

# ACCORE™ GLUE DOWN RIGID CORE VINYL PLANK INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## INTRODUCTION

These instructions are written as a guide to be used when installing Tarkett Flooring. These instructions, combined with our adhesives and flooring products, create a system. Utilizing this system will ease the installation process and provide the customer with a completed product that will perform to its intended purpose. Always visit [www.tarketthospitality.com](http://www.tarketthospitality.com) for the most current installation and maintenance instructions. Technical videos and tip sheets are also available. Contact Tarkett Technical Services at (800)-871-3211 with any questions.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. When ordering product for your installation, calculate the quantity needed for the square footage of the area of installation, then add an additional 5-10% for standard (straight) installations or 15% additional for diagonal installations to allow for cuts and to have extra material left over that can be used if a future repair is needed.
2. We recommend that the installation of new flooring material not be performed until all the other trades have completed their work. Proper precautions must be taken during and after the installation process to avoid damage to the newly installed flooring.
3. Tarkett floors are intended for indoor use only.
4. Cartons must be stored horizontally, on a sturdy base at all times.
5. Protect carton corners from damage.
6. Carefully check flooring material for any defects. Contact your supplier immediately if any defect is found.
7. Room temperature must be maintained between 65°F (18.3°C) and 85°F (29.4°C) with ambient relative humidity between 40% and 60% for 48 hours prior to, during the entire installation, and after installation. **NOTE: Permanent, operational HVAC systems are highly recommended. If alternate system is utilized, it must provide proper control of both temperature and humidity for the above stated time durations.**
8. Site-conditioning flooring, accessories, and adhesives 48 hours prior to installation. The location selected for site-conditioning must be either the room where the flooring will be installed or have similar ambient temperature and relative humidity readings as the room where the flooring will be installed.
9. Exposure to direct sunlight can result in Accore fading and creates excessive heat directly on the finished flooring and surrounding structure which may result in movement. During peak sunlight exposure, the use of drapes or other window treatments are recommended.
10. Remove all existing transitions, quarter round, baseboard molding, or cove base prior to beginning the installation.
11. Transition moldings must be placed at egress doorways and when installations span greater than 30' in any direction. Transition moldings must be used between floating and glue-down installations. Do not install planks as an inter-connected installation. Ensure a minimum ¼" (6.3mm) expansion space between the transition molding and floating planks.
12. Undercut doorway moldings to the thickness of the flooring.
13. Do not use additional padded underlayment under Accore
14. Tarkett recommends using **Tarkett C-GU™** adhesive for a direct glue down application. Issues associated with the use of non-recommended adhesives (including peaking, gapping, adhesion, bubbling, discoloration, indentation, etc.) are excluded from Tarkett's limited warranty. See complete Limited Warranty for details.

## SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

An **adhesive bond test** must be performed per **ASTM F3311 Standard Practice for Mat Bond Evaluation of Performance and Compatibility for Resilient Flooring System Components Prior to Installation** and using the actual flooring materials and adhesive to be installed. The test areas must be a minimum of 36" x 36" and remain in place for at least 72 hours and then evaluated for bond strength to the substrate.

A **porosity test** must be performed on the substrate to determine which installation method (porous or non-porous) will be required. Refer to **ASTM F3191 Standard Practice for Field Determination of Substrate Water Absorption (Porosity) for Substrates to Receive Resilient Flooring**

Subfloor Construction	Requirements
All Subfloors	Permanently dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound
	<b>Minimum substrate temperature</b> must be 60°F (15.6 °C). Substrate temperature should be a minimum of 5°F (2.8°C) higher than the ambient temperature and 10°F (5.6°C) higher than the dew point temperature. <b>NOTE: Dew point calculators are available online. If your substrate is not 10°F (5.6°C) above the dew point, contact technical services at (800) 871-3211</b>
	Flat to within 3/16" in 10' (4.8mm in 3m). Any unevenness (humps or dips) must be sanded down or filled with a cement-based patching compound.
	<b>AT THE TIME OF INSTALLATION: Testing the substrate with a Tramex moisture encounter meter (refer to ASTM F2659) is recommended due to possible issues related to topical moisture from dew point conditions. Substrate surface readings must not exceed 4.0%, if above 4.0%, contact Tarkett Technical Services prior to beginning installation. If these conditions are not properly addressed, the open and working times, bond strength, and setting of the adhesive may be affected.</b>
	Fill all depressions, dormant cracks, dormant saw cuts (control joints), and other surface irregularities with a good quality, cement-based underlayment patching compound appropriate for this purpose.

