



SUBFLOOR LEVELER SYSTEM® INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Leveler Strip and Leveler Strip Extension

INTRODUCTION

These instructions are written as a guide to be used by professional installers when installing Tarkett products. 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.tarkett.com for the most current installation and maintenance instructions. Technical videos and tip sheets are also available. Contact Tarkett Technical Services at (800)-899-8916 with any questions.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

1. All Tarkett products must be stored in an indoor, climate controlled space and be protected from the elements. Temperature must be maintained between 65°F (18.3°C) and 85°F (29.4°C) with a relative humidity between 40% and 60%.
2. All cartons must be stored on a dry, flat, level surface. Cartons must be carefully stacked squarely on top of one another and never be stored on edge. Take caution not to over stack the cartons and never double stack pallets. Always protect carton corners from damage by tow-motors and other traffic.
3. Tarkett flooring and adhesives must be site conditioned at room temperature for 48 hours prior to, during, and after installation. Room temperature must be maintained between 65°F (18.3°C) and 85°F (29.4°C) and the ambient relative humidity must be between 40% and 60%. We strongly recommend the permanent HVAC system be fully operating. **NOTE:** If a system other than the permanent HVAC source is utilized, it must provide proper control of both temperature and humidity to recommended or specific levels for the appropriate time duration as stated above.
4. Once the installation is completed, the service temperature of the space must never fall below 55°F (12.8°C).
5. In areas that are exposed to intense or direct sunlight, the product must be protected during the conditioning, installation, and adhesive curing periods, by covering the light source.
6. Tarkett products are not recommended for exterior use. Exposure to excessive UV rays can result in fading, degradation, and/or color variation.
7. The highest quality of materials and workmanship is employed in the manufacture of Tarkett Flooring and careful inspection is made before shipment. A quality installation is the responsibility of the installer. It is the installer's responsibility to verify the accuracy of the order and to ensure the materials are checked for damage, defects, and satisfactory color match. An authorized Tarkett distributor or Tarkett representative must be notified of any defects before installation proceeds. **Tarkett will not pay for labor or material costs claimed on installed materials with visual defects.**
8. Tarkett cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage that may result due to processing or working conditions and/or workmanship outside our control.
9. Users are advised to confirm the suitability of this product by their own tests.

GENERAL SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

1. **All subfloors** must be permanently dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound. The surface must be free of all dust, loose particles, solvents, paint, grease, oil, wax, alkali, sealing/curing compounds, old adhesive, and any other foreign material, which could affect the installation and adhesive bond to the substrate. Permanent and non-permanent markers, pens, crayons, paint, or similar marking tools used to mark the substrate or the back of the resilient flooring material will cause migratory staining. Subfloor contamination or markings that bleed through the flooring material causing discoloration or staining are excluded from the Tarkett Limited Warranty. All substrate contaminants must be mechanically removed prior to the installation of the flooring material. **NOTE: Do not use liquid solvents or adhesive removers.**

Minimum temperature of the substrate must be 60°F (15.6 °C). Substrate temperature should be a minimum of 5°F higher than the dew point temperature.

Caution: Do not use oil-based sweeping compounds.

Fill all depressions, cracks, and other surface irregularities with a good quality Portland cement based underlayment patching compound appropriate for this purpose.

Tarkett does not recommend installing over existing resilient floors. All existing flooring and adhesives must be mechanically removed prior to installing the new flooring material – **Do not use chemical adhesive removers or solvents.** Refer to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute's (RFCI), *Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Existing Resilient Flooring* for best work practices.

Caution: Some resilient flooring products and adhesives contain "asbestos fibers" and special handling of this material is required.

2. **Concrete subfloors** must be constructed as recommended by the American Concrete Institute's ACI 302.2 *Guide for Concrete Slabs that Receive Moisture-Sensitive Flooring Materials* and prepared in accordance with ASTM F 710 *Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring*.

Do not 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.

