

1/4" UNDERLAYMENT INSTALLATION TIPS

The product is graded to have a smooth face and back. The core is sound with no holes. The glue line is moisture resistant. If a product in the store does not meet these criteria, do not attempt to use it for underlayment.

We strongly urge every consumer to inspect the plywood prior to purchase and installation. A sheet of underlayment that meets quality requirements will perform well. Because most new vinyl floor installations require very few sheets of underlayment, the inspection process will take only minutes.

Look at the face and back for any obvious defect. Look at the edge of the underlayment for any holes in the core. Stand the sheet on its long edge and give it a twist. Any delamination will be seen when this is done.

Materials for the Job

1. Calculating Underlayment

One panel covers 32 square feet. Measure the floor and add another 5% to 10% to allow for cuts and scrap material.

2. Selecting the Fasteners

Tight Fastening is extremely important to help prevent panels from lifting loose. Two methods are approved. Fastener must recess 1/16" below the surface and penetrate 75% to 90% of the sub floor assembly but not to protrude through the bottom.

*Select a coated fastener known not to stain vinyl, stone, or marble floor covering.

Nails: Ring shank or annular-grooved galvanized flooring nails with a 3/16" diameter head. Recess 1/16" and patch over.

Screws: Flathead countersink wood screws. Do not use drywall screws. Recess 1/16" and patch over.

3. Using Patch/Fillers

It is our experience that filling or flashing joints between panels with patch may increase the risk of tunneling and ridging over these joints.

We recommend all normal panel joints be sanded and not patched. If gaps, chips, etc occur, use a cement-based high solid, non-shrinking acrylic patching compound approved by the manufacturer for flooring underlayment applications. DO NOT use gypsum based patching compounds. Use a brand name product and manufacturer's acrylic latex additive for improved results versus mixing with water.

Avoid excessive use of patching compound and adhesive material and DO NOT flood underlayment surface with a self leveling compound.

4. Safety Equipment

**WARNING: Wood dust can cause eye breathing problems: wear protective gear:
Dust mask, safety glasses or eye goggles, kneepads.**

Acclimation

Acclimate the panels in the room for 48 hrs. or more in extreme conditions.

Floor joints and subfloors expand and contract with changes in humidity and temperature therefore underlayment and subfloor assemblies must be adjusted to the surrounding room that conditions will exist during occupancy.

- Use Caution when carrying and storing underlayment in extreme conditions.
- Separate and store panels vertically around the room or flat with a spacebar between each panel to allow air passage on all sides.
- Avoid storing near hot or cold spots such as windows, air registers and exterior doors.

The room must be kept dry and ventilated and a constant temperature of 70 degrees F during and at least 48 hours before and after installation.

CAUTION: A word about Seam "Telegraphing"

Seam telegraphing problems are not the result of defective underlayment panels but can usually be traced to two main causes.

1. Improper installation including failure to sand all seams level and using excessive patching compound.
2. Changing site conditions including expansion from moisture entrapment or movement in the subfloor.

Step 1- Set the First Panels

- Start at one corner of the room along the longest line and install one panel at a time.
- Set panel grain at the right angles to the floor joists with the grain running in the same direction.
- Offset panels edges from the subfloor edges by the minimum of 12”.
- Maintain a minimum 1/4” gap along all walls and vertical surfaces for expansion.
- DO NOT four-corner fasten panel first. Start from a panel corner and fasten row by row to the opposite side.
- Use full body weight over the area with the subfloor.
- Fasten panels every 2 ” along the edges and 4 ” across the field.
- Position fasteners 3/8 ” to 1/2 ” in from edges.
- If using staples (not recommended) apply staples across the grain.

Step 2- Set All Other Panels

- Offset rows of panels 12” minimum- ensure four panel corners never meet at an intersection.
- Lay all panels with the grain running in the same direction.
- Cut panels to size with a trim saw.
- Keep factory edges together and use hand cut edges against walls, etc.
- DO NOT jam panels together. Gently butt together without leaving a gap.
- Recess fastener heads 1/16” and assure 75 % to 90 % penetration into the subfloor.
- Avoid using panel pieces less than 12” except when cutting into allow for floor fixtures.

Step 3- Patching

It has been the industry experience patching and flashing joints between panels increases the risk of seam telegraphing, tunneling and ridging. With careful installation patching can be avoided.

CAUTION: DO NOT use an electric fan to speed up the drying time. This creates a “surface cure” that, while dry enough to sand, traps water below the surface and prevents a proper cure. The panel edges absorb the moisture, expand slightly and force the patch out of the joint as a bead that can be seen through the vinyl.

Step 4- Final Check

Take the time to thoroughly check all surfaces and seams for smoothness.

Run a straight edge or hand over all seams and assure all fasteners are set.

Correct any irregularities.

Keep the flooring underlayment panels clean and dry until the new floor covering is installed.

Avoid Going Wrong

DO NOT...

- install panels without acclimating them first.
- fasten a panel down by the four corners first then go back to “ fill the field” later.
- lay more than that one panels at a time.
- place panel seams directly over subfloor seams.
- allow the corner of panels to meet in an intersection.
- leave gaps between panels (except general purpose panels-Leave a 1/8” gap).
- patch normal edge joints where there are no gaps.
- fail to sand all seams.
- work without wearing safety equipment.