

# INSTALLING RUBBER FLOORING

Congratulations on choosing to install rubber as your new flooring! Resilient rubber flooring is a popular choice for a variety of areas ranging from home weight rooms to commercial ice skating rinks. With a wide variety of colors, you are sure to find a style to compliment your specific installation area.

When it comes to installing rubber flooring you have a number of different options. This guide will help you determine what is right for your floor to ensure you have a successful installation.

✓ **TIP:** If reading online, click on any item in this contents list or any grey text in the document to jump to a specific section.

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## INSTALLATION OPTIONS

Rubber flooring is considered a resilient flooring material much like vinyl or linoleum. It has a wide range of residential and commercial application including home fitness rooms, garages, playrooms, weight rooms, commercial offices, ice rinks, and warehouse showrooms. Rubber flooring is a scuff- and stain-resistant, non-skid surface that is relatively easy to install. In this section, we'll be going over the basic installation options including:

- **Installation Methods**
- **Surface Textures**
- **Rubber Flooring Thickness**
- **Rubber Flooring Colors**
- **Installation Areas**
- **Suitable Subfloors**

### *Installation Methods*

The first step in your flooring project is to decide what type of rubber you want to install:

- **Sheet Rubber** – Sheet rubber is available in 48" widths. Lengths above 30 linear feet must be custom cut to the needed specifications. Sheet rubber is typically installed with a full glue method in which the entire surface is adhered to the subfloor. In low traffic areas, sheet rubber can be taped down; however, check with the manufacturer before using the tape method to ensure this installation method will not void the warranty.
- **Rubber Tiles** – Rubber tiles are sold in 36" x 36" squares and can be installed three different ways:
  - **Glue Down** – Rubber tiles are adhered to the subfloor with a quality flooring adhesive. While more time consuming to install, this method results in an extremely durable floor.
  - **Interlock** – Rubber tiles are manufactured to fit and lock together (much like a puzzle) to form a flooring floor over the subfloor. This type of rubber tile can be installed as a loose-lay (floating floor) or affixed to the subfloor with special double-sided tape. This installation method makes it relatively easy to install and remove the floor.
  - **Dowels** – Dowels are inserted into the sides of the rubber tiles to hold them together and form a floating floor. This method is generally only used when installing rubber tiles over existing carpeting. Always check with your manufacturer to ensure this type of installation is approved for your type of rubber tile.

## *Surface Textures*

Rubber flooring is a unique resilient flooring material that comes in a variety of surface textures including:

- **Diamond-Grip** – The most popular form of commercial flooring found in factories or mechanic shops, diamond-grip rubber flooring are sold in solid colored tiles accented with a diamond plate pattern.
- **Round Stud** – Round-stud flooring is a type of rubber flooring that is embedded with round-shaped studs placed in a non-directional fashion. Round-stud comes in both tiles and sheets and provides more surface grip than smooth rubber flooring. Round stud is a good choice for heavy traffic areas, showrooms, restaurants and cinemas.
- **Smooth** – Smooth rubber flooring is the most popular choice for residential use. This type of rubber flooring is smooth but provides the same durability as diamond-grip or round stud. Smooth rubber flooring is most often used in kitchens, bathrooms, and playrooms.

## *Rubber Flooring Thickness*

Rubber flooring is available in a variety of thicknesses that vary between manufacturers. Most manufacturers approve thinner rubber flooring for most residential applications while thicker rubber flooring should be used for commercial applications. Always choose a product that can handle the amount of traffic the room will receive, no matter the application.

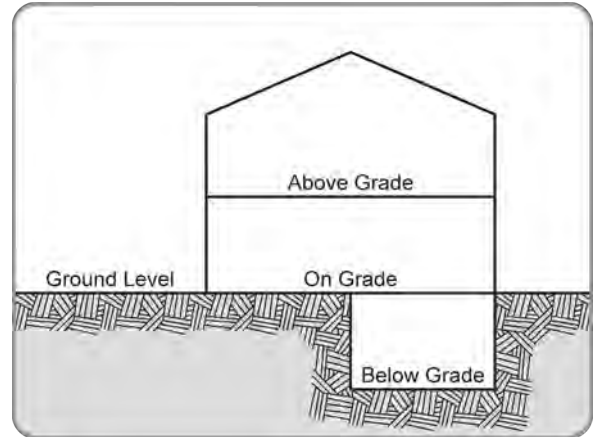
## *Rubber Flooring Colors*

Rubber flooring comes in a variety of colors and styles including:

- **Solid** – Solid colored rubber allows you to choose the best color for your specific application. Certain manufacturers also enable you to customize the color for more precise color matching. Be aware that some manufacturer's only offer solid colors in either rubber tiles or sheet rubber.
- **Flecked or Speckled** – Flecked or speckled rubber is common in gyms and weight rooms. This type of rubber flooring consists of a base color spotted with decorative chips in contrasting colors.
- **Marble** – Marble rubber is a unique type of rubber flooring color that is designed to mimic the look of real marble.
- **Patterns** – Patterned rubber is flooring that is manufactured with specific design such as bold lines, colored squares, or custom logos.

## *Installation Areas*


Rubber is a popular choice for flooring is because it can be installed on most grade levels. Generally, all rubber flooring is approved for Above and On Grade installations. Many manufacturers also approve their flooring for Below Grade installations. However, always check with your manufacturer before installing in a Below Grade environment or in wet areas (such as bathrooms). Not all rubber flooring products are approved for these areas.



## *Suitable Subfloors*

Rubber flooring can be installed above a variety of subfloors including:

- **Concrete** – Concrete subfloors must be smooth, clean, level, flat and dry. Some manufacturers require that concrete slabs be at least 30 days old while other manufactures recommend waiting until the slab is at least 90 days old. Prior to installation, you must thoroughly clean the slab and conduct the required moisture tests.
- **Wood** – Wood subfloors must be flat, clean, level, smooth and dry. Wood subfloors should be made of APA exterior grade plywood only. Other types of woods are generally not approved. Some wood subfloors may require an additional plywood underlayment installed above the subfloor for stability.

 **NOTE:** APA plywood is underlayment grade plywood that has a fully sanded face and an exterior and/or exposure 1 classification. Generally, this type of plywood is sold as 1/4", 3/8" or 1/2".

- **Existing Flooring** – Existing linoleum or vinyl must be in good condition and fully adhered to the subfloor. If your existing floor is not completely level and flat, you should consider installing a plywood underlayment to support the rubber flooring. You must remove any damaged or loose flooring prior to installation. Some manufactures also allow rubber tiles to be installed over carpeting if using dowels.

✓ **TIP:** Be aware of asbestos if you are removing existing flooring before you install your new rubber flooring. Some older flooring products contain asbestos which can contaminate your home or office if removed. If you find asbestos in your existing flooring, do not remove it. Instead install a suitable plywood underlayment before installing your rubber flooring.

- **Asphalt** – Some manufacturers approve rubber flooring to be installed above asphalt. All preparation and installation steps are the same as for concrete. Always check with your manufacturer before installing your rubber flooring above asphalt as you may void the warranty.

## PLANNING YOUR INSTALLATION

Now that you've got the basics down, it's time to start planning your rubber flooring installation. In this section, you will:

- **Determine Your Layout**
- **Factor in Waste**
- **Estimate Installation Time**
- **Choose an Underlayment**
- **Choose an Adhesive**
- **Install Safely**

### *Determine Your Layout*

The layout you choose largely depends on the type of rubber floor you are installing. For sheet rubber, determine your layout so that you maximize the roll usage while minimizing the amount of waste. If you are installing more than one sheet of rubber, be sure to pay attention to color matching between rolls. Some manufactures will indicate which rolls should be placed next to each other (by labeling rolls) while other manufactures simply indicate that the ends of rolls are color matched. They leave it up to you to compare rolls to ensure the correct matching.

If installing rubber tiles with the glue down or tape down method, most professional installers recommend staggering tile rows in a brick-like pattern to ensure maximum stability. For interlocking rubber tiles or rubber tile installations using dowels, you'll install rubber tiles so they are flush and square with surrounding tiles.

### *Factor in Waste*

Waste is a part of any flooring project. Waste can be due to:

- Odd shapes in the room that you must work around
- Installation mistakes
- Type of rubber installation (sheet vs. tiles)

Non-professional installers should account for a waste factor of between 7-10%. Plan to order a roll size to match the length of the room with as few seams as possible. You can also use the Advanced Estimator tool on FindAnyFloor.com to help you determine how much sheet rubber you'll need to complete your flooring project.

Be sure to factor waste into your original purchase. This is especially important when purchasing rubber tiles. Retailers continually add and discontinue the types of rubber products they offer. There is no guarantee that your flooring retailer will carry your exact rubber flooring or color in the future. And remember, **you should always end up with extra rubber flooring at the end of your project.** Over the life of the floor you may need to replace sections that get damaged from use.

### *Estimate Installation Time*

There is no hard and fast rule for installing or completing any rubber flooring project. Generally, sheet rubber or rubber tiles should take one to two days to install per medium sized room.

Other factors that affect installation time vary widely and include:

- **Experience level:** If this is your first time installing sheet rubber or rubber tiles, it may take you longer than someone who has already done one or more installations.
- **Room complexity:** Simple rooms or patterns can take less time than large areas or complex designs.
- **Assistance available:** If you are working with sheet rubber, you'll probably need at least one person to help you. However, having too much assistance may impede your progress.
- **Amount of planning:** Usually, the more planning you do, the less time your rubber flooring project will take.

### *Choose an Underlayment*

Rubber is a one of the few flooring materials that is naturally moisture resistant. While most manufacturers do not require additional moisture barrier, you can install 6mm polyethylene sheeting below a loose-lay rubber tile floor for additional moisture protection. Polyethylene sheeting should not be used below rubber flooring if a full-spread adhesive or tape will be used at the sheeting will interfere with the adhesive.

### *Choose an Adhesive*

If installing your rubber flooring with the glue down method, you'll need to choose the correct adhesive. **Always follow your manufacturer's recommendations when choosing an adhesive.** Some adhesive products are designed specifically for certain types or rubber flooring. Not following your manufacturer's recommendations may void your warranty.

In general, you'll be using a solvent-free, non-flammable epoxy or polyurethane adhesive. These types of adhesives are generally prepared in small batches during your installation. They are applied across the subfloor with a trowel and the rubber flooring is laid into the adhesive bed. Some adhesives have "open times." This means that you'll apply the adhesive to the floor then wait the designated amount of time for the adhesive to set or become tacky. Once the adhesive is ready, you'll install your rubber flooring.

