

INSTALL RUBBER FLOORING

With so many options available today, resilient rubber is one of the most popular floor coverings for your home or office. Below are the essential things you'll need to know during your rubber flooring installation. For more detailed information on what to do before, during and after your rubber flooring installation, see the full **Installing Rubber Flooring** guide on FindAnyFloor.com.

RUBBER FLOORING INSTALLATION METHODS

Rubber flooring is installed one of four ways depending on the type of rubber flooring you choose:

- **Glued Down Sheet Rubber** – Sheet rubber is installed with full spread adhesive. Some manufacturers may also approve the use of double-sided flooring tape for certain applications.
- **Glued Down Rubber Tiles** – Rubber tiles are secured to the subfloor with an epoxy or polyurethane flooring adhesive.
- **Interlocking Rubber Tiles** – Rubber tiles are fit and locked together (much like a puzzle) to form a loose-lay floor. Some manufacturers may also approve of using double-sided flooring tape to secure this type of flooring to the subfloor.
- **Dowel Secured Rubber Tiles** – Rubber tiles are fit together and secured with dowels to form a loose-lay floor. Perimeter tiles may be secured with full spread adhesive if the flooring is laid in an area without surrounding walls.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

You will need most of the tools and materials on the first list plus anything specific for your installation method.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broom | <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpenter's square | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal straightedge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk line | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility knife with extra blades |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knee pads | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Masking or painters tape | |

Sheet Rubber Installation

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-lb roller | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric drill (variable speed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notched trowel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt-tipped pen or pencil | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint mixing drill attachment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full spread adhesive or 2" double-sided adhesive tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety goggles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floor pattern or craft paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Seam sealer kit (optional) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Shears or snips |

Glued Down Rubber Tile Installation

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-lb roller | <input type="checkbox"/> Notched trowel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric drill (variable speed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint mixing attachment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt-tipped pen or pencil | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety goggles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Seam sealer kit (optional) |
| Epoxy adhesive or 2" double-sided tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Scraper |

Interlocking Rubber Tile Installation

- 2" double-sided adhesive tape (optional)

Dowel Secured Rubber Tile Installation

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adhesive (full-spread; optional) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber mallet or dowel setting tool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dowels | <input type="checkbox"/> Scrap piece of 2" x 4" or other tapping block |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notched trowel (optional) | |

*This is not an all inclusive list. Your tools and materials may vary based on your specific installation needs.

PREPARE THE FLOOR

- Rubber flooring can be installed above concrete, APA exterior grade plywood, and asphalt subfloors.
- Some manufacturers approve installations above existing flooring as long as it is completely adhered to the subfloor. However, do not remove any existing flooring if you find asbestos. Follow all local, state and federal guidelines when handling and/or disposing of asbestos.
- All subfloors and existing flooring must be structurally sound, level and dry.
- Clean all concrete and asphalt slabs prior to your moisture test and installation to remove anything that may interfere with the flooring adhesive.
- For concrete slabs, perform all moisture tests as directed by the manufacturer. This may include a Polyethylene, Calcium Chloride, and ASTM Drilling test. Follow all your manufacturer's recommendations if your subfloor has excess moisture.
- Ensure your subfloor is level and free from all dips, valleys or imperfections (such as drywall mud, paint overspray, etc.). Scrape your subfloor clean. Sand down any high areas. Use latex floor filler to level all low areas.
- If desired, you can install 6mm polyethylene sheeting below a loose-lay installation for additional moisture protection.
- Allow your rubber flooring to acclimatize to your installation area. This is especially important for sheet rubber. Follow all the manufacturer's recommendations for room temperature (both before and during the installation) and acclimatization time.
- Always choose an adhesive recommended by your flooring manufacturer. Conduct an adhesion test prior to your installation to ensure the adhesive bonds properly to your flooring and subfloor.
- Always prepare and spread flooring adhesives according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not install rubber tiles over concrete expansion joints. Install an expansion plate over the joint and use tiles on either side.
- If desired, undercut door casings in the installation area.

