

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR ROCK CREEK VINYL TILE

[Shaw's Technical Support YouTube Channel - Installation Video - Click Here](#)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

These installation guidelines apply to the Fold-n-GO™ product only. All instructions and recommendations should be followed for a satisfactory installation.

- The floor covering should be stored and installed in a climate controlled location with an average temperature between 65° - 85°F - 18°-29°C.
- Acclimate material a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation in the room/ location where the installation will take place.
- Do not store directly on concrete, allow for air circulation. Do not open the cartons but spread them out and protect corners from damage.
- Failure to follow these guidelines may result in an installation failure (i.e. flooring may expand or contract, resulting in gapping). Fold-n-GO™ tile is an interior product and must be installed in a temperature- controlled environment, maintained between 65 and 85 degrees F - 18°-29°C. Please keep in mind a concrete floor can be up to ten degrees colder than the actual room temperature.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods; such exposure may result in discoloration, and excessive temperatures can cause the flooring to expand and lift off of the subfloor. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the drapes or blinds is recommended.
- Regardless of new construction or remodeling projects, keep flooring stored in rooms that are not being worked in and only install product after all other trades have completed work that could damage the flooring.
- To minimize shade variation, mix and install planks from several cartons.
- Inspect all planks for damage before installing. If you have any concerns about the product fit or finish, call Shaw Information Services at 1-800-441-7429. Claims will not be accepted for flooring that has been cut to size and/or installed.
- All subfloor patching must be done with a Portland based compound and allowed to dry completely prior to installing flooring.
- Installation – This product can be installed on, above, or below grade.
- Fold-n-GO™, Shaw's patented locking technology, is water/moisture resistant and reliably secures the flooring panels on all four sides. However, excessive moisture in the subfloor could promote mold, mildew, and other moisture related issues like the trapping of moisture emissions under the flooring, which may contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment.
- Shaw Industries does not warrant nor is responsible for damage to floor covering due to moisture related issues.

Tools: Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Tapping Block, Pull Bar, ¼" Spacers, T-Square, Safety Glasses, Broom or Vacuum and, if necessary, tools for subfloor repair.

II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor covering, resulting in an unsightly surface and may cause excessive wear on high spots. Subfloor must be flat - 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.

CAUTION: Some types of nails, such as common steel nails, may cause discoloration of the vinyl floor covering. Recommendations for attaching underlayment panels are not included. Solvent based construction adhesives are known to stain vinyl floor coverings. All responsibility for discoloration problems caused by the use of the above mentioned products is not the responsibility of Shaw, but rests with the installer and the underlayment panel manufacture.

A. Wood Subfloors

1. Do not install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.

2. Do not apply sheet plastic over wood subfloors.
3. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist is to be no less than 18" and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
4. All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance.
5. If the surface of the wood subfloor is not smooth, a 1/4" underlayment panel must be installed over the subfloor, per the underlayment manufacturer's written instructions.
6. Fold-n-GO™ resilient flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. An additional layer of APA rated 1/4" thick underlayment should be installed.

B. Concrete Subfloors

1. New and existing concrete subfloors should meet the guidelines of the latest edition of ASTM F 710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring" available from the American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428; 610-832-9585; <http://www.astm.org>
2. Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
3. New concrete slabs must be dry. Maximum moisture level per CaCl test method is 8 lbs. per 1000 in 24 hr. Maximum level for ASTM 2170 In-situ Relative humidity test method - 85%.
4. Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions.
5. Maximum acceptable pH level of 9 or less
6. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.
7. Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a Portland based patching and leveling product, and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.

Radiant Heat: Radiant heat components must have a minimum of 1/2" separation from the product. This is the only type of radiant heat system that is approved. Radiant heat system must be on and operational for at least 2 weeks prior to installation to reduce residual moisture within the concrete. Three days prior to installation lower the temperature to 65 degrees, after installation gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5° F to avoid overheating. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

⚠ WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

These products may contain either asbestos fibers and/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 and may govern the 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 detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to www.rfci.com