As you prepare your adhesive, always follow all the adhesive manufacturer's preparation and installation recommendations. Use the appropriate speeds and ratios to prepare the adhesive. Use the correct type of trowel to apply the adhesive. Always wear gloves to protect your skin from the adhesive as this type of glue is extremely sticky and difficult to remove. It is important to follow all instructions as improperly prepared or applied adhesives can compromise your floor's long term stability and durability.

### *Install Safely*

Follow these guidelines to ensure a safe working environment.

- Read and follow all manufacturer guidelines when installing your rubber flooring.
- Wear OSHA approved safety goggles and hearing protection, when necessary.
- Wear the proper clothing and shoes (work boots or tennis shoes).
- Wear other personal protective equipment such as shin guards, knee pads, respirators and/or gloves, when necessary. Gloves should always be worn when working with full spread adhesives.
- Do not work under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other medications (OTC or prescription) which can impair your decision making ability.
- Keep your work area clear from debris and clutter. Not only are these tripping hazards, but these items could damage your rubber flooring.
- Make sure the room has proper lighting and ventilation.
- Ensure the electrical power to the area you're working in can support all the electric tools you are using.
- Have a first aid kit handy or know where one is readily accessible.
- Use all machinery and tools as intended by the manufacturer with all safety guards in place.



## PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION

Installation day is almost here. Before you purchase or have your rubber delivered, there are a few things you need to do first:

- **Clean and Moisture Test Your Concrete Subfloor**
- **Inspect and Level Your Subfloor**
- **Allow the Rubber Flooring to Acclimatize**
- **Test for Proper Adhesion**
- **Remove Molding and Doors**
- **Undercut Door Casings**
- **Exterior Installation Considerations**
- **Installation Tips & Techniques**

### *Clean and Moisture Test Your Concrete Subfloor*

Moisture testing is an extremely important part of the installation process especially if your rubber flooring will be installed directly on a concrete slab. Wet concrete can cause issues with your adhesive as well as seep up and damage your rubber floor. Always follow your manufacturer's recommendations with regard to new slab curing times. Some manufacturers allow rubber flooring to be installed on 30 day old slabs while other manufacturers indicate that the flooring should not be installed until the slab is at least 90 days old.

### **Clean the Slab**

Once your slab has satisfied the manufacturer's age requirements, most recommend thoroughly cleaning the slab to ensure it is free from oil, dirt, grease, wax, or other solvents that can interfere with your adhesive or seep through and stain your new rubber flooring. Always follow your manufacturer's recommendations with regard to cleaning solvents. Some require specific solvents while others allow the use of 1 part Muriatic Acid/9 parts water or 1 part vinegar/5 parts water. Be sure to leave the solvent on for at least an hour or per the solvent manufacturer's recommendations. Always make sure the cleaned slab is allowed to dry completely for at least 48 hours (at 70°F).

After the drying period, perform one or more of the following moisture tests to ensure the concrete has cured and dried completely.

## Polyethylene Moisture Test

The Polyethylene Moisture test is an easy way to perform a moisture test on a slab that is at least 30 days old. Duct tape several 12 inch by 12 inch pieces of polyethylene sheeting in various places to the concrete slab for 24-48 hours. When taping, be sure the squares are taped all the way around so no air can escape.

If after 24 to 48 hours any condensation forms on the plastic or if the concrete darkens, you **must** perform a Calcium Chloride and pH Alkalinity test. These results indicate that your concrete subfloor may contain too much moisture to safely install your rubber flooring. If neither of these things happens, the concrete subfloor is ready for your rubber flooring.



**NOTE:** Even if you have a successful polyethylene test, you should consider a Calcium Chloride and ASTM Drilling test to ensure it is safe to install your new rubber floor.

## Calcium Chloride Test

A Calcium Chloride test is far more accurate than a polyethylene test. Supplies can be purchased online or at stores that specialize in concrete tools and/or flooring. This test measures the moisture emissions from the concrete slab. Perform the test according to the manufacturer's instructions. Refer to your flooring manufacturer's guidelines for specific acceptable ranges. If ranges are not indicated by your manufacturer, use the figure below as a guideline:

### **3 pounds per thousand square feet per 24 hours**

If your Calcium Chloride test exceeds the recommended limits, you should seal your concrete subfloor with an appropriate non-petroleum based sealer as recommended by your rubber flooring manufacturer. Check with the sealer manufacturer to be sure the concrete sealer will not interfere with the adhesive you'll be using during your rubber flooring installation. Sealers can be purchased at your local flooring retailer or any home improvement store. Once the sealer has cured, you should re-test to ensure moisture levels are within acceptable limits.

If after sealing your concrete you are still having moisture issues, perform an ASTM Drilling test or talk to a flooring professional for additional guidelines and testing procedures.

## **ASTM Drilling Test**

Some professional installers feel that a more accurate moisture test must be performed especially if installing rubber flooring in a wet area such as a bathroom or in any Below Grade environment. An ASTM Drilling test requires that 1"-2" samples be drilled out of the concrete subfloor in various places and moisture tested. ASTM Drilling test must be performed by a local contractor or engineering firm who is familiar with this type of testing procedure. Refer to the specific documentation provided with your rubber flooring or contact your flooring manufacturer to find out if this test is required for your specific installation.

## ***Inspect and Level Your Subfloor***

A level, or flat, subfloor is one that is free from any dips and valleys, no matter how small. Any bumps, seams, dirt or raised nail heads will be visible under the rubber. Whatever the cause, it's your job to fix, sand, raise or remove the imperfections so the floor is completely level. Before you begin finding your imperfections, make sure the floor is scraped and swept clean of all drywall mud, paint splatters and any other debris. Be sure to sink nails below the subfloor so that you can fill them.

## **Find the Imperfections**

Before you begin leveling, you'll need to find the imperfections. Many manufacturers recommend that your subfloor not have a variance of more than 1/8" over a 10' section of subfloor. An easy way to find imperfections in your subfloor for both concrete and wood subfloors is using an 8-10' piece of straight lumber.


Start at one end of the room and lay the straightest side of the lumber down on the subfloor. From ground level, look to see if there are any gaps between the lumber and the subfloor. Mark those with a pencil on the subfloor.

Next touch each end of the lumber. If there is any movement, find the high spot that is causing the movement and mark it with a pencil. Use a flashlight to help you find low spots in the floor. While your lumber is on the floor, move the flashlight from one end of the lumber to the other on the floor level. If light filters below the lumber, you've found a low spot. Make your way methodically across the room with the lumber, observing and marking the imperfections in the subfloor.


## Level Low Spots in Concrete Subfloors

If you found low spots, cracks, nail holes or gaps in your concrete subfloor, use latex floor filler or a filler recommended by your rubber flooring manufacturer to fix them. Latex floor filler is applied with a straight edge finishing trowel to the existing subfloor. It can be used to patch certain areas or across the whole floor as needed.

Floor levelers are like quick-set concrete. **DO NOT** use regular cement products or gypsum fillers as they do not set and cure fast enough. Only use floor levelers recommended by your flooring manufacturer or those that indicate they have quick drying times and are made specifically for leveling floors. These can be purchased at many flooring or home improvement stores.

 **NOTE:** Using leveling products that are not specifically recommended for the flooring may void the manufacturer's warranty. Play it safe and always choose a product that is recommended by your flooring manufacturer even if it is more expensive than other products.

1. Prepare the floor leveler in a bucket according to the manufacturer's instructions. Make sure you are outside or in an area where it won't matter if some of the compound splashes out of the bucket. Always follow the floor leveler manufacturer's instructions when mixing the filler. Some recommend adding the water after the compound is added while others recommend adding water before.

 **NOTE:** Because these products set so quickly, do not prepare the filler until you are ready to begin using the product on your floor.

 **TIP:** Mix only small batches of filler at a time so it does not dry in the bucket or on tools before it is all used up.

2. Mix the floor filler using a paddle-type drill attachment (available from most home improvement stores). The mixture should be similar in consistency to a milkshake.

3. Place your lumber at the edge of the place you will be leveling. Pour some of the floor filler on the subfloor. Use a trowel to fill in all the low areas. Quickly move the lumber across the area you just leveled to ensure it is flat. If it is not, add more compound. If the area is too high, scrape away compound.

✓ **TIP:** This part of the process works best with two people – one person working with the filler and one person working with the straight lumber.

4. Work quickly across the floor filling in all the low spots. Use the lumber to ensure each spot is flat. If you run out of compound, clean up the bucket and tools then mix another small batch.
5. Once all the low spots are filled, take your lumber and re-assess all the areas you just leveled. If you still find low areas, mix another batch of filler and add more to the top of the dried compound.
6. Wait for the filler to dry and cure completely before installing your rubber flooring. Repeat all moisture testing procedures on the newly filled areas if recommended by your flooring manufacturer or retailer.

### Level High Spots in Concrete Subfloors

Use a grinder or sander to level high spots in your concrete subfloor. If you don't own one, these machines can be rented from many equipment rental stores. When grinding, always wear a respirator as concrete produces a lot of dust. To help control dust, wet the slab before you begin sanding. If you are working on an addition to a home, make sure everything is sealed tightly with plastic and taped completely shut. Cover and tape all AC intake vents so that concrete particles are not distributed throughout your home via the ventilation system.

✓ **TIP:** Concrete dust will get everywhere (including closed drawers or cupboards) because the particles are so fine. Be sure to tape everything up tightly! Placing a box fan in a window can also help disperse concrete dust by pulling air from inside the installation area outward.

## Level a Wood Subfloor

Before you begin any leveling, walk the floor and screw down any loose or squeaky places with coarse-headed screws. Also screw down areas of the floor that are in high-traffic areas for reinforcement. Once everything is secured, you're ready to move onto leveling the subfloor.

Leveling a wood subfloor can be more challenging than concrete subfloors, especially if the wood subfloor is not flat because of high spots over joists (also called crowned joists). If the high spot over a crowned joist is relatively low, sand down the area above the joist enough to make it flat. If the crowned joist is high and there are exceptionally low areas between joists, use a floor filler to even out the floor. All the preparation and application steps are the same as for concrete subfloors.

If your floor has excess sagging, check beneath the subfloor. You may be able to correct some sagging by installing wood supports between joists below the subfloor. Once your wood subfloor is level, you can install your underlayment (if necessary) then your rubber flooring.


## *Allow the Rubber Flooring to Acclimatize*

Acclimatization of your new rubber flooring is important especially for sheet rubber products. While sheet rubber is not affected by temperature and humidity changes like other flooring materials, it does get stretched during the manufacturing process. Acclimation allows the rubber to relax into its proper form. Unroll your sheet rubber in the installation area to allow it to acclimatize for 12-48 hours or as directed by your specific manufacturer. The temperature in the installation area should be between 70°F and 75°F throughout the entire acclimatization and installation period.

