ADORE® DECORIA CONTACK™ INSTALLATION GUIDE

ADORE DECORIA CONTACK PRE-INSTALLATION GUIDE

1. Handle cartons carefully to protect them from damage.
2. Before you begin the installation, inspect the flooring material for any obvious defects. Ensure you have the correct color, pattern, quantity, and that all the material is of the same production number. Beginning the installation means that you have accepted the conditions.
3. Acclimating the flooring and the area being installed to the same constant temperature is a must. The room and flooring temperature should not be below 65°F (18°C) or above 85°F (29°C) for 48 hours before, during, and after the installation. Thereafter, maintain the temperature between 55°F (13°C) and 85°F (29°C).
4. Material should not be exposed to temperatures greater than 140°F.
5. Wood subfloors must be double construction and have been fully acclimated and dried out.
6. Door jams should be undercut.
7. Subfloors must be from dust & dirt, rigid, permanently dry, flat, and level to 3/16" in 10 feet.
8. Blend planks from several cartons to ensure a random variation.
9. To prevent fading and discoloration, the material should be protected from prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.

SUBFLOORS

Decoria Contack may not be installed over; particleboard, OSB, chipboard, existing cushioned back resilient flooring, certain ceramic tiles, etc. Subfloors must be smooth, clean, dust-free, rigid, even, and flat to within 3/16" in 10 feet.

Wood

The floor must be rigid, free from movement, and have at least 18" (46 cm) of well-ventilated air space below. Decoria Contack should not be installed over wooden subfloors built on sleepers over, on grade, or below grade concrete floors unless specific design has been undertaken to eliminate the chance of failure due to the excessive moisture vapor emissions from the concrete.

Underlayment

Underlayment panels are used to correct deficiencies in the subfloor and provide a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring. APA underlayment grade plywood, minimum 6.3 mm (¼") thickness, with a fully sanded face, is the preferred panel. Underlayment panels such as Multiply, Tee-Ply, and Ulay are also recommended. The underlayment must be free of any foreign material that may cause staining, such as patching compounds, sealers, inks, solvents, etc.

The underlayment should be installed with dispersion-type staples placed every 4-6 inches (10-15cm) in the field and every 2-3 inches (5-8 cm) along the seams. Sanding is a preferred method for smoothing joints.

Note: The above-mentioned is not considered the only procedure for a successful installation. Always install and fasten underlayment panels according to the manufacturers' recommendations.

There are certain types of subfloors and underlayment that, through years of experience, are known to be prone to failure and are therefore NOT recommended underlayments for resilient floor coverings.

Tempered hardboard and Lauan board are not suitable to install over. In some cases, permanent staining has occurred from chemicals used in the construction of Lauan board. This

is also true when using pressure-treated or fire-retardant wood. Regardless of which underlayment is used, failures in the performance of the floor covering due to the underlayment and subfloor are not covered by Adore Floor's warranty.

Priming Subfloor
No matter the subfloor type, it is critical that it is clean and dust-free to ensure a proper bond of the Decoria Contack adhesive to the subfloor. Although not always necessary, the best solution may be to apply an acrylic primer coat to the subfloor, such as Ardex P-51 or equal.

Concrete Floors
Concrete floors should be prepared according to ASTM F-710, Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring.

It is essential that a permanent, effective moisture vapor retarder with a permeance of 0.1y be installed under all on- or below-grade concrete floors. The water vapor retarder (vapor barrier) should be installed directly below the slab.

Floors shall be smooth, rigid, flat, level, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as old adhesive residue. Imperfections such as chips, spalls, cracks, and/or corrective leveling shall be repaired with cementitious-based patching and/or underlayment materials. The surface of the concrete must be flat to within 3/16" in 10' (5mm in 3 meters).

Expansion joints, Saw cuts, Control joints
Expansion joints in the concrete are designed to allow for the expansion and contraction of the concrete. If the floor coverings are fully adhered to the subfloor and installed over the expansion joints, it more than likely will cause gapping or buckling of the flooring material. Therefore, flooring products should not be installed over expansion joints, an expansion joint cover designed for use with resilient floorings should be used.