All concrete subfloors must be tested for moisture and pH (alkalinity):

Moisture testing must be conducted in accordance with ASTM F 2170 *Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes* or ASTM F 1869 *Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride*. Following ASTM F 2659 *Preliminary Evaluation of Comparative Moisture Condition of Concrete, Gypsum Cement and Other Floor Slabs and Screeds Using a Non-destructive Electronic Moisture Meter* can provide qualitative information prior to performing ASTM F 2170 or ASTM F 1869.

Acceptable moisture limits can be found in the adhesive section below, on the adhesive label, and in the adhesive specifications online. Test results must not exceed the limits of the adhesive.

If the tests results exceed the limitations, the installation must not proceed until the problem has been corrected. Tarkett does not recommend or warrant any particular product or procedure for the remediation of high moisture in concrete substrates. There are several companies that manufacture products suitable for moisture remediation. We suggest you refer to the current ASTM F 710 *Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring* and ASTM F 3010 *Standard Practice for Two Component Resin Based Membrane-Forming Moisture Mitigation Systems for Use Under Resilient Flooring Systems*.

A pH test for alkalinity must be conducted. Acceptable pH range of the adhesive can be found in the adhesive section below, on the adhesive label, and in the adhesive specifications online. Results must not exceed the limits of the adhesive. If the test results are not within the acceptable range, the installation must not proceed until the problem has been corrected.

- 3. Wood subfloors** must have a minimum 18" (47 cm) of cross-ventilated space between the bottom of the joist and ground. Exposed earth crawl spaces must be sealed with a polyethylene moisture barrier.

Subfloors must meet local and national building codes. Trade associations, such as the APA -The Engineered Wood Association, offer structural guidelines for meeting various code requirements. Refer to ASTM F 1482 *Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayments to receive Resilient Flooring* for additional information.

Single Floor Wood Construction and Tongue and Groove subfloors must be covered with 1/4" (6.4 mm) or 1/2" (13 mm) APA approved underlayment plywood. Use 1/4" (6.4 mm) thick underlayment panels for boards with a face width of 3" (76 mm) or less. For boards wider than 3" (76 mm) face width use 1/2" (13 mm) underlayment panels.

Countersink nail heads and fill depressions, joints, cracks, gouges, and chipped edges with a good quality Portland cement based patching compound designed for this purpose.

Do not install over OSB (Oriented Strand Board), particle board, chipboard, lauan or composite type underlayments.

- 4. Terrazzo and Ceramic floor** surface must be thoroughly sanded to remove all glaze and waxes. Remove or replace all loose tiles and clean the grout lines. Use a good quality Portland cement based leveling compound to fill all grout lines and other depressions.
- 5. Steel floor** surface must be mechanically abraded to assist with the adhesive bond. The floor must be cleaned to remove all dirt, rust and other contaminants that could affect the adhesive or the bond of the flooring material to the substrate. Surface must be primed with a rust inhibitor. It is important to follow the non-porous installation instructions when installing over metal.
- 6. Concrete floors equipped with a radiant heating system:** Turn the heat down to 65°F (18.3°C) for at least 48 hours before installation. Heat may be gradually returned to operating temperature 48 hours after installation. Surface temperature must not exceed 85°F (29.4°).
- 7. An adhesive bond test** must be performed 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 concrete.

INSTALLATION

- 1. Adhesive Application:** See adhesive chart below and follow adhesive label instructions for proper use.
- 2. Tile Installation Procedure:**
 - Tarkett Leveler Strips must be trimmed to fit, dry laid, and inspected prior to adhesive application.
 - Leveler Strip Extensions (LS-40-B and C) must be installed prior to the LS-40 Leveler Strip. Where the elevation requires the LS-40-B 3/8" (9.52 mm) by 1/4" (6.35 mm) extension, install the 3/8" (9.52 mm) side of the extension firmly against the existing flooring material or starting point and then abut the Leveler Strip (LS-40) to the exposed 1/4" (6.35 mm) side of the Leveler Strip Extension.
 - When the elevation requires the LS-40-C, 1/2" (12.7 mm) by 3/8" (9.52 mm) extension, install the 1/2" (12.7 mm) side of the extension firmly against the existing flooring or starting point, then install the LS-40-B and the LS-40 leveler strip, as previously outlined above.
 - 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.**
 - Install the Tarkett Leveler Strips into the adhesive.
 - Roll the Leveler Strips 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.
 - Finish flooring materials can be installed immediately after the proper installation of the Tarkett Leveler Strip.
 - To minimize the possibility of premature cracking of finish flooring material or telegraphing of the level change through the finish flooring material, the leveler strip must be feather edging to the substrate with a good quality Portland cement based patching compound.