## *Test for Proper Adhesion*

If installing sheet rubber or rubber tiles with the glue down method, conduct an Adhesion Test before beginning your installation. This test ensures there is a good transfer of adhesive and bond between the adhesive, subfloor and rubber flooring. Secure a scrap piece of rubber flooring in an inconspicuous place in the installation area (like a closet or behind a refrigerator).

Allow the rubber flooring to cure for 72 hours then try removing the flooring. The rubber flooring should be difficult to remove as the adhesive should remain bonded to the subfloor and flooring. In certain cases, the rubber flooring may delaminate when you try to remove it. All these signs indicate there is good adhesion between products.

 **NOTE:** Be aware of hydrostatic pressure. Sheet rubber and rubber tiles using the glue down method will not adhere properly to the subfloor if hydrostatic pressure is present. Consult with an engineering company to determine the best solution (including a permanent moisture barrier) to eliminate this issue.

## *Remove Molding and Doors*

When installing rubber flooring it is a good idea to remove all the existing molding. Use a crow or pull bar to carefully remove all existing baseboard and quarter round in your installation area. If you plan on reusing this molding, take care during removal. Small nicks can usually be filled, sanded and re-painted. However, large holes or broken pieces should be discarded and replaced.

Additionally, it's a good idea to remove all doors and set aside especially if you are installing sheet rubber. Always remove all furniture in the installation area. If working in a bathroom, remove the toilet as well so the flooring can be installed under the fixture.

✓ **TIP:** Many professionals do not recommend caulking around the toilet after the rubber flooring is installed. If caulked, you are less likely to notice small leaks.

## *Undercut Door Casings*

For a more professional looking installation, you should undercut all door casings after you remove the existing flooring and before you begin installing your new rubber flooring. This ensures you do not have excess wood chips or saw dust in your installation area.

To undercut door casings, you'll need a scrap piece of rubber flooring, a pencil, and your saw (a handsaw or special saw for cutting door casings). Always use the finest blade possible when undercutting door casings so that the saw does not split or mar the wood. NEVER use a saws-all or skill saw as these saws may be difficult to control for these types of cuts.

1. Use the scrap piece of rubber flooring to bring your saw up to the right height of the door casing.
2. Use a pencil to draw a line at the top of the rubber flooring. This is how much you'll be cutting off the bottom of the door casing so that the rubber flooring will fit underneath it.
3. Use the saw to cut the door casing along the line you drew. Keep your scrap piece of rubber flooring in place to help ensure you make a straight cut.

Now when you reach a door casing, you can slide the sheet rubber or rubber tiles under the casing and flush with the wall.

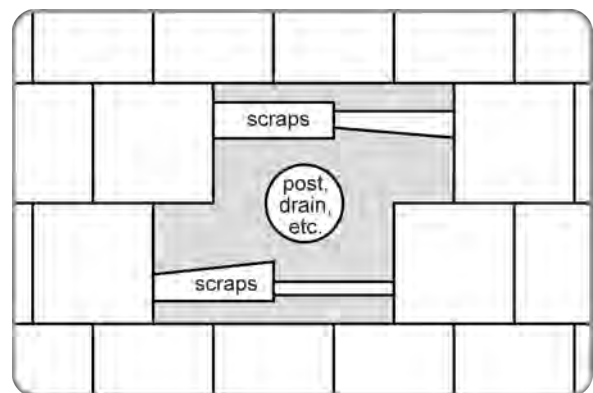
## *Exterior Installation Considerations*

Some rubber flooring can be installed in exterior environments. Generally, these types of areas require full glue down installations to ensure long-term durability. Before installation, ensure your type of rubber flooring is designed for an exterior installation. Always follow all the manufacturer's installation recommendations including adhesives and acceptable installation temperature ranges. In some areas, evening or nighttime installations may be required due to extreme temperatures.

## *Installation Tips & Techniques*

Use these tips and tricks to help ensure you have a successful installation:

- Do not lay your rubber flooring in direct sunlight.
- Always use a sharp, non-retractable utility knife.
- Change knife blades often to ensure you get clean straight cuts throughout your entire installation.
- Use a straight edge or mark the back of rubber tiles with a chalk line to ensure straight cuts.
- For easier cuts, score a tile or sheet multiple times then bend the rubber at the score mark to break it apart. Use the knife to finish cutting through the broken scored area.
- When installing rubber flooring around obstacles such as toilets or pipes, make a pattern or template and use it to trace out your cuts. When installing tiles, install the rubber flooring around the entire area and use tile scraps as temporary spacers. Once the main flooring area is done, remove the spacers, make the necessary cuts and install the flooring in the remaining area around the obstacle.
- Place factory edges along walls or other vertical edges to ensure the rubber flooring goes down even with the walls.
- Butt factory edge to factory edge whenever possible. This is especially important when working with seams in sheet rubber. If needed, create your own "factory edge" by double-cutting the rubber sheets or tiles.





## Double-Cutting Rubber Flooring

There may be times when you need to create your own “factory edge” to ensure you get a tight fit between rubber sheets or tiles.

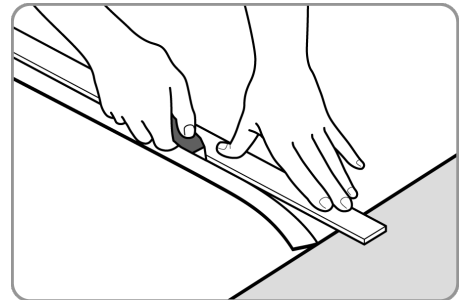
1. Align the two pieces of rubber flooring so one overlaps the other by at least 1 inch. Make sure the color or pattern matches on both pieces. Use masking tape to tape the two pieces of rubber flooring securely together.

✓ **TIP:** It's OK if the overlap is more than 1 inch in order to get patterns to match. You will be cutting off the excess. Always match the patterns in the same direction as they were on the roll.

If needed, make small cutouts a few places along the seam that will be cut off. Use these areas as “windows” to match the pattern on the top piece to the pattern on the piece below.

2. Use a utility knife and straight edge to cut through BOTH pieces of rubber flooring. Lay the newly cut seams together so that they are flush with each other. You now have a tight, custom-made “factory edge.”

✓ **TIP:** Use a new, sharp blade and practice cutting through two pieces of scrap rubber flooring before you make your first seam cut.



## Scribe Fitting Rubber Tiles

Scribe fitting rubber tiles allows you to quickly measure and cut the size tile you need for the perimeter of the room. Ensure that the rubber tile near the wall is at least 4"-5" wide as smaller rubber tiles do not adhere well. If necessary, cut the last full tile so that the scribe fit tile is at least this minimum length.

### 1. When you reach a wall:

- Place a full rubber tile directly on top of the one you just installed near the wall.
- Place a second rubber tile on top of the other two butted up against the wall. (Factor in undercutting spacing, if necessary.)
- Use a pencil to mark the inner edge of the top rubber tile on the middle one.
- Remove the middle one and cut along the line. The cut rubber tile should now be the exact width you need for your installation area.

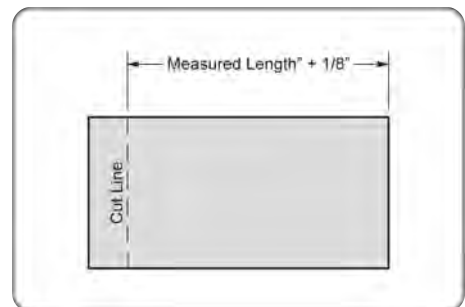


## Undercutting Rubber Tiles

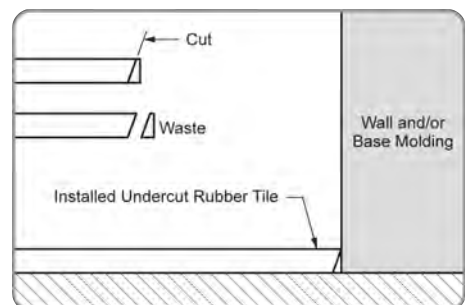
Undercutting rubber tiles is one way the pros achieve tight fitting floors. Undercutting enables you to install rubber tiles flush with walls while allowing for wall irregularities. Undercutting can also reduce overall waste during your rubber tile installation.

1. Take an accurate measurement between the rubber tile and the wall to determine what size to cut the last rubber tile. Add 1/8" to your measurement.

You can use a tape measure and a straight edge to measure and cut or scribe fit the tiles to fit in the space. If scribe fitting, don't forget to add the extra 1/8" to your cut to allow for an accurate undercut.



2. Once the tile is cut to the correct length, place a scrap rubber tile under the one to be undercut to protect the knife blade from being dulled by the subfloor. Cut into the tile diagonally to undercut the edge closest to the wall.
3. Now the rubber tile will fit snugly into place even if the wall itself is not flat or even.



## Ensuring Snug Seams between Sheets or Tiles

Most likely, you'll be installing more than one sheet of rubber or multiple rubber tiles in your installation area. Ensuring there are snug but not tight seams between each piece of rubber is essential for the long-term durability of the floor. During your installation, overlap adjacent sheets or tile joints  $\frac{1}{4}$ " then use your hands to "walk" the rubber flooring into place. This helps to eliminate overlap between pieces and avoid getting adhesive into seam areas (as some adhesives will prevent seam sealers from working properly).

## Spreading Adhesives

If you are installing a sheet rubber or rubber tile floor with a full spread adhesive, you should use proper spreading techniques to ensure even distribution of the glue. Always prepare the adhesive according to the manufacturer's instructions as all products vary in their preparation method. Additionally, always use the recommended type of trowel to apply the adhesive.

During application, pour out a small puddle of adhesive in your installation area. Use a trowel to spread the adhesive evenly. Use back and forth motions to push the adhesive into place in one even layer. Do not pour more adhesive than you can work with in 20-30 minutes. Once spread across the area, position the notched end of the trowel in the adhesive and pull toward you in straight lines. This ensures even coverage as well as exposes any trapped air bubble in the adhesive.

## Installing over Concrete Expansion Joints

Rubber tiles should not be installed over expansion joints in concrete slabs. Expansion joints must be covered with an expansion plate. The expansion plate must only be adhered to the slab on one side to ensure the concrete has room to move without any restrictions. Tiles can then be laid up to the expansion plate.

## Protecting Rubber Flooring from Heat

If using the glue down method for either sheet rubber or rubber tiles, take measures to protect the rubber flooring from heat during the curing period. The installation area should be kept a constant temperature between 60°F and 85°F. Close curtains or install other window hangings to protect the floor from direct sunlight. Do not use radiant heating or blowers during this time.

