ELEGANCE

Recycled Leather Tiles for Floors and Walls

Installation Instructions

RECYCLED LEATHER TILES AND SHEETS GLUE-DOWN METHOD WITH WATER BASED CONTACT CEMENT

You must read and understand these instructions completely before installing the tiles. In the event these instructions leave unanswered questions or if you would like additional information, please contact Summit International Flooring at 877-496-3566 prior to beginning installation. It is the responsibility of the installer to determine suitability of ELEGANCE Recycled Leather Tiles for each application. Prior to installation, installer should inspect all material.

Any defect must be reported directly to Summit International Flooring. Should an individual piece of material be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use the piece in question.

PREPARATION

Tiles are the last thing you want to install in a room. Take the tiles out of their boxes and remove from plastic and let them acclimate in the room designated for installation as described above. When acclimating tiles, please fan them, opening the areas between the tiles to allow air flow, keep tiles flat during process.
ALLOW THE TILES TO ACCLIMATE OUT OF THE BOX, FANNED OUT AND ON-SITE, FOR A PERIOD OF 48- 72 HOURS AT ROOM TEMPERATURE DEPENDING ON SITE AND LOCATION. Never install tiles below 55°F (12°C) and above 90°F (32°C) due to humidity. Keep the doors closed during the acclimation period to maintain the room temperature. The permanent HVAC should be on and done in the environment in which it is expected to perform prior to installation.

- Repair any knotholes, indentations or open joints with Ardex® Feather Finish or like.
- Use a belt sander or sanding block to smooth out any rough areas
- The prepared surface for installation must be smooth, clean, dry and dust-free.
- We recommend the application of Kilz water based General Purpose Latex Primer in a matching color in order to seal the substrate and limit dust and moisture variation. This is a similar process to sealing a wall when installing wallpaper.

Flooring must not be installed if vapor pressure exceeds 3 lbs. per 1000 square feet in 24 hours as tested according to ASTM F 1869 (calcium chloride test method). Preferably the slab should be tested according to ASTM F 2170 (Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using In Situ Probes) Flooring must not be installed if the relative humidity inside of the concrete slab exceeds 75%.

REVIEW AND PREPARE SUBSTRATE

No installation is better than the substrate over which it is installed. The finished appearance and performance of the floor will be determined by the condition of the substrate. The substrate must be structurally sound, rigid, smooth, flat, clean, and permanently dry.

The substrate should be smooth and free of dirt, waxes, polish, old adhesives, and voids. You can test the area by passing a trowel to ensure there are no protrusions. You can fill the indentations by using the Ardex Feather Finish ® or like. Layout your pattern as you would for any tile work. Chalk your lines onto the floor or walls. Ensure you reviewed the leather tiles for color and mix and match lots when installing.

APPLY ONE COAT OF ADHESIVE

Apply the adhesive first with a paintbrush at the perimeter of the wall. Should the adhesive be mistakenly applied to the edge of the wall, remove with a moist rag or, when dry, simply by rubbing it. Do not use thinners or removers. We recommend using Wilson Art® H20 or FORMICA® 160, both are premium-grade water based contact cement with low VOCs.

Use a paint roller with a medium nap refill and apply the adhesive to your substrate as you would in painting a substrate. Apply adhesive over the chalk lines. Adhesive will dry clear.

To apply the adhesive to the tile, the use of a paintbrush is recommended. Apply the adhesive from the center of the tile towards the edges – this motion ensures that no adhesive will be applied on the finished side of the tile. Once applied to the tiles and the substrate, let the adhesive dry completely, following the indications of the manufacturer. This may take between 30-60 minutes depending on the level of humidity in the room.

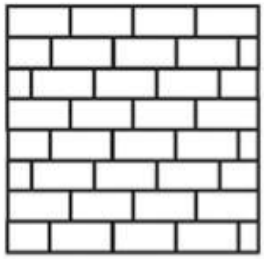
APPLY THE TILES

Once the second coat of adhesive is dry and tacky (roughly 30-60 minutes depending on humidity), carefully align the tile edge to the chalk line. Once tiles touch the adhesive, the tiles will grab to the substrate. You can apply pressure to the tile with your hands and then follow with a rubber mallet. Tile must be hit for positive contact between substrate and tile, especially at the perimeter and corners. Solid contact at the corners and edges is essential for a successful long-term installation. On walls, we recommend in addition to go over the entire surface of the tiles with 2 inch brass roller with significant pressure on the tiles. Once the first tile is in place, align the next tile to the edges of the first. Continue in the same fashion as above.
Apply pressure on the tiles with a sturdy 2" METAL J-roller on all the wall tiles in addition to the seams. Apply extra pressure by hitting corners and edges with the rubber mallet as well.