NOTE: If the finished flooring material is not a Tarkett product, being installed with an approved Tarkett adhesive, the entire leveler strip must be skim coated with patching compound.
 - When installing the finished flooring over the Leveler Strips, follow the non-porous installation instructions of the adhesive.
- 3. Special Elevation Applications:**
 - The Tarkett Leveler Strip and Leveler Strip Extensions are designed to provide a smooth 1/8" (3.75 mm), 1/4" (6.35 mm), 3/8" (9.53 mm), 1/2" (12.7 mm), or 3/4" (19.05 mm) transitional surface to adjoining materials. If the difference between the adjoining materials is greater than the 3/4" (19.05 mm) provided by the LS-40-G Leveler Strip, it may be necessary to build up the substrate surface with a good quality Portland cement based patching compound or adhere / stack two (2) Leveler Strips together.
 - If using a cement based patching compound, apply the compound to the substrate to the desired level, compensating for the finish flooring and Leveler Strip thicknesses. Allow the compound to dry completely prior to installing the Leveler Strip and finish floor.
 - If stacking two Leveler Strips can satisfy the higher elevation, install the first Leveler Strip to the substrate, following the Leveler Strip Installation instructions, outlined in the previous section.

- d. Next, apply Tarkett 965 Flooring and Tread Adhesive to the installed Leveler Strip surface using a 1/16" V-notch trowel and allow proper open time following the non-porous installation instructions, and then install the second Leveler Strip.
- e. Roll the Leveler Strips 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.

ADHESIVE CLEAN UP

Excess adhesive should be removed during the installation process.

925™ Resilient Flooring Adhesive

965™ Flooring and Tread Adhesive

901™ SpraySmart Resilient Flooring 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 applied to a clean white cloth. (Follow manufacturer's precautions when using denatured alcohol.)

MAINTENANCE

1. Wait 72 hours after installation before performing initial cleaning.
2. A regular maintenance program must be started after the initial cleaning.
3. Refer to Tarkett's Maintenance Instructions for complete details

ADHESIVE SELECTION CHART

Products	Adhesive	Application and Coverage		Moisture / pH Limits			Notes
		Porous	Non-Porous	RH%	CaCl ₂	pH	
Tarkett Subfloor Leveler System	925 Resilient Flooring Adhesive	1/32 x 1/16 x 1/32 U 250 – 300 sq. ft. per gallon	1/32 x 1/16 x 1/32 U 250 – 300 sq. ft. per gallon	85%	7 lbs.	9	The 965 adhesive is sensitive to substrate porosity. Determine substrate porosity and follow the adhesive label instructions regarding porous and non-porous substrate drying times prior to the installation.
Tarkett Subfloor Leveler System	965 Flooring and Tread Adhesive	1/16 x 1/16 x 1/16 SQ 125 – 150 sq. ft. per gallon	1/16 x 1/16 x 1/16 V 150 – 175 sq. ft. per gallon	90%	7 lbs.	9	The 965 adhesive is sensitive to substrate porosity. Determine substrate porosity and follow the adhesive label instructions regarding porous and non-porous substrate drying times prior to the installation.
Tarkett Subfloor Leveler System	901 SpraySmart Resilient Flooring Adhesive	80 sq. ft. per can 480 sq. ft. per carton	80 sq. ft. per can 480 sq. ft. per carton	85%	7 lbs	10	The SpraySmart Adhesive System is unique; instructions on can must be followed. Contact Tarkett Technical Department prior to use for training.

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