## INSTALLING ROLLED SHEET RUBBER

Sheet rubber is typically installed with a full glue method (also called a full spread adhesive method) in which the entire surface of the rubber flooring is adhered to the subfloor with a quality flooring adhesive. In low traffic areas, sheet rubber can be taped down using special tape; however, check with the manufacturer before using tape to ensure this installation method will not void the warranty.

Installation steps for both methods only differ in where you apply your adhesive or tape. Always follow all the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations during installation. Depending on your floor size and complexity, you may be:

- **Installing a Rubber Floor without Seams**
- **Installing a Rubber Floor with Seams**



**NOTE:** Working with sheet rubber can be difficult because it is bulky and heavy. Be sure to ask for help when moving sheet rubber. Always measure and make all cuts carefully.

### *Tools and Materials*

You will need the following tools and materials:


- 100-lb roller
- Broom
- Carpenter's square
- Electric drill (variable speed)
- Felt-tipped pen and/or pencil
- Floor pattern or Kraft paper
- Full-spread adhesive or 2" double-sided adhesive tape
- Gloves
- Knee pads
- Masking tape or blue painter's tape
- Measuring tape and/or ruler
- Metal straightedge
- Notched trowel
- Paint mixing drill attachment
- Safety goggles
- Scissors
- Seam sealer kit (optional)
- Shears or snips
- Utility knife with extra blades
- Vacuum

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

## *Installation Tips and Tricks*

Review all the **Installation Tips & Techniques** on page 16 as well as these tips to help ensure you have a successful sheet rubber installation:

- Always wear gloves if using a full spread adhesive. This type of adhesive will stick to everything (skin, clothes, hair, etc.) and may take a few days to wear off.
- Do not kneel or walk directly on your new rubber floor during the installation. Instead kneel on a piece of plywood or cardboard.
- When using multiple rolls of sheet rubber, ensure colors match between rolls. Some manufacturers indicate the order in which rolls should be used.
- Always leave a small perimeter between the wall and the rubber flooring. This gap should roughly correspond with the width of your rubber flooring. While sheet rubber does not contract and expand in response to environmental conditions, it may stretch slightly over time.
- Do not overlap adhesive coats when gluing each section of sheet rubber. Overlaps may cause an uneven surface which will be noticeable through the rubber flooring.
- For trimming sheet rubber in place, purchase a few specialty “hook blades” for your utility knife. These blades fit in all standard utility knives and can greatly increase your speed and accuracy. (Always practice on a scrap piece of sheet rubber before using on your floor.) Blades are available at most home improvement and flooring stores.
- Do not spill or drip adhesive onto the face of the rubber flooring. Wipe any spills up immediately with a rag and/or a solvent recommended by your manufacturer.

 **NOTE:** Not all manufacturer's recommend using a solvent (such as acetone or polyurethane thinner) to wipe away spills. Some solvents will prohibit the adhesive from forming a strong bond between your subfloor and rubber flooring.

- Always follow your adhesive manufacturer's recommendations with regard to “open time.” Some adhesives must be allowed to set up or “dry” before the flooring is installed. Other adhesives indicate that the flooring be installed into the wet glue.

## Using Adhesive Tape

If you will be installing your rubber flooring with adhesive tape, use the same installation steps as are detailed in the following sections. However, instead of applying the full spread adhesive, apply the double-sided tape to the entire perimeter of each sheet. At seams, position the tape so that 1 inch of each sheet of rubber is in full contact with the tape. Most manufacturers recommend rolling all seams to ensure there is full contact between the tape and the flooring.

Always ensure using adhesive tape is an acceptable installation method for your type of sheet rubber. Using an incorrect installation method may void your warranty.

## *Pre-Installation Steps*

Prior to installation, follow all the information in the **Preparing for Installation** section beginning on page 9. This includes:

- **Clean and Moisture Test Your Concrete Subfloor** (page 9)
- **Inspect and Level Your Subfloor** (page 11)
- **Allow the Rubber Flooring to Acclimatize** (page 14)
- **Test for Proper Adhesion** (page 14)
- **Remove Molding and Doors** (page 15)
- **Undercut Door Casings** (page 15)

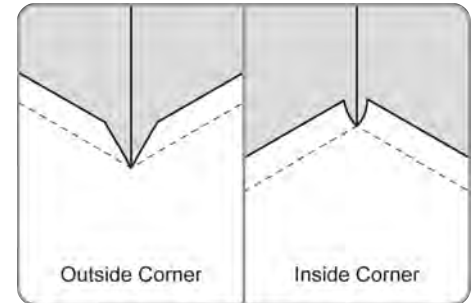
Additionally, unroll the sheet rubber in the installation area for at least 24 hours or as directed by your manufacturer before your installation to give it time to acclimatize to the room conditions. Always inspect your sheet rubber before you begin your installation.

## *Installing a Rubber Floor without Seams*

If you are installing rubber in a small room with no seams and few obstacles (such as a bathroom or closet), you can install without making a pattern.

1. Measure your room taking into account any obstacles or odd shapes you must work around.
2. Add 2-3 inches to all sides of your room measurement.
3. Find a clean, dry place to unroll your sheet rubber. Garages or large rooms work best. If working in the house on other flooring, ALWAYS place some sort of protective barrier between the rubber flooring and your existing flooring.
4. Use a sharp utility knife to cut out the rough dimensions of your room.
5. Roll up your cut rubber and take it back into your installation area.

6. Sweep or vacuum the subfloor then lay out the sheet rubber on the subfloor.
7. Use your utility knife to cut away any excess along walls or obstacles. Take care and make these cuts exact.
  - Use a scrap piece of wood to press the sheet rubber up against straight walls to slightly crease it. Use a straight edge to cut along the crease. Be sure to leave an expansion gap if recommended by your flooring manufacturer.
  - Cut around obstacles (such as islands or vents) carefully so that all cuts are exact.
  - To trim outside corners, cut vertically from top to bottom through the sheet at the corner. Then cut away the excess.
  - To trim inside corners, cut a “V” shape in the corner where the sheet rubber folds or overlaps. The bottom tip of the “V” should be at the floor level. Start with small “V’s” until you cut away enough so that the sheet rubber lays flat in each corner. Cut away the excess along each wall.
8. You are now ready to glue the rubber flooring to the subfloor.



### Adhering the Seamless Rubber Flooring to the Subfloor

Now that your sheet rubber is laid out and cut, it's time to begin securing it to your subfloor.

1. Roll back half the floor. Use masking tape to hold it in place.

✓ **TIP:** Place a heavy object such as your bucket of glue, a tool box or a few full paint cans on the other half of the flooring to keep the sheet from shifting while rolling it back. If it does shift, make sure to reposition the sheet as necessary prior to putting any weight on the glued section of the floor. Once the rubber flooring is laid into the adhesive, it can be nearly impossible to move it without damaging the floor.

2. Apply the adhesive according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Read the instructions on the adhesive container carefully as some adhesives require “open time.” This refers to the amount of time the glue should be left exposed prior to the rubber flooring being laid into it. If you install your sheet rubber too soon, you will get bubbles in your floor due to the adhesive “off-gassing” during the curing process.
3. Carefully unroll the sheet rubber and press firmly in place. Apply pressure starting from the middle and working your way to the edge.

4. Roll the newly glued rubber floor with a 100-lb roller as recommended by your flooring manufacturer. For more information on rolling, see **Rolling the Glued Sheet Rubber Floor** on page 30.
5. Repeat steps 1 through 4 for the other half of the floor.
6. Re-roll the entire floor as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.
7. Seal seams as directed by the manufacturer. For more information, see **Sealing Seams (Optional)** on page 31.
8. Let the floor cure completely. For more information, see **Letting the Floor Cure** on page 31.

### *Installing a Rubber Floor with Seams*

If you are installing your rubber flooring in a large room, you will most likely be using more than one roll of rubber. This type of installation will result in seams in your floor. When installing rubber floors with seams, it is essential to position the sheets of rubber correctly so that the floor does not separate during use or contain gaps between sheets. The goal is to lay the sheets so they look like one continuous piece of rubber flooring.

If you are installing sheet rubber in a room with multiple obstacles or complex seam alignments, you should consider creating a pattern of your floor. This will help you cut your sheet rubber to the correct size for your installation area. It also allows you to make cuts for each obstacle before your installation.

### **Creating a Pattern**

Pattern kits (typically used for vinyl or linoleum flooring) can be purchased at any home improvement store or you can simply use a roll of Kraft paper, masking tape, scissors, a straight edge and a utility knife.



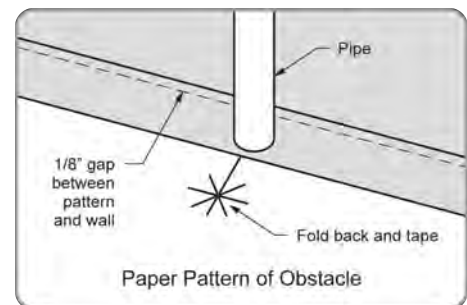
**NOTE:** Some patterns come with a roller disk to help you create the pattern along walls. These disks create a pattern that is 1 inch less than your floor. Before you cut your sheet rubber, be sure to add 1 inch to all your measurements along each wall so that your rubber flooring is the correct size for your room.



1. Lay the paper down along the longest wall (hopefully with the fewest obstructions). Use the masking tape to tape sheets together so that the entire floor along the wall is covered. Leave an expansion gap between the paper and the wall, if required.
2. Work your way across the room adding paper to your initial section. Keep the pattern as smooth as you can and add generous amounts of masking tape along each seam to hold the pattern together.

✓ **TIP:** Cut small diamond shapes every 2 to 4 feet in each direction. Place a strip of masking tape over these cutouts to help hold the pattern to the subfloor.

3. As you reach obstacles in the room (kitchen islands, pipes, etc.), cut and/or fold the paper to fit around the obstacle. Remember to leave an expansion gap between the edge of the pattern and the obstacle, if required. Take more time in these areas to ensure the pattern is accurate. Press the pattern under the door casings and cut to fit.



✓ **TIP:** If you mistakenly cut too much away from the pattern for a certain area, add more paper and tape in place. If you need to remove paper in a certain area, cut or fold back and tape the paper.

4. Once you've created a pattern for the whole floor, look at the pattern before you remove it from the subfloor. Make sure:
  - The pattern is smooth and flat on the floor.
  - The entire floor has an expansion gap around the perimeter, if necessary.
  - All obstacles have been identified and accounted for in the pattern.
5. Use a felt tipped marker to write "TOP" on the pattern. Carefully roll up your pattern.

✓ **TIP:** While this might seem like an obvious step, distractions are common during installations. Doing this one simple step can save you from having to re-purchase and cut your rubber flooring because you used the wrong side of the pattern.

6. Find a clean, dry place to unroll your rubber flooring. Garages or large rooms work best. If working on other flooring, ALWAYS place some sort of protective barrier between the sheet rubber and your existing flooring.

