



## Athletic Rubber Converting Rubber Roll Installation Instructions

### Before You Get Started

#### **General Recommendations**

- A. Read all product and subfloor preparation instructions, adhesive instructions, warranty and other disclaimers BEFORE you begin to install ARC rubber goods.
- B. The installation surface and rubber need to be clean and dry prior to installation. Subfloors to be installed with rubber goods should be maintained at a consistent temperature from 24-48 hours before, during and after the installation. We recommend an optimum temperature of 68°F (18°C) be maintained in the installation area.
- C. Room temperature variations can affect rubber as the material can expand (warm) or contract (cold). Temperature requirements for the flooring adhesive should be reviewed as well.
- D. Prior to starting any installation, thoroughly review all rubber goods. Verify the following for rolled goods:
  - Material type, material color and style are correct
  - Material is supplied at the correct size and thickness
  - Amount of material supplied is correct
  - No visual defects are present on the material

**Note:** Skive/knife marks on product is an inherent characteristic of using recycled rubber and is not considered a defect.

#### **• IMPORTANT •**

**Any suspect or defective material must be brought to the supplier's attention immediately. ABSOLUTELY NO CLAIMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE MATERIAL HAS BEEN INSTALLED.**

- E. Rubber can expand and contract with temperature and humidity changes. The rubber rolls (and adhesive) should be acclimated to the installation room temperature for 24 hours. Allow additional time in colder temperatures or use room heaters to bring up the ambient air temperature. If heaters are used, be sure to maintain a consistent temperature throughout the installation process. See step B above.

- F. If rubber is stored prior to installation, always lay the rolls on their side. Rubber stored on end will result in curled edges. Roll edge curl will need to be trimmed straight before installing the material. Always store rubber material on a clean, dry and flat surface. We recommend storing rubber at a minimum of 55°F (13°C) with less than 50% humidity.
- G. For best results, we recommend using a one-part polyurethane adhesive to glue the rubber rolls to the subfloor.

#### **• IMPORTANT •**

**Do not use petroleum-based products in conjunction with ARC rubber. This includes solvents, adhesives or sealants.**

- H. An adhesive bond test should be completed in several locations across the floor. Glue down 2' x 2' pieces of material with recommended adhesive and trowel. Let set for 48 hours before trying to remove. The squares should be relatively difficult to pull up and there should be adhesive on the floor and rubber square.
- I. Rubber that is loose-laid in the installation area (to acclimate to room temperature) or permanently installed, should be securely covered with a tarpaulin or other protective material when other trade professionals are working in the area. If possible, install the rubber flooring after all other work is completed in the immediate installation area.

#### **Recommended Installation Tools**

- Rubber gloves
- Safety glasses
- Knee pads
- Utility knife
- Extra knife blades
- Adhesive trowel (1/16" x 1/16" x 3/32")
- Polyurethane flooring adhesive
- 75lb. sectional roller
- Metal Carpenter's square
- Measuring tape
- Chalk line
- Pen or marker
- Tarpaulin

#### **See Page 3 for Rolled Sheet Installation**

**For questions about floor care and maintenance, contact Athletic Rubber Converting at:  
[customerservice@athleticrc.com](mailto:customerservice@athleticrc.com).**

## Subfloor Requirements

### **Subfloor Requirements for Installation**

- A. ARC rubber may be installed over concrete, cement-type leveling bases, asphalt and wood subfloors.
- B. All subfloors should be thoroughly cleaned, filled and primed. Remove all paint, varnish, oil, grease, dust, or wax or any foreign substance that may decrease the bond strength of the polyurethane flooring adhesive. (Review ASTM F710 for more information.)
- C. Verify the subfloor is dry, smooth and level. Subfloor surfaces should not vary more than 1/8" in ten feet.
- D. Gypsum patching compounds and leveling products should not be used on subfloor surfaces.
- E. **Stabilization of the subfloor is the sole responsibility of the installer and/or property owner.**

### **Concrete (or leveled cement-type) Subfloors**

- A. Concrete surfaces must be thoroughly cured, free from hydrostatic pressure, leveled and cleaned from any foreign materials such as dust, dirt, paint, oil and water prior to rubber installation.
  - a. Use a trisodium phosphate solution (or Xylol for rubber-based paint) to remove oil, grease or wax.
  - b. Remove paint, old adhesive or other foreign material by either machine sanding or scraping.
  - c. Thoroughly wash and rinse treated areas. Allow subfloor to completely dry.
- B. To reduce the amount of adhesive required, concrete surfaces should be reasonably smooth.
- C. Any separation of concrete layers, heaving, etc. is the sole responsibility of the installer and/or property owner.
- D. Allow for good drainage of the installation area with either a well-defined gradient (1% or greater depending on the coverage size of the surface) or well-placed drainage pipe in lower spots of the area.
- E. The existing concrete surface shall be free of significant cracks or gaps prior to the installation. Patch areas with a latex-based leveling/filler compound according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Allow compound to dry as directed.
- F. **New concrete, or the alike, should be allowed to cure for a minimum of 60 days prior to installing ARC rubber flooring.** The surface should be smooth and level.
- G. Both moisture and pH tests should be conducted on concrete subfloors to determine if they are suitable for installation. Moisture should not exceed 3 lbs./1000 sq. ft. and pH level should be 7-10. (Review ASTM F1869 for water vapor emissions.)