- Remove all molding, if desired. Remove and set all doors asides, especially if working with sheet rubber. Remove all toilets if working in a bathroom.
- Sweep and/or vacuum your floor before installing your rubber.
- Always install safely using the proper safety equipment. Follow all manufacturer safety recommendations.



TIPS AND TRICKS

General Tips and Tricks

- If using a full spread adhesive, always wear gloves.
- Always follow your manufacturer's recommendations with regard to "open time" if using a full spread adhesive.
- Follow all your manufacturer's recommendations if installing your rubber flooring in an exterior area.
- Do not store your rubber flooring in direct sunlight.
- Always use a sharp knife to ensure you get clean cuts.
- Score rubber tiles or sheet rubber then bend at the mark to break apart.
- Always place factory edges to factory edges whenever possible.
- Double-cut sheet rubber to create a custom factory edge when needed.
- Ensure all seams are snug but not tight. When installing the flooring, overlap two pieces slightly then "walk" into place for precise positioning.

Sheet Rubber Tips and Tricks

- Pay attention to color matching between rolls. Follow your manufacturer's guides or compare colors yourself to ensure even color transitions.
- Use hook blades to trim rubber flooring in place. These work with any standard utility knife and can be purchased at most home improvement stores.
- When trimming rubber along walls, use a scrap piece of wood to create a crease in the rubber along the wall. Cut along the crease.
- Cut vertically from top to bottom when trimming sheet rubber on outside corners.
- Cut "V" shapes in the sheet rubber when trimming on inside corners until the rubber lays flat along both walls.
- Place heavy objects on the sheet rubber during trimming and gluing to ensure the material does not shift before it is secured to the subfloor.
- Do not overlap adhesive coats as they may cause unevenness which will telescope through the flooring.
- Leave a gap (equal to the width of the flooring material) between the sheet rubber and the wall to allow for the material to stretch over time.

Rubber Tile Tips and Tricks

- Use tiles from at least 3 packages at a time to evenly distribute color variations.
- Pay attention to any manufacturer guides that indicate the direction in which tiles should be installed.

- All tiles along the perimeter must be 5"-6" in length. If necessary, cut the last full tile to ensure this minimum length is met.
- Scribe fit tiles to fit along the perimeter of a room or in custom areas.
- Undercut tiles along all walls for a professional looking installation.

INSTALL SHEET RUBBER

Sheet rubber is installed with full spread adhesive. Some manufacturers may also approve the use of double-sided flooring tape for certain applications. Always choose an appropriate installation method so you do not void your warranty.

If using adhesive tape to complete your installation, follow all the steps below. Apply the adhesive tape to the perimeter of each sheet. At seams, position tape so that one inch of each sheet is in full contact with the tape.



INSTALL SHEET RUBBER WITHOUT SEAMS

Use this method when you are working in a small area with few obstacles that will require only one sheet of rubber flooring.

1. Measure your installation area. Add 2-3 inches to each of your measurements.
2. Cut out your sheet rubber based on your measurements.
3. Place the rubber in the installation area. Trim away all excess around walls and obstacles.
4. Roll one half of the rubber flooring back and secure with masking tape.
5. Apply the adhesive to the subfloor as directed by the manufacturer.
6. Unroll and lay the rubber into the adhesive. Apply pressure from the center to the edges. Roll the floor with a 100-lb roller as directed by the manufacturer.
7. Repeat steps 4 through 6 for the other half of the sheet.
8. Re-roll the entire floor as directed by the manufacturer.



INSTALL SHEET RUBBER WITH SEAMS

Use this method when you are working in a large area with multiple obstacles and/or seams.

1. For complex rooms, create a pattern of your floor using a pattern kit (available at most home improvement stores) or Kraft paper, scissors and tape. Make sure the pattern is flat on the floor at all times and account for all obstacles.
2. Unroll your pattern on top of your rubber. Ensure there is a piece of rubber beneath the entire pattern.
3. At each seam, overlap the two pieces of sheet rubber by at least 1". Tape together with masking tape.
4. Following a metal straight edge, use a utility knife to double-cut through BOTH pieces of rubber at each seam to form a custom factory edge. Once cut, align the seam edges so they are flush then tape securely.
5. Cut the rest of your rubber to fit your pattern. Leave 2"-3" around the perimeter.