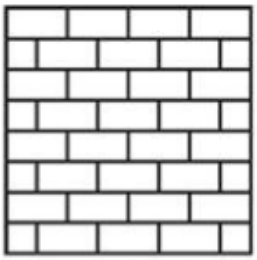
NOTE: Summit International Flooring makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of work performed by a selected installer. Summit International Flooring disclaims all liability for imperfect installation of its product. This warranty does not cover material with visible defects once they are installed in error. Summit International Flooring declines responsibility for failure resulting from or connected with subfloor or job-site damage or deficiencies. These tips and photo guides are a general guideline to assist with installation of the product provided for reference only. A deviation from the instructions voids any responsibility of Summit International Flooring.

WALL INSTRUCTIONS

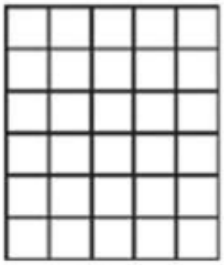
For wall installation, follow the initial steps recommended for installation – first acclimate properly and prepare the substrate. You must apply the tiles to APA Underlayment Grade plywood or equal. You cannot install the tiles on drywall as the contact cement will react negatively with the drywall and your tiles risk peeling off over time UNLESS YOU SEAL THE WALL WITH A COAT OF KILZ WATER BASED General Purpose Latex Primer OF A MATCHING COLOR AS THE TILE. The preferred method is to apply the tiles over plywood. You can apply 1⁄4 APA Underlayment Grade plywood over existing drywall by having it glued and laid against the wall with nails a/o screws. In all cases, the substrate must be clean & smooth. Fill-in any cracks or seams with Ardex® Feather Finish. Draw your horizontal and then a couple of vertical lines that you'll need to line up the



Third Offset



Half Offset



Grid

start of your tiles. Laying your tiles in an offset brick pattern is easier to install as very often the walls are not perfectly horizontal. Laying your tiles in a straight grid pattern (like a checkerboard) will highlight any discrepancy in your wall unless it is perfectly flat – regardless of the skill level of the installer.

Next simply roll our adhesive on the wall or you can use a paint brush to apply the adhesive if it's a small area. Wait until the adhesive dries to tacky and clear state (about 30- 45 minutes), then apply a second coat. Wait until the adhesive is clear before starting and you'll be able to see your lines again. Apply two coats of adhesive on the tiles.

Align one corner of the tile against your 2 lines and then carefully push down the rest of that tile. Carefully align the edge of the next tile to the first one and continue to stick the tiles to the wall. Carefully place each tile tightly against the next one because once the tile sticks, it's very difficult to remove. While the tile is in place, smack the tile with the palm of your hand all across the tile to ensure that all parts of the tile have made contact with the wall adhesive. You can then use a rubber mallet or a hammer with a batten board to make sure all parts of the tile are secured to the wall.

There is no need to apply a wax sealer or other protective finish on wall tiles. Contact us for more information regarding products, designs, sales, distribution and installation.

Keep HVAC systems set at 70°F (21°C) and 35%-55% relative humidity. A humidifier may be required in the winter months to prevent movement and shrinkage to a minimum.

Additional General Installation Instructions

Thank you for choosing leather tiles, a natural product. The tiles, like wood, bamboo, or cork may absorb moisture and need to acclimate to their surrounding environment prior to installation. Please carefully read and follow these instructions. A professional installer with experience with cork, hardwood or vinyl flooring is recommended to install leather flooring

I. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS

- When flooring is ordered, 5% must be added to the actual square footage needed for cutting and other waste factors (10% for diagonal installations). Inspection of all flooring should be done prior to installation. Carefully examine flooring for color, finish and quality before installing it. If material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately.
- Prior to installation of any flooring product, the owner/installer must determine that the job-site environment and the sub-surfaces involved meet or exceed all applicable standards. Recommendations of the construction and materials industries, as well as local codes, must be followed. These instructions recommend that the construction and subfloor be clean, dry, stiff, structurally sound and flat. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from, or associated with, subfloor and substrates or job-site environmental deficiencies.

II. PREPARATION

a. Storage and Handling

- Handle and unload with care. Store in a dry place, being sure to provide at least a four-inch air space under cartons which are stored upon —on-grade concrete floors. Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been enclosed with windows, doors are in place, and cement work, plastering and all other —wet work is completed and dry. Acclimate as directed prior to installation. This must be done in the environment in which it is expected to perform prior to installation. Check adhesive label for adhesive storage limitations. Job-Site Conditions
- The building should be enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place. All concrete, masonry, framing members, drywall, paint and other —wet work should be thoroughly dry.

