please contact customer service.