6. Once cut, carefully roll up the rubber and take it to the installation area.
7. Unroll carefully and align correctly with the room. Trim all edges so they are flush with walls or obstacles. Leave a slight gap per your manufacturer's recommendations.
8. Roll back the sheets of rubber on one side of the room. Use masking tape to hold in place.
9. Prepare and apply the adhesive to the subfloor as directed by the manufacturer.
10. Unroll and lay the sheet rubber into the adhesive. Apply pressure from the center to the edges.
11. Roll the floor with a 100-lb roller.
12. Repeat steps 8 through 11 for the other half of the room.
13. Re-roll the whole floor as recommended by the manufacturer.
14. Use a seam sealer kit to seal all seams if recommended by your manufacturer. Follow all the directions provided with the kit.
15. Let the new rubber cure and bond for 24-72 hours or as directed by your manufacturer. Do not move anything back into the room and keep foot traffic to a minimum during this time.

INSTALL GLUE DOWN RUBBER TILES

Rubber tiles are secured to the subfloor with an epoxy or polyurethane flooring adhesive.



INSTALL THE MAIN PART OF THE FLOOR

Glued down rubber tiles are installed in a brick-like pattern to ensure maximum stability.

1. Snap a chalk line between the center points of each opposite wall to divide the room into four quadrants.
2. Layout a row of loose rubber tiles in all directions at the center intersection point. Evaluate the fit to ensure the minimum tile length along the perimeter is satisfied. If necessary, move your starting point down to better accommodate this minimum length.
3. Once satisfied, pick up all guide tiles and set aside.
4. For large rooms, divide the four main quadrants into smaller areas. You should be able to complete each section within 30 minutes.
5. Prepare and spread the flooring adhesive according to the manufacturer's instructions.
6. Beginning at the center point, install the first rubber tile so it aligns with the main two chalk lines. Install tiles in the rest of that section. Do not install any perimeter tiles.
 - Fit tiles snugly together.
 - Tape seams with masking tape if necessary.
 - Follow the brick pattern for maximum stability.
7. Roll the newly completed section with a 100-lb roller.
8. Repeat steps 5 through 7 for each quadrant until the whole floor is complete.
9. Re-roll the entire floor as recommended by your manufacturer.



INSTALL PERIMETER TILES

Once the main part of the floor is complete, install the perimeter tiles. If access to the perimeter is an issue, install these tiles after you complete each quadrant or section.

1. Scribe fit tiles for the perimeter in each row.
2. Undercut the edge of each tile closest to the wall. Leave a slight gap between the wall and the flooring if recommended by your manufacturer.
3. Dry fit tiles to ensure they fit correctly.
4. Prepare and spread the flooring adhesive according to the manufacturer's instructions.
5. Install all perimeter tiles.
6. Roll the newly installed tiles with a 100-lb roller.
7. Repeat steps 1 through 6 for the entire perimeter.
8. Re-roll the entire floor as recommended by your manufacturer.
9. Use a seam sealer kit to seal all seams if recommended by your manufacturer. Follow all the directions provided with the kit.
10. Let the new rubber cure and bond for 24-72 hours or as directed by your manufacturer. Do not move anything back into the room and keep foot traffic to a minimum during this time.

INSTALL INTERLOCKING RUBBER TILES

Interlocking rubber tiles are fit and locked together (much like a puzzle) to form a loose-lay floor. Some manufacturers may also approve the use of double-sided flooring tape to secure this type of flooring to the subfloor.



INSTALL THE MAIN PART OF THE FLOOR

Interlocking rubber tiles are installed in-line with each other to ensure the locking mechanisms work properly.