Isolation, construction, and control (saw cut) joints may be successfully patched once the concrete is thoroughly cured, dry, and climatized. If any movement occurs in the concrete, it may also cause the patching material to telegraph.

Patching Materials
There are many brands available, but basically, there are two types of patching materials for the use of smoothing and patching subfloor irregularities. One type is referred to as calcium sulfate/plaster/gypsum-based compounds. This type of patch may harbor and promote mildew growth, have low indentation resistance, and poor bond and adhesion strength.

The second type is a cement-based compound usually with a polymer additive. This type of patch will not promote mildew growth; have much higher psi strength and better adhesion properties to the subfloor. Adore Floors recommends only the use of cementitious base patching and leveling compounds.

Only use the highest quality materials. Many failures have been directly attributed to the use of gypsum-based toppings, leveling and patching compounds because of poor indentation resistance, poor resistance to mold and mildew, and separation of the product within itself.

Regardless of which patching or leveling compound is used, any failures in the performance of the compound, or flooring due to the compound, are the responsibility of the compound manufacturer and installer, not with Adore Flooring.

Old Adhesive Residue
If the residue is asphaltic (cut-back) it must be dealt with in one of two ways:
1. It may be mechanically removed such as bead blasting or diamond grinding.
2. A self-leveling cementitious underlayment may be applied over it. Check with the underlayment manufacturer for suitability, application instructions and warranties.

Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Residue of the remover
left within the subfloor will affect the new floor covering.

> **WARNING!**
> Warning regarding complete adhesive removal: some solvent-based 'cut-back' Asphaltic adhesives may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Do not use power devices, which create asbestos dust in removing these adhesives. The inhalation of asbestos dust may cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm.

Existing Floor Coverings
Decoria Contack may be installed over a single layer of resilient flooring such as VAT, VCT, non-cushioned sheet vinyl, epoxy coatings, and some ceramic tile.
Note: The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring or subfloor is suitable to be installed over rests solely with the installer and flooring contractor.

> **WARNING!**
> Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, saw, bead-blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt or asphaltic 'cut-back' adhesives. These products may contain either asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the 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. The RFCI'S *Recommended work practices for removal of resilient floor coverings* are a defined set of instructions which should be followed if you must remove the existing resilient floor covering structures.

Radiant Heated Floors
Decoria Contack flooring may be installed over radiant heated floors provided the operating temperature does not exceed 85°F (29°C). The room temperature must be maintained at a minimum of 65°F (18°C) for 48 hours prior to, during and after installation, after which the temperature of the radiant heating system can be increased. When raising the floor temperature, do so gradually so that the substrate and the flooring material can adapt to the temperature change together. For more information, contact Adore Floor's Technical Services.

Moisture Testing
It is essential that moisture tests be taken on all concrete floors regardless of age or grade level, with a minimum of three tests for the first 1000 square feet. The test should be conducted according to ASTM F1869, Calcium Chloride Moisture Emission Test, and ASTM F2170, In-Situ Relative Humidity of the Concrete. One test should be conducted for every 1000 square feet of flooring. The test should be conducted around the perimeter of the room, near columns and where

moisture may be evident. The results of F1869 Calcium Chloride moisture vapor emissions from the concrete shall not exceed 5.0 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. in 24 hrs. for all installations. For the most accurate results, the weight of the calcium chloride dish should be made on the job site at the start and end of each test. The results of F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity shall not exceed 85%. A diagram of the area showing the location and results of each test should be submitted to the architect, general contractor, or end-user. If the test results exceed the limitations, the installation should not proceed until the problem has been corrected.

Note: It may not be the floor installer's responsibility to conduct the test. It is, however, the floor covering installer's responsibility to make sure these tests have been conducted and that the results are acceptable prior to installing the floor covering.