Unroll the sheet rubber as it will be installed on your floor (TOP side up). You can use small tools, bricks or books to hold down edges.

7. Take your paper pattern to the area with your unrolled sheet rubber. You are now ready to create your seams (if needed) and cut your rubber flooring.

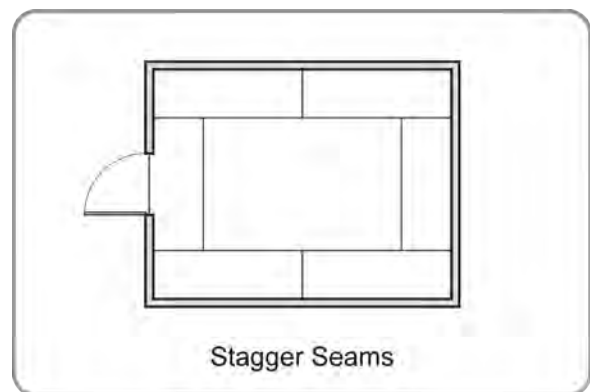
## Creating Seams

If you are installing rubber flooring in a large area, you may have to account for seams. Always try to install your sheet rubber so there are as few seams as possible. The goal is to hide your seams to make the floor look like one continuous sheet of rubber.

When identifying where to put seams, use these guidelines:

- Place seams perpendicular to doorways and entrances.
- Try to run seams parallel to high traffic areas.
- Do not align seams on top of existing flooring seams. (This only applies if you are installing your rubber on top of existing vinyl or linoleum.)
- Try to avoid placing seams at pivot points or in high traffic areas.
- If you are working around a kitchen island, place the seam on the low traffic side of the island, if possible.

When identifying seams, always remember to color match adjacent sheets of rubber. The color match should take precedence over all seam arrangements. Additionally, review all the seam sealer instructions if you will be sealing seams. Some products require that a gap is left between sheets to accommodate the sealant adhesive.



1. Lay your pattern out on top of your unrolled rubber (either one or multiple sheets). The rubber and your paper pattern should be facing up as it will be installed on the floor. Be sure a factory edge lines up with the straightest wall in your room pattern.

✓ **TIP:** Remove the tape covering your cut out diamonds and replace with new tape. Press securely to the sheet rubber to help keep the pattern in place while you're cutting.

2. At a seam, align the second piece of sheet rubber so that it overlaps the first piece by at least 1 inch. **If there is a logo or pattern, make sure both pieces match.** Use masking tape to tape the two pieces of rubber flooring securely together.

✓ **TIP:** It's OK if the overlap is more than 1 inch so the patterns match. You will be cutting off the excess. Always match the patterns in the same direction as they were on the roll.  
Additionally, make small cutouts a few places along the seam that will be cut off. Use these areas as "windows" to match the pattern on the top piece to the pattern on the piece below, if necessary.

3. Double-cut using a utility knife and straight edge. For more information, see **Double-Cutting Rubber Flooring** on page 17.
4. Lay the newly cut seams together so that they are flush then tape securely together with masking tape. Discard the excess cut sheet rubber.
5. Repeat these steps for other seams throughout your installation area.

### Cutting the Sheet Rubber to Fit Obstacles in the Pattern

Once your pattern is created and you've cut all the seams, it's time to cut the rest of your flooring to account for the other obstacles in your room. You have two options when it comes to cutting your rubber flooring. You can:

- Use a utility knife (and possibly a straight edge) to cut the rubber along your pattern. (This method is recommended by most flooring professionals.)
- Use a felt tipped marker to trace your pattern on the rubber then cut with heavy-duty shears. (This method should be used sparingly as it is difficult to get straight and even cuts with shears.)

1. If it is not already, lay your pattern out on top of your unrolled rubber. The sheet rubber and your paper pattern should be facing up as it will be installed on the floor. Both the sheet rubber and the pattern should be smooth and flat.

✓ **TIP:** Remove the tape covering your cut out diamonds and replace with new tape. Press securely to the rubber flooring to help keep the pattern in place while you're cutting.

2. Carefully cut your sheet rubber along the pattern. Cut out or around any obstacles or other items in your pattern. Be careful when cutting at seams to ensure your cuts are even on each side of the seam.

📄 **NOTE:** Some professionals leave 3" on either side of their pattern along all walls. They will then cut off the excess once the rubber is laid out in the installation area to ensure the sheet rubber fits flush with the walls.

3. Once the rubber is cut, roll up and remove the pattern.
4. Carefully, roll up the rubber flooring and take it into the installation area.

✓ **TIP:** Roll up the rubber so that it can be unrolled in the direction you want to install it. Always have someone help you carry the rubber flooring into the installation area. Sheet rubber is heavy and bulky to transport.

## Adhering the Sheet Rubber to the Subfloor

Now that your sheet rubber is cut, it's time to begin securing it to your subfloor. You'll be gluing each sheet on one half of the room to the subfloor at the same time to ensure all seams are tight. During the installation, follow all the manufacturer's recommendations.


1. After you've swept and vacuumed the subfloor, unroll and align your sheet rubber in the installation area. Start with the factory edge along the straightest wall and work your way across the room. Position all seams as they will be on the floor.
2. Evaluate your cutting job. Remove any excess where needed. Ensure there is a slight gap between the flooring and the wall.

3. Starting with the straightest wall, roll back one half of each sheet along one half of the room. Tape each sheet to the other half using masking tape.

Place heavy objects such as buckets of glue, a tool box or a few full paint cans on the other half of each rubber sheet to keep it from shifting while you are rolling. If one does shift, make sure to reposition the sheet as necessary prior to putting any weight on the glued section of the floor. Once the rubber is laid into the adhesive, it is very difficult to move without damaging the floor.

4. Apply the adhesive according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
  - Follow all the manufacturer's recommendations for spread rate and the type of trowel to use.
  - Read the instructions on the adhesive container carefully as some adhesives require "open time." This refers to the amount of time the glue should be left exposed prior to the rubber flooring being laid into it. If you install your sheet rubber too soon, you will get bubbles under your floor due to the adhesive "off-gassing" during the curing process.
5. When the adhesive is ready, carefully unroll and lay the rubber flooring down into the adhesive.
  - Start from the middle of a sheet and work your way to the edges pressing the flooring firmly in the adhesive. This helps ensure all air bubbles are forced toward the edges. Start with the sheet along the straightest wall and work your way across the room.
  - At seams, work the seam joint back with your hands to ensure a snug fit. Press the edges of both sheets firmly but not tightly together. If seams are fit too tightly, they may begin to peak when dry.
  - When installing near obstructions, spread the adhesive as close to the obstruction as possible. (If the adhesive is even a half an inch from the wall, the rubber will eventually curl and allow moisture and debris to get underneath which could damage your subfloor.)

6. Go back to each seam and pull up a small corner of the flooring. Ensure there is sufficient adhesive transfer between the subfloor and flooring. When you peel the flooring up slightly, the adhesive should look much like a spider web between the two surfaces. Replace the sheet into the adhesive and press firmly to reattach to the subfloor.

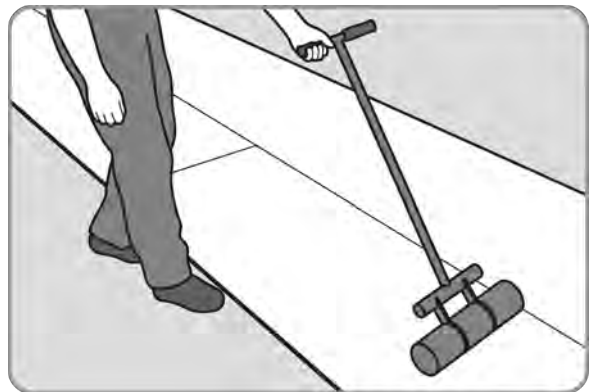
 **NOTE:** Some manufacturers recommend weighting seams to ensure they dry in the correct position. You can also tape seams with masking tape or painter's tape to hold them in place. DO NOT use duct tape as it will leave a sticky residue.

7. Roll the first half of the installed sheet rubber (including all seams) a 100-lb roller to ensure maximum contact. For more information on rolling, see **Rolling the Glued Sheet Rubber Floor** on page 30 (see below).
8. Repeat Steps 3 through 7 to complete the rest of the floor.
9. Re-roll the entire floor as recommended by the manufacturer.
10. Seal seams as directed by the manufacturer. For more information, see **Sealing Seams (Optional)** on page 31.
11. Let the floor cure completely. For more information, see **Letting the Floor Cure** on page 31.

### *Rolling the Glued Sheet Rubber Floor*

Many adhesive manufacturers recommend rolling the floor with a 100-lb roller during and after the installation. Rolling works out any air bubbles and glue pockets as well as ensures the whole floor is in contact with the adhesive. If you do not own a roller, you can rent one at an equipment rental shop. For smaller areas, you can use a 3 section laminate roller. For very small areas or seams, use a rolling pin.

Different products require different methods, so always consult your manufacturer's guidelines when choosing a roller. Some manufacturers recommend rolling right away while others recommend waiting a specified amount of time to ensure the adhesive has had time to form a strong bond. If your room has any banked turns (such as in an indoor track), weight these areas with sand bags after rolling.



When rolling, always start in the center of the floor or sheet and work your way toward the edges (much like rolling out pie dough). Roll both the length and the width of the floor. Pay close attention to all seams. Make sure that during rolling you are not causing the seams to separate from each other. If any adhesive seeps out from under the floor, wipe it up immediately with a damp rag.

### *Sealing Seams (Optional)*

Once your floor is installed, some manufacturer's recommend that you seal all seams to create a seamless-looking floor as well as to prevent moisture from penetrating the subfloor. Special seam sealer kits can be purchased from your flooring manufacturer or flooring retailer. Always use a kit designed for your specific type of sheet rubber and follow all the directions included with your kit. Some kits require that you leave a gap between sheets to accommodate the sealer adhesive.



**NOTE:** Do not leave large pools of sealer along the seam as it will dry and be visible on your floor. Wipe up excess sealer with a rag or paper towel. When using solvents, always follow the manufacturer's recommendations as some solvents can prohibit the adhesive from fully curing.

### *Letting the Floor Cure*

Most sheet rubber floors need between 24 and 72 hours to fully cure and bond. Always follow your adhesive and flooring manufacturer's recommendations as times may vary between products. This curing time is critical for the floor as well as the seams. During this time, you should not move any furniture back into the room and prohibit all foot traffic across the new floor. Additionally, some manufacturers recommend keeping the temperature constant in the installation area for 48 hours after the installation to aid in the curing process.