Existing Flooring	<p>Remove all existing, resilient flooring materials and adhesives mechanically prior to installation of Tarkett flooring</p> <p><b>NOTE: Refer to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute's (RFCI's) Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Existing Resilient Flooring for best work practices</b></p> <p><b>CAUTION: Some resilient flooring products and adhesives contain "asbestos fibers," and special handling of this material is required.</b></p>		
Wood Subfloors	<p><b>Crawl spaces:</b> All suspended wood subfloors must have at least 18" of well-ventilated air space clearance above the ground. The ground under the crawl space shall be covered with 10 mil or thicker polyethylene sheeting to reduce moisture vapor transmission.</p>		
	<p>Wood joist or truss systems spacing must be a maximum of 16" on center. Wood or joist truss systems spacing of 16 – 19.2" is acceptable for double wood layer construction</p>		
	<p>Subfloor panels must be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dry, sturdy, smooth and dimensionally stable</li> <li>• double layer construction, 1" minimum total thickness blocked or tongue and groove plywood.</li> <li>• good one side and have a fully sanded face with a solid core (no voids).</li> <li>• exterior grade or classified as Exposure I.</li> <li>• panel joints offset by at least 16" so that four corners do not meet</li> <li>• securely fastened to the joists and free from spring or deflection (should not exceed 3/63" [1.1mm] per APA Product Standard 2-10 <i>Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels</i>. If glue-nail procedures are required, use a solvent-free construction adhesive.</li> </ul>		
Concrete Substrates	<p>Wood subfloors not meeting the above requirements must be covered with 1/4" minimum thickness underlayment grade plywood. Follow all APA and manufacturer's guidelines for installing underlayment grade plywood.</p>		
	<p>Tarkett recommended underlayments include:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APA Underlayment Grade Plywood A-C, B-C, or C-C Plugged</li> <li>• ACCU-PLY</li> <li>• SurePly</li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TECPLY</li> <li>• ULAY</li> <li>• C.S.A. (CanPly) and Proboard</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APA Underlayment Grade Plywood A-C, B-C, or C-C Plugged</li> <li>• ACCU-PLY</li> <li>• SurePly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TECPLY</li> <li>• ULAY</li> <li>• C.S.A. (CanPly) and Proboard</li> </ul>
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	<p>Recommended for installation over properly constructed and prepared on-grade, above-grade, and below-grade concrete.</p>		
	<p><b>Constructed</b> as recommended by the American Concrete Institute's <b>ACI 32.2 Guide for Concrete Slabs that Receive Moisture-Sensitive Flooring Materials</b>.</p>		
<p><b>Prepared</b> according to <b>ASTM F710 Standard Practice for Preparation of Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring</b>. The slab must be swept, damp mopped and/or vacuumed to remove any dust. Any surface materials present must be removed, such as loose paint, wax, grease, oil, adhesive residues, crayon, pen marking, etc. that may migrate to the surface of the flooring causing discoloration. Fill and level any cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves, or other irregularities with a high-quality, non-shrinking, latex-fortified, cementitious patching compound.</p>			
<p><b>DO NOT</b> install Tarkett flooring over expansion joints, or other moving joints in the substrate. These joints must be respected and should not be filled with products that are not intended for that purpose. Contact an expansion joint cover manufacturer to meet specific flooring conditions.</p>			
<p>Complete 3 moisture tests for up to 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (add 1 additional test for every 1,000 after that)</p> <p>Test for moisture in accordance with:</p> <p><b>ASTM F2170 Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must test to within 90% RH</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>-OR-</b></p> <p><b>ASTM F1869 Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must test to within 8 lbs. / 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 24 hours</li> </ul> <p>If the moisture test results exceed the limits above, the installation must not proceed until the problem has been corrected. Tarkett does not recommend or warrant any product or procedure for the remediation of high moisture in concrete substrates. There are several companies that manufacture products suitable for moisture remediation.</p> <p>Tarkett recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact a moisture remediation product manufacturer and supply testing results.</li> <li>• Follow the remediation recommendations provided, using products that meet <b>ASTM F3010 Standard Practice for Two Component Resin Based Membrane-Forming Moisture Mitigation Systems for Use Under Resilient Flooring Systems</b>.</li> <li>• Cap the moisture remediation system with a cementitious-based product per the moisture remediation system manufacturer's recommendations for primer, thickness, drying time, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Install Tarkett flooring over the cementitious-based capping product following our standard installation instructions.</p>			