1. Snap a chalk line between the center points of each opposite wall to divide the room into four quadrants.
2. Layout a row of loose rubber tiles in all directions at the center intersection point. Evaluate the fit to ensure the minimum tile length along the perimeter is satisfied. If necessary, move your starting point down to better accommodate this minimum length.
3. Once satisfied, click tiles together within each quadrant. Stop when you reach the perimeter and need to make a cut.
4. Install the interlocking tiles in each quadrant.



INSTALL PERIMETER TILES

Once the main part of the floor is complete, install the perimeter tiles.

1. Scribe fit tiles for the perimeter in each row.

- Undercut the edge of each tile closest to the wall. Leave a slight gap between the wall and the flooring if recommended by your manufacturer.
- Fit and lock all perimeter tiles in place for the entire floor.

INSTALL DOWEL SECURED RUBBER TILES

Rubber tiles are fit together and secured with dowels to form a loose-lay floor. Perimeter tiles may be secured with full spread adhesive if the flooring is in an area without surrounding walls.



INSTALL THE MAIN PART OF THE FLOOR

Dowel secured rubber tiles are installed in-line with each other.

- Snap a chalk line between the center points of each opposite wall to divide the room into four quadrants.
- Layout a row of loose rubber tiles in all directions at the center intersection point. Evaluate the fit to ensure the minimum tile length along the perimeter is satisfied. If necessary, move your starting point down to better accommodate this minimum length.
- Once satisfied, pick up all guide tiles and set aside.
- Beginning at the center point, install the first rubber tile so it aligns with the main two chalk lines. Insert the dowels into the first tile. Push the first and second tile together. Use a tapping block and rubber mallet to ensure a snug fit.
- Work your way down the first row.
- On the second row, insert dowels into the first center tile. Push the first two tiles in each row together then tap with the mallet.
- Insert dowels into the side of the first second row tile. Push the second tile in that row together. Use a mallet to ensure a snug fit.
- Gently lift the second tile in the first row and insert downs. Press the second tile in the second row to the second tile in the first row. Use a mallet to ensure a snug fit.
- Continue working your way across each quadrant (minus the perimeter) until the floor is installed.



INSTALL PERIMETER TILES

Once the main part of the floor is complete, install the perimeter tiles.

- If working in a room with walls, use the same method to install perimeter tiles as you used to install the entire floor. (See instructions above.)
- If working in a room without supporting walls, use a full spread adhesive to secure the perimeter tiles. (See instructions below.)

- Scribe fit tiles for the perimeter in each row, if necessary.
- Dry fit tiles to ensure they fit correctly.
- Prepare and spread the flooring adhesive along the perimeter according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Install all perimeter tiles within each quadrant.
- Roll the newly installed tiles with a 100-lb roller.
- Repeat steps 1 through 5 for the entire perimeter.
- Re-roll the entire perimeter as recommended by your manufacturer.
- Install rubber reducer along the perimeter to eliminate tripping hazards.
- Let the new rubber floor cure and bond for 24-72 hours or as directed by your manufacturer. Do not move anything back into the room and keep foot traffic to a minimum during this time.

STAIRS, TRANSITIONS AND TRIM

Rubber stair treads and risers can be installed to provide non-skid surfaces while specialized rubber reduced can be used to avoid tripping hazards from high profile rubber flooring. Installing trim helps put the finishing touches on your room.



INSTALL ON STAIRS

Manufactured rubber stair treads and risers are available from a variety of retailers. For more detailed information about installing rubber stair treads and risers, see the full **Installing Rubber Flooring** guide on FindAnyFloor.com.



INSTALL TRANSITIONS

There are a limited amount of rubber transitions available. For low profile rubber flooring, use the same type of transitions as are used for vinyl or linoleum.

- Rubber Reducer**– Used to transition between high profile rubber floors (such as 3/8") and lower profile flooring surfaces such as vinyl or linoleum. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding approved adhesives.



INSTALL TRIM

Install all wall base, shoe base and quarter round trim around the perimeter of the room, if desired. Do NOT glue the trim to the rubber flooring. Always glue to the wall and nail at an angle every 16". Caulk significant gaps between the trim and the wall.

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