Once cured, use care when moving appliances or heavy pieces of furniture back into the room. Place these items on plywood or other type of padding and "walk" into place. Try not to slide anything heavy across the floor or you may scuff or damage your new rubber floor.

Follow all your manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning the floor. Some recommend not mopping for 5 days after installation.

## INSTALLING GLUE DOWN RUBBER TILES

With the glue down method, rubber tiles are adhered to the subfloor with an epoxy or polyurethane flooring adhesive. While more time consuming to install, this method results in an extremely durable rubber floor and is a good choice for high traffic residential areas or any commercial application.

### *Tools and Materials*

You will need the following tools and materials:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-lb roller                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring tape and/or ruler     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broom   | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal straightedge              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpenter's square                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Knee pads                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk line                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Notched trowel                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric drill (variable speed)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint mixing drill attachment   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epoxy adhesive or 2" double-sided adhesive tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety goggles                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felt-tipped pen and/or pencil                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Seam sealer kit (optional)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves  | <input type="checkbox"/> Scraper                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Masking tape or painters tape                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility knife with extra blades |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum                          |

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

### *Installation Tips and Tricks*


Review all the **Installation Tips & Techniques** on page 16 as well as these tips to help ensure you have a successful full glue rubber tile installation:

- Always wear gloves if using a full spread adhesive. This type of adhesive will stick to everything (skin, clothes, hair, etc.) and may take a few days to wear off.
- Do not kneel or walk directly on your new rubber floor during the installation. Instead kneel on a piece of plywood or cardboard.
- Mix up tiles from all packages or use tiles from at least three packages at a time to distribute minor color variations across your entire floor.
- Pay attention to any manufacturing guides on the tiles. Some tiles have arrows or other markings that indicate the direction in which they should be installed.
- Undercut all tiles along the perimeter or consider leaving a small gap between the wall and the rubber tile. This gap should roughly correspond with the width of your rubber



flooring. While rubber does not contract and expand in response to environmental conditions, it may stretch slightly over time.

- Do not overlap adhesive coats when gluing each section of rubber tiles. Overlaps may cause an uneven surface which will be noticeable through the rubber flooring.
- Do not spill or drip adhesive onto the face of the rubber flooring. Wipe any spills up immediately with a rag and/or a solvent recommended by your manufacturer.

 **NOTE:** Not all manufacturer's recommend using a solvent (such as acetone or polyurethane thinner) to wipe away spills. Some solvents will prohibit the adhesive from forming a strong bond between your subfloor and rubber flooring.

- Always follow your adhesive manufacturer's recommendations with regard to "open time." Some adhesives must be allowed to set up or "dry" before the flooring is installed. Other adhesives indicate that the flooring be installed into the wet glue.

## Using Adhesive Tape

If you will be installing your rubber flooring with adhesive tape, use the same installation steps as are detailed in the following sections. However, instead of applying the full spread adhesive, apply the double-sided tape to the entire perimeter of each tile. At seams, position the tape so that half of each rubber tile is in full contact with the same strip of tape. Most manufacturers recommend rolling all seams to ensure there is full contact between the tape and the flooring.

Always ensure that using adhesive tape is an acceptable installation method for your type of rubber tiles. Using an incorrect installation method may void your warranty.

## *Pre-Installation Steps*

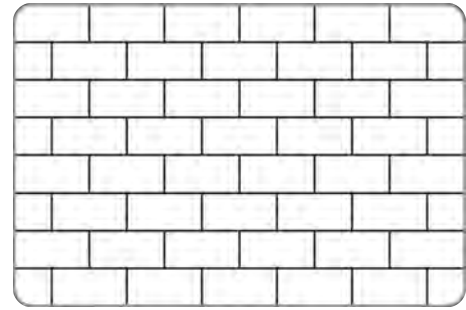
Prior to installation, follow all the information in the **Preparing for Installation** section beginning on page 9. This includes:

- **Clean and Moisture Test Your Concrete Subfloor** (page 9)
- **Inspect and Level Your Subfloor** (page 11)
- **Allow the Rubber Flooring to Acclimatize** (page 14)
- **Test for Proper Adhesion** (page 14)
- **Remove Molding and Doors** (page 15)
- **Undercut Door Casings** (page 15)

Additionally, set the boxes of rubber tiles in the installation area for at least 24 hours or as directed by your manufacturer before your installation to give the material time to acclimatize to the room conditions. Always inspect all rubber tiles before you install them.

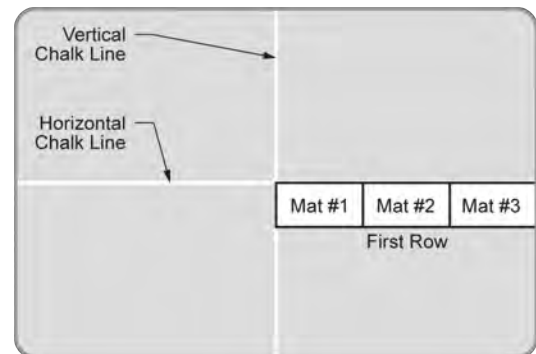
## Installing Rubber Tiles

Installing rubber tiles is much like installing ceramic or stone tiles in the way the flooring is laid out. You'll divide the room into quadrants and begin laying rubber tiles in each quadrant starting from the middle and working toward walls. Many professional installers recommend laying tiles using a brick-like pattern in which tiles are staggered in alternating rows to provide more long-term stability.

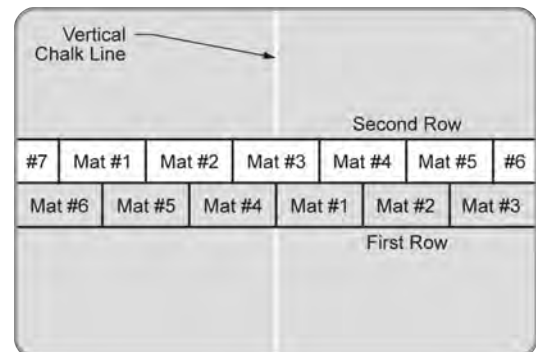


**NOTE:** If installing interlocking tiles with the full glue method, place tiles in-line with each other to ensure the locking mechanisms work properly.

1. Snap a chalk line between the center points of each opposite wall. The place on the floor where the chalk lines intersect is the center of the room. Use the carpenter's square to ensure the center intersection point contains nearly perfect right angles.



2. Layout two rows of loose rubber tiles in all directions at the intersection point.
3. Evaluate whether the center intersection point is a good starting place. At perimeters, do not layout and cut the tiles yet. Ensure the perimeter rubber tiles will be at least 5"-6" long. If not, cut the last full tile to accommodate for this minimum length or move your center intersection point down to better accommodate this needed length.



4. Once you're satisfied with your center point, pick up your guide tiles. Then use a chalk line to divide the main four quadrants into smaller sections (if you're working in a large room). Doing this makes it easier to install straight rubber tile section by section. Snap chalk lines to outline each section within each quadrant. As a rule of thumb, you should be able to complete each section within 30 minutes.
5. Sweep and vacuum the floor so it is completely clean.

6. Beginning at the center point, mix and trowel out the adhesive according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Be aware of any required "open time."
7. Install the first rubber tile so it aligns with the two main chalk lines in the center of the room. Work your way across the quadrant setting tiles into the adhesive.
  - Ensure tiles are fit snugly but not tightly together.
  - Be sure to follow the "brick wall" pattern if recommended by your manufacturer.
  - Use strips of masking tape to hold seams together until the adhesive cures.
8. Roll that section of floor with a 100-lb roller. For more information see **Rolling the Glued Rubber Tile Floor** on page 36.
9. Repeat Steps 6 and 8 for each quadrant until the floor (minus the perimeter) is completed.
10. Re-roll the entire floor with a roller as recommended by your flooring manufacturer. For more information see **Rolling the Glued Rubber Tile Floor** on page 36.

### *Installing Tiles around the Perimeter*

After the main part of the floor is installed, you can install rubber tiles around the perimeter of the room. If access to the perimeter is an issue, install perimeter tiles after you complete each quadrant.

1. Measure and scribe cut tiles to fit along the perimeter in the quadrant. For more information see **Scribe Fitting Rubber Tiles** on page 18.
2. Undercut the edges closest to the wall for each rubber tile. For more information, see **Undercutting Rubber Tiles** on page 18.

Leave a slight gap (approximately the width of the flooring) between the wall and the tile if recommended by your manufacturer.
3. Dry fit all tiles to ensure the sizes are correct. Once satisfied with the fit, collect and stack in the order the tiles will be installed.
4. Mix and trowel out the adhesive according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Be aware of any required "open time."
5. Install each tile along the perimeter. Be sure to keep perimeter tiles in line with the rest of the row.

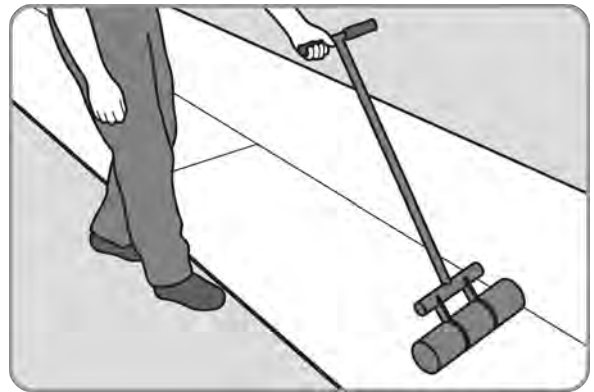
6. Roll the newly installed perimeter with a 100-lb roller according to your manufacturer's instructions.
7. Repeat steps 1 through 6 for each remaining quadrant.
8. Re-roll the entire perimeter, if instructed by the manufacturer.
9. Seal seams as necessary.

### *Rolling the Glued Rubber Tile Floor*

Many adhesive manufacturers recommend rolling the floor with a 100-lb roller during and after the installation. Rolling works out any air bubbles and glue pockets as well as ensures the whole floor is in contact with the adhesive. If you do not own a roller, you can rent one at an equipment rental shop. For smaller areas, you can use a 3 section laminate roller. For very small areas or seams, use a rolling pin.

Different products require different methods, so always consult your manufacturer's guidelines when choosing a roller. Some manufacturers recommend rolling right away while others recommend waiting a specified amount of time to ensure the adhesive has had time to form a strong bond. If your room has any banked turns (such as in an indoor track), weight these areas with sand bags after rolling.

When rolling, always start in the center of the floor and work your way toward the edges (much like rolling out pie dough). Roll both the length and the width of the floor. Pay close attention to all seams. Make sure that during rolling you are not causing the seams to separate from each other. If any adhesive seeps out from under the floor, wipe it up immediately with a damp rag.