The wall coverings should be in place and the painting completed, except for the final coat on the base molding. When possible, delay installation of base molding until flooring installation is complete. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated.

- Exterior grading should be complete with surface drainage, offering a minimum drop of 3'' in 10' (7.6 cm in 3.05 m) to direct flow of water away from the structure. All gutters and downspouts should be in place.
- ELEGANCE glue-down flooring may be installed on- or above-grade level. Do not install in full bathrooms.
- Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18'' (46 cm) from the ground to the underside of the joists. A ground cover of 6–20 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor retarder with joints lapped 6'' (15 cm) and sealed with moisture- resistant tape. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation.
- Permanent air conditioning and heating systems should be in place and operational. The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of 60° – 80°F (16 – 27°C) and humidity of 35-55% for 14 days prior to and during installation and until occupied. WARNING: IF THERE ARE EXISTING IN-PLACE RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING AND ASPHALTIC ADHESIVES: DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST, OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC —CUTBACK ADHESIVE, OR OTHER ADHESIVE. These existing in-place products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Unless positively certain that the existing in-place product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for instructions on removing all resilient floor covering. Summit International Flooring products and recommended adhesives do NOT contain asbestos.

b. Subfloor Conditions

- CLEAN—Subfloor must be free of wax, oil, sealers, adhesives and other debris.
- LEVEL/FLAT—Within 3/16'' in 10' (5 mm in 3 m) and/or 1/8'' in 6' (3 mm in 2 m). Sand high areas or joints, and fill low areas with Ardex Feather Finish. Follow the instructions of the leveling compound manufacturer but make certain that the leveling compounds are completely DRY before beginning installation.
- DRY—Check and document moisture content of the subfloor using the appropriate moisture test.
- STRUCTURALLY SOUND—Nail or screw any areas that are loose or squeak. Wood panels should exhibit an adequate fastening pattern, glued/screwed or nailed as system requires, using an acceptable nailing pattern. Typical: 6'' (15 cm) along bearing edges and 12'' (31 cm) along intermediate supports. Flatten edge swell as necessary. Replace any water- damaged, swollen or delaminated subflooring or underlayment.
- Underlayment will need to be minimum of 1⁄4 — or thicker with one fully sanded face (APA Underlayment Grade plywood or equal). Underlayment must be free of any material that would interfere with providing a secure bond or that would cause discoloration (adhesives, solvents, inks, sealers, etc.). Summit International Flooring does not recommend installation over particle or chip board, tempered hardboard, fire retardant plywood, or pressure treated plywood unless special considerations are reviewed with Summit International Flooring prior to installation.
- Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement. If the subfloor has excessive vertical

movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete.

III. SUBFLOOR/UNDERLAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

Recommended Subfloor/Underlayment Surfaces

- Concrete
- Ceramic Tile, Terrazzo, Slate & Marble
- Rubber Underlayment
- Wood subfloors
- Wood structural panels and underlayment
- Fully adhered existing wood floors

Concrete: The flooring can be glued directly to concrete with a minimum compressive strength of 3000 PSI. Do not install over a concrete sealer. If present, remove by grinding or sanding.

If using underlayment to correct deficiencies in the subfloor and to provide a smooth sound surface on which to install the recycled leather or cork tiles, be sure to acclimate panels to site conditions before installation.

Ceramic, Terrazzo, Slate & Marble (Glue-Down or Floating Only)

If you are installing the leather or cork tile over existing ceramic tile, use a self-leveling compound such as Ardex® Feather Finish or like to ensure an even surface. Old grout lines MUST be filled. The substance must be smooth, flat and dry before installation. Loose tiles must be re-adhered to the subfloor or filled as above. Remove all sealers and surface treatments. Always check for adequate adhesive bond.

Acoustic Rubber Underlayment

The flooring can be glued or directly over full-spread, permanently bonded acoustic rubber underlayment or underlayment installed with double faced tape.

Contact Summit International Flooring for specifications.

Wood Subfloors and Underlayment (All Installation Methods)

The wood subflooring materials must not exceed 12% moisture content. Using a reliable wood moisture meter, measure moisture content of both the subfloor and the hardwood flooring to determine proper moisture content. Applicable standards and recommendations of the construction and materials industries must be met or exceeded.

Summit International Flooring

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