Gypsum	Refer to ASTM F2419 Standard Practice for Installation of Thick Poured Gypsum Concrete Underlayments and Preparation of the Surface to Receive Resilient Flooring for guidelines when pouring gypsum underlayments or preparing for use as an underlayment under Tarkett flooring. Follow the gypsum underlayment manufacturer's recommendations for proper application and preparation. Refer to the product manufacturers recommendations for sealing and/or priming the finished surface.
	When installing a product with adhesive, the gypsum surface should be capped with a cementitious underlayment. Follow the underlayment manufacturers recommendations for proper application.
Radiant Heat	Must be embedded in concrete a minimum of 2" below the surface of the subfloor
	Check the manufacturer of the radiant heat system to ensure it is safe for use with resilient flooring
	Concrete surface must never exceed 85°F (29.4°C)
	<b>24 hours prior to install</b> , lower the thermostat to a minimum of 65°F (18.3°C). Maintain this temperature throughout installation and for 48 hours after completion
	<b>48 hours after installation</b> , gradually increase the thermostat in increments of 5° every twenty-four hours, never exceeding 85°F (29.4°C)

## SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

1. All substrates must be dry, clean, structurally sound, smooth, and free from all existing adhesive residues.
2. The substrate must be flat within 3/16" in 10' (4.8mm in 3m).
3. Fill and level concrete cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves, and other irregularities. Use a latex fortified, cementitious patching compound. Follow the manufactures recommendation for preparing.
4. Sweep and vacuum or damp mop substrate to remove all dust and debris.

## GETTING STARTED

**NOTE: Chevron Tawny design will have two different plank styles in each carton to complete a chevron design. Installation will require installing planks alternating in rows (EX: Row 1 all plank design 1, Row 2 all plank design 2, etc.).**

1. Install product out of multiple cartons from matching batch numbers. Tarkett cannot be responsible for issues arising related to the installation of mixed batch numbers.
1. Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. During installation, inspect the groove area and remove any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks. Do not install damaged planks. Tarkett will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects.
2. Room temperature must be maintained between 65°F (18.3°C) and 85°F (29.4°C) with ambient relative humidity between 40% and 60% for 48 hours prior to, during the entire installation, and after installation.
3. Remove all existing transitions, quarter round, baseboard molding, or cove base prior to beginning the installation.
4. Undercut doorway moldings to the thickness of the flooring.
5. Cartons must be stored horizontally at all times.
6. Protect carton corners from damage.
7. Tarkett floors are intended for indoor use only.
8. Determine in which direction the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger or if installing in very small rooms or hallways, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension. Confirm plank direction with key decision maker (end-user, designer, etc.) prior to installing Accore.
9. Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and to determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row of planks is less than 2" (5 cm), excluding the tongue, the width of first row of planks will have to be cut accordingly. If the length of any cut piece at the end of any row less than 12" (30.5 cm), the first plank in the row will need to be cut accordingly.
10. Although the use of a tapping block and hammer is not required, it may help with assembly on the long joints of both plank and stone designs. Make sure that the chosen tapping block is suitable for vinyl and rigid core products. Be careful not to over-tap as this can cause damage to the locking mechanisms.
11. When engaging the end seams, the use of a hard, non-marking PVC mallet or equivalent on the surface of the flooring may be helpful to ensure threefold locking of the seams. It is critical that the short ends are aligned properly prior to engaging to prevent gapping of planks or cracking of the locking system.
12. Transition moldings must be used between floating and glue-down installations. Do not install planks as an inter-connected installation. Ensure a minimum 1/4" (6.3mm) expansion space between the transition molding and floating planks.