## *Sealing Seams (Optional)*

Once your floor is installed, some manufacturer's recommend that you seal all seams to create a seamless-looking floor as well as to prevent moisture from penetrating the subfloor. Special seam sealer kits can be purchased from your flooring manufacturer or flooring retailer. Always use a kit designed for your specific type of rubber tiles and follow all the directions included with your kit. Some kits require that you leave a gap between tiles to accommodate the sealer adhesive.



**NOTE:** Do not leave large pools of sealer along the seam as it will dry and be visible on your floor. Wipe up excess sealer with a rag or paper towel. When using solvents, always follow the manufacturer's recommendations as some solvents can prohibit the adhesive from fully curing.

## *Letting the Floor Cure*

Most glue down rubber tile floors need between 24 and 72 hours to fully cure and bond. Always follow your adhesive and flooring manufacturer's recommendations as times may vary between products. This curing time is critical for the floor as well as the seams. During this time, you should not move any furniture back into the room and prohibit all foot traffic across the new floor. Additionally, some manufacturers recommend keeping the temperature constant in the installation area for 48 hours after the installation to aid in the curing process.

Once cured, use care when moving appliances or heavy pieces of furniture back into the room. Place these items on plywood or other type of padding and "walk" into place. Try not to slide anything heavy across the floor or you may scuff or damage your new rubber floor.

Follow all your manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning the floor. Some recommend not mopping for 5 days after installation.

## INSTALLING INTERLOCKING RUBBER TILES

Interlocking rubber tiles are generally installed as loose-lay. However, a special double-sided tape or the full glue method can be used to secure them to the subfloor if approved by the manufacturer.

### *Tools and Materials*

You will need the following tools and materials:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2" double-sided adhesive tape (optional) | <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring tape and/or ruler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broom                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal straightedge          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpenter's square                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility knife               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk line                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knee pads                                |  |

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

### *Installation Tips and Tricks*

Review all the **Installation Tips & Techniques** on page 16 as well as these tips to help ensure you have a successful interlocking rubber tile installation:

- Mix up tiles from all packages or use tiles from at least three packages at a time to distribute minor color variations across your entire floor.
- Pay attention to any manufacturing guides on the tiles. Some tiles have arrows or other markings that indicate the direction in which they should be installed.
- If using the full glue method to secure interlocking tiles, follow all the steps detailed in **Installing Glue Down Rubber Tiles** beginning on page 32. Be sure to place interlocking rubber tiles in-line with each other, not staggered in a brick pattern, to ensure the locking mechanisms work properly.

### **Using Adhesive Tape**

If you are using adhesive tape to install your interlocking rubber tiles, use the same steps as are detailed in the following sections. However instead of simply locking tiles together, apply double-sided tape to the perimeter of each tile. At seams, position the tape so that half of each rubber tile is in full contact with the same strip of tape. Most manufacturers recommend rolling all seams to ensure there is full contact between the tape and the flooring.

Always ensure using adhesive tape is an acceptable installation method for your type of interlocking rubber tiles. Using an incorrect installation method may void your warranty.

## *Pre-Installation Steps*

Prior to installation, follow all the information in the **Preparing for Installation** section beginning on page 9. This includes:

- **Clean and Moisture Test Your Concrete Subfloor** (page 9)
- **Inspect and Level Your Subfloor** (page 11)
- **Allow the Rubber Flooring to Acclimatize** (page 14)
- **Test for Proper Adhesion** (page 14)
- **Remove Molding and Doors** (page 15)
- **Undercut Door Casings** (page 15)

Additionally, set the boxes of interlocking rubber tiles in the installation area for at least 24 hours or as directed by your manufacturer before your installation to give the material time to acclimatize to the room conditions. Always inspect all interlocking rubber tiles before you install them.

## *Installing the Underlayment*

You may install 6mm polyethylene sheeting as an additional moisture barrier below your loose-lay interlocking rubber tiles.

1. Lay out sheets of polyethylene sheeting across the whole subfloor. Sheeting should extend up walls 2". Overlap sheets 8" and secure with waterproof tape (such as duct tape).
2. Trim the sheeting around the perimeter of the room so that it is flush with walls.

## *Installing Interlocking Rubber Tiles*

Installing interlocking rubber tiles is much like installing ceramic or stone tiles in the way the flooring is laid out. You'll install the main part of the floor first then go back and install all perimeter interlocking rubber tiles.

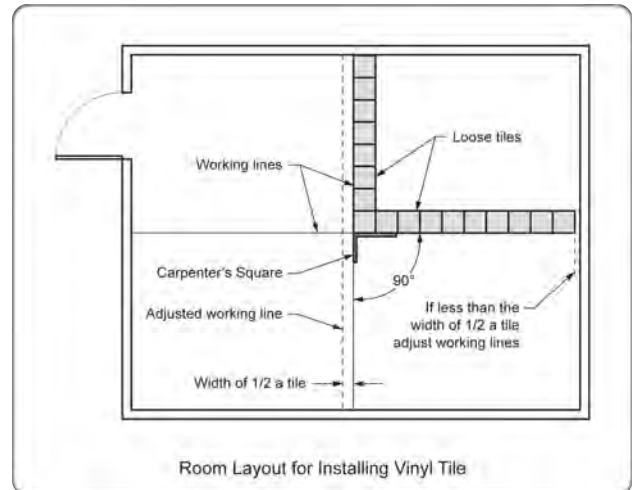
1. Snap a chalk line between the center points of each opposite wall. The place on the floor where the chalk lines intersect is the center of the room.

Use the carpenter's square to ensure the center intersection point contains nearly perfect right angles.

2. Beginning in the first quadrant, layout a row of interlocking rubber tiles and begin clicking together. Always follow any manufacturer markings that indicate which direction the tile should be installed.

Stop when you reach the perimeter and have to make a cut.

3. Continue installing the interlocking rubber tiles in each quadrant until the floor (minus the perimeter) is completed.



## *Installing Interlocking Tiles around the Perimeter*

After the main part of the floor is installed, you can install interlocking rubber tiles around the perimeter of the room.

1. Measure and scribe cut interlocking tiles to fit along the perimeter in the quadrant. For more information see **Scribe Fitting Rubber Tiles** on page 18.
2. Under cut the edges closest to the wall for each interlocking rubber tile, if directed by your manufacturer. For more information, see **Undercutting Rubber Tiles** on page 18.  
Leave a slight gap (approximately the width of the flooring) between the wall and the tile if recommended by your manufacturer.
3. Repeat for each quadrant until the floor is completed.



### *Using the New Rubber Floor*

Loose-lay interlocking rubber tiles do not need any time to set or cure. You can begin using the floor as soon as the last tile is locked into place. Use care when moving appliances or heavy pieces of furniture back into the room. Place these items on plywood or other type of padding and “walk” into place. Try not to slide anything heavy across the floor or you may scuff or damage your new rubber floor.

## INSTALLING RUBBER TILES USING DOWELS

Some rubber tiles require the use of dowels to secure them together. These types of rubber tiles are installed as loose-lay floors similarly to interlocking rubber tiles. In some instances, you may glue perimeter tiles to the subfloor (such as if the rubber flooring is installed in an area without perimeter walls). Some manufacturers also approve this method for use above carpeting.

### *Tools and Materials*

You will need the following tools and materials:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adhesive (full-spread; optional)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal straightedge                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broom                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Notched trowel (optional)                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpenter's square                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber mallet or dowel setting tool           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk line                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Scrap piece of 2" x 4" or other tapping board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dowels                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility knife                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knee pads                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Masking tape or painters tape (optional) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring tape and/or ruler              |  |

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

### *Installation Tips and Tricks*

Review all the **Installation Tips & Techniques** on page 16 as well as these tips to help ensure you have a successful dowel secured rubber tile installation:

- Mix up tiles from all packages or use tiles from at least three packages at a time to distribute minor color variations across your entire floor.
- Pay attention to any manufacturing guides on the tiles. Some tiles have arrows or other markings that indicate the direction in which they should be installed.
- If you will be gluing the perimeter tiles, refer to the **Spreading Adhesives** section on page 19 and the **Rolling the Glued Rubber Tile Floor** section on page 36.

## *Pre-Installation Steps*

Prior to installation, follow all the information in the **Preparing for Installation** section beginning on page 9. This includes:

- **Clean and Moisture Test Your Concrete Subfloor** (page 9)
- **Inspect and Level Your Subfloor** (page 11)
- **Allow the Rubber Flooring to Acclimatize** (page 14)
- **Test for Proper Adhesion** (page 14)
- **Remove Molding and Doors** (page 15)
- **Undercut Door Casings** (page 15)

Additionally, set the boxes of rubber tiles in the installation area for at least 24 hours or as directed by your manufacturer before your installation to give the material time to acclimatize to the room conditions. Always inspect all rubber tiles before you install them.

## *Installing the Underlayment*

You may install 6mm polyethylene sheeting as an additional moisture barrier below your dowel secured rubber tiles.

1. Lay out sheets of polyethylene sheeting across the whole subfloor. Sheeting should extend up walls 2". Overlap sheets 8" and secure with waterproof tape (such as duct tape).
2. Trim the sheeting around the perimeter of the room so that it is flush with walls. If you will be gluing the perimeter, trim the sheeting so it does not extend beyond the rubber tiles.

## *Installing Rubber Tiles with Dowels*

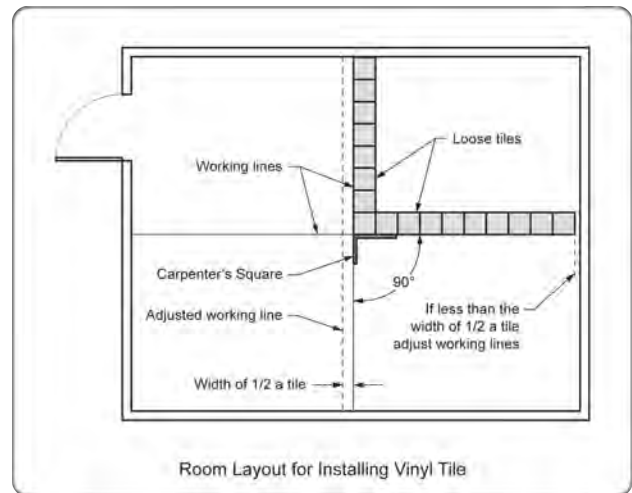
When installing rubber tiles, you'll install the main part of the floor first then go back and install all perimeter rubber tiles.

✓ **TIP:** This installation method works best with two people: one working with the dowels and one working with the rubber mallet.

1. Snap a chalk line between the center points of each opposite wall. The place on the floor where the chalk lines intersect is the center of the room.

Use the carpenter's square to ensure the center intersection point contains nearly perfect right angles.