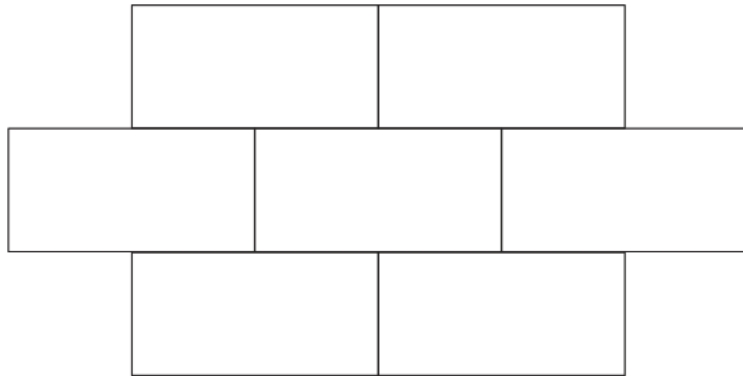
C. Existing Floor Coverings

- Flooring can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat dry and structurally sound.
- Quarry tile, terrazzo and ceramic tile - Use caution with highly embossed tile. This type of tile plus grout joints should be filled with a high quality cementitious patching product.
- When the removal of the existing resilient floor covering is not an option then it must be covered with an embossing leveling compound or an equivalent in order to provide a smooth subfloor surface. Otherwise, telegraphing may occur.
- Existing sheet vinyl floors must be fully adhered and should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness.
- Installation is NOT allowed over any type of carpet.
- Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.

III. INSTALLATION

Fold-n-GO™ tile flooring is designed to be installed utilizing the floating method only. Never secure the tiles to the subfloor. Do not install cabinets or fixed objects on top of the flooring. Proper expansion space is required. Undercut all doorjamb. Do not fasten wall mouldings and or transition strips to the flooring.

Tile pattern must be installed in a staggered (offset) brick pattern.



A. Start of Installation

- When installing the tile resilient flooring, it is important to fully measure the room being installed and determine if the walls in the room are truly square to each other in the corners, or if the walls are running away from square out of each corner.
- Lay out several tiles out in order to determine the best installation pattern for the area. Visually the most appealing layout will have the same width of tile at both sides of the room. Also the width of the first row of tile planks should be approximately the same width as the last row. This may require cutting the first row plank to a smaller width. Measure across the room (inches) and divide by the width of a tile to see how many full width tiles will be used, and what size width will be needed for the last row. The last row should never be less than 6" in width.
- Tiles should be the same size at all walls. Start the first row using a full tile. Stagger the second row by starting with a half tile to create a brick pattern look.
- The width measurement of the room may require that the full start board may need to be shortened in order to achieve the same size cut tile at each end of the row. For this reason it is advisable that you add approximately 10% waste factor into the required square footage of

the installation area. Installations diagonal to the walls of a room will increase this waste factor to approximately 15%.

- Use 5/16" spacers to maintain the proper expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the floor. Quarter Round molding will cover this expansion gap. IMPORTANT: this 5/16" gap must be maintained around cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges and any other obstacles in floor.
- INSPECT EACH TILE CAREFULLY FOR DAMAGE PRIOR TO INSTALLING IT.
- Do not install a damaged plank. If you have any concern about the product fit or finish, call Shaw Information Services at 1-800-441-7429 for information.
- Check groove on plank to make sure it is clean and free of debris.

B. Continuing Installation

1. Where possible install the tile products parallel to the longest exterior wall.
2. Determine if the starter row will need to be cut. If the first row of tiles does not need to be trimmed in width, it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge shows towards the wall.
3. Installation of the product must start from the left side of the room,



working to the right when working in front of the planks or facing the starting wall. Use a spacer to create the 5/16" expansion space.

4. Install the second tile in the row by dropping the end tongue onto the end groove of the first tile. Maintain an expansion gap of approximately 5/16" - 8mm from the wall. Repeat this step to complete the first row.
5. Start the second row by cutting a tile in half to create the offset stagger (brick pattern). Insert the long side seam at a slight angle first, and as the top surfaces meet, rotate the plank down into the locked position.
6. Work across the length of the room installing planks along the wall in the first row and then aligning the planks in the second row. It is critical to keep these two rows straight and square, as they are the "foundation" for the rest of the installation. Check squareness and straightness often.
7. Planks may be cut with a utility knife using the "score and snap" technique.
8. Continue installing tiles and make sure to maintain the proper offset stagger. Check that all planks are fully engaged; if a slight gapping is found, the gap can be tapped together by using a tapping block and a scrap of flooring to cover the tapping block in order to avoid damages on the planks.
9. When fitting under door casings, etc., the flexibility and convenient connection of Fold-n-GO™ becomes evident. If necessary, a flat pull bar may be used to assist in locking the tiles.
10. When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, tiles can be cut easily and cleanly using a utility knife with a sharp blade. It is often beneficial to make a cardboard template of the area and transfer this pattern to the plank.
11. Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips. Make sure that no plank will be secured in any way to the sub floor.
12. Protect the finished flooring from exposure to direct sunlight.