When moisture tests are conducted it indicates the conditions only at the time of the test. The flooring contractor cannot be held responsible if moisture appears in the future, causing a failure.

MATERIAL HANDLING

Flooring shall be stored in a clean, dry environment, protected from the elements. Storage temperature should
be between 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C).

Store cartons on a smooth, level surface. Stack cartons squarely. Do not stack more than ten cartons high. Do not store tiles and planks on their edges. Do not drop cartons. Do not double stack pallets. Storing flooring at high temperatures and on uneven surfaces may cause permanent distortion of the material.

JOBSITE CONDITIONS

Acclimating the flooring and the area being installed to the same constant temperature is essential. The room and flooring temperature should not be below 65°F or above 85°F (18°C and 29°C) during the installation. All areas must be fully enclosed and weather-tight, with permanent HVAC in operation.

INSTALLATION

Remove baseboard, quarter-round, and other wall base material. Under-cut door trims to allow the flooring to be installed under the trim.

Measure the shorter dimension of the room and divide it in half to determine the center line. Adjust the center line in either direction, so the width of tile/planks closet to the wall on either side of the room is roughly equal.

PLANKS: The long side of the planks should parallel the long dimension of the room.

Place spacer blocks against the wall to create a minimum 0.125" (1/8") expansion gap between the tile/plank and the wall.

Measuring from the center line, snap a chalk line to the inside of the first full row of tiles/planks (fill in partial rows behind). If the first row is less than the full 18-inch width of the tile or 7.25-inch width of the plank, or if the wall is not straight, cut the first row to the needed size (leaving the minimum 0.125" gap between the tile/plank and the wall). Avoid having border pieces less than 3" wide.

PLANKS: Ends should be staggered randomly, at least 8 inches apart from row to row. To achieve this, start each row with a plank that varies in length. Usually, the left-over piece from one row can be used as the starter piece on the next row.

The first row: Starting in the corner, working from left to right, install the first full row of tiles/planks along the chalk line. It is critical that the first row be straight as it is the foundation for the rest of the installation.

Peel the release paper from the tiles/planks and place the tile along the chalk line across the length of the room. Once the floor is in place, remove the spacer blocks and install base shoe and quarter-round molding to cover the gap between the floor edge and the wall. Nail those moldings into the wall and not the flooring.

Pressure: The greater the pressure applied to the tile/plank, the more aggressive the adhesive bond will be. It is best to apply very little pressure until the flooring is in the exact position desired.

Planks: Continue installing planks, maintaining the random staggering of the end joints (at least 8 inches
apart). Upon completion, install base shoe and quarter-round to cover the gap around the wall. Take care to
nail the base and quarter-round to the wall and not to the flooring.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Prevention, Protection, and Care

- The single greatest cause of damage to any flooring or floor finish is abrasion from dirt and grit. Wherever possible, use walk-off mats at entrances and doorways and vacuum mats often.
- Ensure you use non-staining mats on the floor. Rubber-backed and latex-backed mats, tires, and asphalt sealers may stain or damage the surface.
- Use non-staining floor protectors under heavy furniture and equipment.
- Chairs should have clean, smooth, non-staining floor protectors. Ensure there are no nicks or burrs on the protectors. Felt protectors must be cleaned or replaced regularly to ensure there is no grit build-up. Floor protectors should be at least 1 inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor.
- When moving heavy furniture and equipment, use strips of plywood or Masonite to roll or slide the furniture or equipment.
- To prevent fading, avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.
- The key to successful maintenance of all flooring types is the removal of dirt and soil. Mopping with a sponge or string mop alone removes very little soil, but rather it dissolves the dirt and spreads it out evenly across the floor, creating a dull, dirty film and migration into the tile joints.
- Adore Floors recommends the use of micro-fiber mops and pads for dust mopping and scrubbing with a neutral PH balance cleaner. On larger installations using an automatic scrubber or wet vacuum is the preferred way to remove soiled water and rinse water.
- Do not use a vacuum cleaner with rotating brushes or beater bars.