2. Beginning in the first quadrant, layout the first two rubber tiles. Insert the dowels on one rubber tile. Use a rubber mallet to tap dowels into place.
3. Push the two rubber tiles together so the dowels fit into the corresponding holes. Place a tapping block against the end of one tile and use the rubber mallet to tap the tiles together. Ensure the seams are as tight as possible.
4. Continue to lay out the first row of tiles with dowels. Stop when you reach the last full tile in a row by a wall or at the perimeter.
5. When you begin the second row, insert dowels into the first row tile. Use the rubber mallet and a tapping block to tap the rubber tiles in the first and second row together.



📌 **NOTE:** Have someone hold the first row in place so it does not move.

6. On the second row, insert dowels into the side of the first tile. Tap the second tile to the first in the second row.
7. Now pull back the second rubber tile in the first row and insert the dowels. Replace on the floor and tap the second tiles in each row together.
8. Continue working across the floor until all tiles are in place.

## *Installing Tiles around the Perimeter*

Once the main part of the room is installed, you have two options for installing perimeter tiles.

- If the room has walls, install tiles up to wall in the same manner as for the main part of the floor. Scribe fit all tiles to fit between the installed floor and the wall. Undercut tiles if directed by your manufacturer. For more information, see **Scribe Fitting Rubber Tiles** on page 18 and **Undercutting Rubber Tiles** on page 18.
- If the installation is in the middle of a room or area with no surrounding walls, you must use a full spread adhesive to create a solid perimeter around the main part of the rubber floor. This ensures the tiles are held securely in place.

## **Installing Glued Down Perimeter Tiles**

Use a full spread adhesive to secure perimeter tiles in a an installation area with no surrounding walls. For additional information about using the full glue method, see **Installing Glue Down Rubber Tiles** on page 32.

1. Measure and scribe cut the rubber tiles to fit along the perimeter in the quadrant. For more information see **Scribe Fitting Rubber Tiles** on page 18.
2. Dry fit all tiles to ensure the sizes are correct. Once satisfied with the fit, collect and stack in the order the tiles will be installed.
3. Mix and trowel out the adhesive according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Be aware of any required "open time."
4. Install each tile along the perimeter. Be sure to keep perimeter tiles in line with the rest of the row.
5. Roll the newly installed perimeter with a 100-lb roller according to your manufacturer's instructions.
6. Repeat steps 1 through 5 for each remaining quadrant.
7. Re-roll the entire perimeter, if instructed by the manufacturer.
8. Install rubber reducer along the entire perimeter of the new floor to eliminate any tripping hazards.

## *Using the New Rubber Floor*

Dowel secured rubber tile floors do not need any time to set or cure. You can begin using the floor as soon as the last tile is installed.

If you used the full glue method to secure perimeter tiles, allow the entire floor to cure for between 24 and 72 hours. Always follow your adhesive and flooring manufacturer's recommendations as times may vary between products. This curing time is critical for the floor. During this time, you should not move any furniture back into the room and prohibit all foot traffic across the new floor. Additionally, some manufacturers recommend keeping the temperature constant in the installation area for 48 hours after the installation to aid in the curing process.

Once cured, use care when moving appliances or heavy pieces of furniture back into the room. Place these items on plywood or other type of padding and "walk" into place. Try not to slide anything heavy across the floor or you may scuff or damage your new rubber floor.

Follow all your manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning the floor. Some recommend not mopping for 5 days after installation.

## SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE INSTALLATIONS

You may need to install transitions or stair treads/risers during your rubber flooring installation. In this section, we'll discuss:

- **Rubber Transitions**
- **Installing Rubber Reducer**
- **Installing Rubber Stair Treads and Risers**

### *Rubber Transitions*

Rubber flooring is typically installed in specialized areas like commercial gyms or ice skating rinks or in residential weight rooms and play rooms. Because of these specialized installation areas, there are a limited amount of rubber transition pieces available. Some manufacturer's sell reducer strips and stair treads/risers designed specifically for their rubber flooring products.

If your manufacturer does not produce these items, talk with your flooring retailer to see what other types of transitions and moldings might work for your installation area. For lower profile rubber flooring products, you may be able to use the same type of transition as are used for vinyl or linoleum floors.

### *Installing Rubber Reducer*

Rubber reducer strip is designed to transition from a high profile rubber floor (such as 3/8") to a lower profile floor such as vinyl or concrete. Always use the type of adhesive recommended by the manufacturer to ensure a secure bond.

1. Measure and cut your reducer to fit snugly along the edge of the rubber floor.
2. Apply a thin line of adhesive on the bottom edge of the flush reducer.
3. Attach the reducer to the subfloor and/or the rubber floor as indicated by the manufacturer.
4. Apply painters tape along the full length of the seam between the reducer and the rubber floor to hold the reducer in place until the adhesive sets completely.

## *Installing Rubber Stair Treads and Risers*

Rubber treads and risers are a popular option for stairs, especially in high traffic commercial areas. Rubber flooring provides a durable, non-skid surface which is ideal for stairways. Rubber treads and risers come in a variety of thicknesses, similar to rubber flooring products. Always choose a thickness appropriate for the level of traffic in the area. If installing rubber stairs in an ice rink or where people may be wearing cleats or golf spike shoes, choose the thickest rubber stair tread and riser available.

When installing rubber flooring on stairs, risers and treads are generally manufactured at the correct depth. You'll simply cut these items to the width you need for the stairs. Additionally, some manufacturers offer risers and treads in standard widths where little or no cutting may be required. You'll install the stair riser then the tread to ensure the nose of the tread overlaps the top of the riser. This ensures there is no surface which can come apart and pose a tripping hazard.

Each riser and tread will be glued to the subfloor with a quality flooring adhesive. Always choose an adhesive recommended by your flooring manufacturer and follow all preparation and application instructions. Proper installation materials and techniques are essential to avoid flooring failures and injuries.

Prior to installation, follow all the information in the **Preparing for Installation** section beginning on page 9:

- **Clean and Moisture Test Your Concrete Subfloor** (page 9)
- **Inspect and Level Your Subfloor** (page 11)
- **Allow the Rubber Flooring to Acclimatize** (page 14)
- **Test for Proper Adhesion** (page 14)

1. Starting at the top of the stairs, measure and cut the stair risers.



**NOTE:** There may be some slight variations in measurements between the bottom and top of the stair riser due to how the stairs were initially installed. Some installers use these first measurements to make a template for all other stair risers. While other installers measure each stair riser separately as there can be minor variations due to walls not being completely straight.


2. Dry fit each riser to ensure it is snug at both walls.




3. Apply adhesive to the subfloor riser and back of each rubber riser according to the manufacturer's instructions. Ensure any grooves on the back of the rubber risers are completely filled with adhesive.

Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for installing the tread:


- If instructed to install immediately, go to step 4.
- If instructed to wait, allow the adhesive to dry for between 10-30 minutes or according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

 **TIP:** The drying time is essential to allow the gases in the adhesive to evaporate. If the stair treads are installed too quickly this off-gassing will produce bubbles under the treads.

4. Install each riser. Place each riser carefully as most glues have instant adhesion and cannot be moved once in place.

 **TIP:** Use the recommended solvent to immediately remove any excessive adhesive from walls or skin.

5. Roll each riser with a roller to ensure full adhesion.
6. Measure and cut the stair treads. Ensure there is adequate overlap on the stair nosing.

 **NOTE:** There may be some slight variations in measurements between the bottom and top of the stair riser due to how the stairs were initially installed. Some installers use these first measurements to make a template for all other stair risers. While other installers measure each stair riser separately as there can be minor variations due to walls not being completely straight.

7. Dry fit each stair tread to ensure it is snug at both walls.

8. Apply adhesive to the subfloor tread and back of each rubber tread and nosing according to the manufacturer's instructions. Ensure any grooves on the back of the tread are completely filled with adhesive.

Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for installing the tread:

- If instructed to install immediately, go to step 9.
- If instructed to wait, allow the adhesive to dry for between 10-30 minutes or according to the manufacturer's recommendations.



**TIP:** The drying time is essential to allow the gases in the adhesive to evaporate. If the stair treads are installed too quickly this off-gassing will produce bubbles under the treads.

9. Install each tread. Place each tread carefully as most glues have instant adhesion and cannot be moved once in place.



**TIP:** Use the recommended solvent to immediately remove any excessive adhesive from walls or skin.

10. Roll each tread with a roller to ensure full adhesion.
11. Allow the risers and treads to set completely (generally at least 48 hours) before using.

## COMPLETING THE JOB

Congratulations! You're almost done installing your rubber floor. All that's left to do is:

- **Installing Wall Base and Quarter Round Trim**

### *Installing Wall Base and Quarter Round Trim*

You can install trim along all walls to give your room a finished look. The most common types of trim include:

- **Wall Base:** This molding is placed along the bottom of the wall. Wall base can also be used under cabinets.
- **Quarter Round:** This molding is placed along wall base above the flooring. It can also be used under cabinets if wall base is too large or at the bottom of stairs for aesthetics.

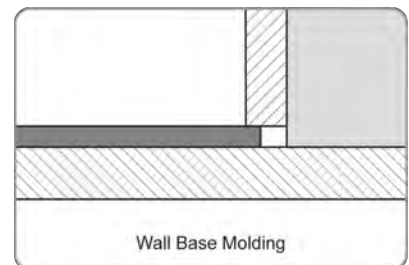
Base shoe molding can be used instead of wall base in areas where wall base will not fit (such as under cabinets).



**NOTE:** Wall base and quarter round may not be necessary or desired for some installation areas such as commercial gyms.

1. Measure and cut the wall base and quarter round trim for your installation area.
2. Using a construction adhesive, apply a thin, wavy line down the length of the wall base molding.
3. Gently press the wall base molding against the wall. Nail the molding to the wall at an angle every 16". Do not nail or glue to the rubber.

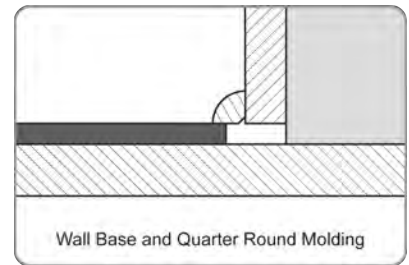
✓ **TIP:** Always nail the wall base to the wall at an angle. If you nail straight into the wall, the nails may not hold well into the drywall.



4. Apply a thin, wavy line down the length of the quarter round molding.

5. Gently press the quarter round molding to the bottom of the wall base molding so it fits snugly against the flooring. Nail the molding to the wall at an angle every 16". Do not nail or glue to the rubber flooring.

✓ **TIP:** Always nail the wall base to the wall at an angle. If you nail straight into the wall, the nails may not hold well into the drywall.



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