## INSTALLATION

1. **Adhesive Application:** See adhesive chart below and follow adhesive label instructions for proper use.
2. **Plank Installation Procedure:**
  - a. Square the area and establish reference points on the substrate. Determine layout based on the plank size.
  - b. Apply the adhesive to the substrate and allow proper open time. Open and working times are dependent on the ambient temperature, humidity, substrate porosity and temperature, and air movement. It is the installer's responsibility to modify the open and working time for jobsite conditions.
  - c. Use established reference points and install the flooring. It is recommended to install the planks with the groove side (larger locking profile) as the leading edge receiving the tongue side of new rows. In some layouts, it may be required to work backwards by sliding the groove side under the tongue side.
  - d. Install planks in the same direction, in a random pattern, and offset plank end joints by a minimum of 6" (15.2 cm). To achieve a more aesthetic, natural appearance, avoid stair-step and H-patterned layouts by using random sizing 6" and larger to start each row.
  - e. It is critical that the short ends are aligned properly prior to engaging to prevent gapping of planks or cracking of the locking system.
  - f. Adhesive transfer to the back of the material is critical to a successful installation. Periodically check the back of the material to ensure adhesive transfer to the back of the material.
  - g. **Installing Border Planks**
    - Border planks can be fit by measuring the distance between the wall and the last full plank installed.
    - Using a straight edge, mark or score the surface with a sharp utility knife, then snap off the section along the scored line.
    - Place the plank firmly into the adhesive. Border planks may also be fit by placing a loose plank over the last full plank in the row. Place another full plank over the loose plank and butt it against the wall. Use this plank as a marking plank and score or mark the bottom plank. Cut along the mark. Place the plank firmly into the adhesive.
  - h. Roll floor in both directions with a 100 pound three-section roller. Use a small hand roller in areas that cannot be reached with a large roller.
  - i. Inspect the floor surface, especially seams, and remove any adhesive on the surface.

3. **Post Installation Floor Protection:**

We recommend that the installation of new flooring material not be performed until all the other trades have completed their work. Proper precautions must be taken during and after the installation process to avoid damage to the newly installed flooring.

- All traffic must be restricted for a minimum of 24 hours after installation.
- All heavy traffic and furniture or appliance placement must be restricted for a minimum of 72 hours after installation.
- Flooring must be swept or vacuumed to remove loose dirt and grit prior to the application of proper floor protection. (Do not trap dirt and grit under floor protection.)
- Apply floor protection suitable for construction foot traffic such as: undyed heavy Kraft paper, Ram Board, 1/8" Masonite panels, or similar product designed for resilient floor protection.
- Areas that will receive heavy traffic, rolling loads, pallet jacks, and furniture or appliance placement must be protected with 1/4" thick Masonite or similar wood panels.
- The floor must be swept or vacuumed prior to the placement of the floor protection panels. (Lightly damp mop if necessary)

**NOTE: Do not use plastic or other non-porous materials to protect the newly installed flooring that could prevent the adhesive from drying properly.**

## ADHESIVE CLEAN UP

### C-GU™ Adhesive

- Use a clean white cloth dampened with water to remove wet adhesive from floor covering and tools.
- Dried adhesive may require the use of denatured alcohol (methyl hydrate) or 70% or higher isopropyl alcohol applied to a clean white cloth (Follow manufacturer's precautions when using these chemicals).

## FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

1. For bathroom installations, create a watertight seal by filling the entire expansion perimeter, T-Molding spaces, and other open areas with a 3/8" compressible PE backer rod. Cover the backer rod and remaining gaps with 100% silicone sealant. DO NOT use acrylic sealants. Prior to installing the molding, apply 100% silicone to the portion of the molding or transition that will contact directly with the laminate surface. Clean excess silicone immediately. Apply 100% silicone sealant at connections to door frames, T-joint molding, or any other fixed objects.
2. Install transition and finish moldings.
3. Use plywood to cover the top of the flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
4. Use proper polished metal or non-staining, smooth plastic floor protectors under the legs of furniture. Floor protectors must have a minimum 1 sq. inch bearing surface.
5. Post installation temperature must be maintained between 65° F and 85° F (18.3° C and 29.4° C). Ideal ambient relative humidity is between 40% and 70%.

## ADHESIVE SELECTION TABLE

Only Tarkett adhesives are recommended for use with Tarkett products. When used as recommended, Tarkett adhesives are guaranteed by the limited warranty of the flooring product.

A porosity test must be performed on the substrate to determine which installation method (porous or non-porous) will be required. Refer to **ASTM F3191** *Standard Practice for Field Determination of Substrate Water Absorption (Porosity) for Substrates to Receive Resilient Flooring*

A pH test must be performed in accordance with **ASTM F3441** *Standard Guide for Measurement of pH Below Resilient Flooring*.

Products	Adhesive	Application and Coverage		Moisture / pH Limits			Notes
		Porous	Non-Porous	RH%	CaCl <sub>2</sub>	pH	
ACCORE	C-GU Adhesive	1/16 x 1/16 x 1/16 SQ 125 – 150 sq. ft. per gallon	1/16 x 1/16 x 1/16 SQ 125 – 150 sq. ft. per gallon	90%	8 lbs.	7-12	Adhesive shall be applied and allowed to reach a semi-wet state where there is transfer to the fingers when lightly touched but the trowel ridges should not smear. Open time will vary depending on substrate porosity, ambient temperature, and relative humidity of the jobsite.

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