### **Wood Subfloors**

- A. The wood subfloor should be in good condition, rigid, and free from movement. The subfloor should have good cross ventilation under the floor to prevent distortion.
- B. The wood surface should be clean and free from any foreign materials such as dust, dirt, paint or protruding nails and screws. All damaged wood should be replaced.
- C. The surface should be leveled, clean and dry before application. Trapped moisture may cause deterioration and premature rotting of the wood. The subfloor should be free from excessive cupping or warping.
- D. The existing wooden surface shall be free of significant cracks or gaps prior to the installation. Patch areas with a plastic wood compound according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Allow compound to dry as directed.
- E. Re-nail loose boards. Replace worn or damaged boards. If necessary, sand floor to a level finish and prime. Wood subfloors can also be covered with a five-ply 5/8" (15.875mm) plywood or hardboard. Prime newly replaced floorboards.

### **Asphalt Subsurface**

- A. Asphalt subsurface must be hard enough not to melt during hot weather, leveled, and free from any foreign materials such as grease, oil, dust, paint and other contaminants. Avoid installation of rubber tiles on new asphalt until surface oil has had time to dissipate (Approx. 30 days after compacting) and drainage can be evaluated.
- B. Any separation of asphalt or blacktop layers, heaving etc. is the sole responsibility of the installer and/or property owner.
- C. Allow for good drainage of the installation area with either a well-defined gradient (1% or greater depending on the coverage size of the surface) or well-placed drainage pipe in lower spots of the area.
- D. The existing asphalt surface shall be free of significant cracks or gaps prior to the installation. Fill cracks and gaps to level surface.
- E. All rubber installed on asphalt must be adhered using a polyurethane adhesive.

## Rolled Sheet Installation

### Prior to Installation

- A. Installation of the rubber flooring will only be as good as the substrate it's installed over. If the substrate is uneven, the rubber will not lay flat. **A wet, greasy substrate is the first major cause of bonding failure.** Review "Subfloor Requirements" section starting on page 2.
- B. Roll out the rubber flooring and allow the material to "relax." The material should be acclimated to the installation room temperature for 24 hours.
- C. Orders for more than one roll of rubber will be marked with letters (i.e. "A", "B", "C") to insure that each roll is positioned correctly during installation. Roll "A" should be positioned next to roll "B" and so on. If rubber rolls are installed out of sequence, each roll could potentially result in undesirable seam gaps.
- D. Pre-cut rubber rolls being sure to leave 1" to 2" of extra material at the beginning and end of the roll. This will allow for an exact fit against a wall or for seaming at each end. Trim rolls to fit upon adhering to the subfloor. When possible, any cuts should be against the wall.
- E. Carefully read all adhesive application instructions prior to using the product.

### Installation Instructions

- A. Beginning along a straight wall, lay the first sheet of flooring. If the walls are not square, use a chalk line to lay the sheet.
- B. Apply adhesive using a 1/16" x 1/16" x 3/32" U-notch trowel. Spread adhesive perpendicular to seam areas to prevent excess adhesive from protruding through the seam. Use a new trowel for each new pail of adhesive. **DO NOT RE-NOTCH THE TROWEL.**
- C. Review the flooring adhesive usage guidelines for spread rate and open times for curing. Higher temperatures and high humidity will cause the adhesive to set up quickly. Low temps and low humidity will cause the adhesive to set at a slower rate. The installer should monitor on-site conditions and adjust accordingly. **DO NOT LET ADHESIVE SKIM OVER.**
- D. Fold the first roll lengthwise (half the width of the roll) and spread the adhesive over the subfloor using the u-notch trowel.
- E. Lay the material into the wet adhesive carefully. Dropping the rubber sheet into the adhesive will trap air under the flooring.

- F. Immediately roll the rubber flooring with a 75 lb. roller. Roll the width first, then the length. Roll flooring again in 30 – 45 minutes.

**Failure to roll while the adhesive is still soft is the second major cause of bonding failure. Wet or greasy, etc. subfloors are the first.**

**BANKED TURNS:** Immediately after rolling, weigh down with sandbags to allow the rubber to conform to the subfloor contour.

- G. Repeat steps D through F for the second half of the first sheet.
- H. Position the second sheet flush against the first sheet. Do not place pressure on the first sheet as the glue will still be wet and may shift the sheet. Verify there are no gaps between the rubber sheets and the seams are tight.
- I. Continue to place the rubber material adjacent to the previous sheet laid until the entire floor is covered. Immediately roll each sheet with a 75 lb. roller.
- J. Hand roll seams after the floor has been rolled. If there is some gapping in the seams, masking tape (3M "Long Mask" #2090 is preferred) can be used to pull the seams together. **DO NOT USE DUCT TAPE** as it may leave a residue. Once the floor has set the tape may be removed.
- K. If adhesive pushes up in the seams, immediately clean with a damp rag and mineral spirits. Cured adhesive on the floor is very difficult to remove. ARC strongly recommends using gloves when applying floor adhesive.

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## **Post Installation, Cleaning and Maintenance, Disclaimer, Warranty**

### **Post Installation**

ARC does not include a protective finish when shipped from the manufacturing facility. It is highly recommended that the newly installed rubber floor be protected using a tarpaulin or other cover until the floor can be cleaned and/or sealed.

**INITIAL CLEANING:** Do not wash the floor for at least 5 days after installation. An initial cleaning needs to be done to remove any dirt and grit from the job site and to prepare the floor prior to applying a sealer or finish. Failure to clean properly will cause finish bonding issues as well as the entrapment of dirt in the floor.

To avoid possible damage to the flooring, the following should never be used on the floor:

- Steel wool or abrasive brushes
- Abrasive or alkaline cleaners
- Solvents of any type

### **Cleaning and Maintenance**

For regular maintenance, review the *ARC Cleaning & Maintenance Guide*.

### **Disclaimer**

The *ARC Rubber Roll Installation* represents typical installation methods. Generally accepted installation practices should be followed. Use of a trained installation professional is recommended for best results. ARC does not warrant any installation work and specifically disclaims liability for any direct or indirect personal injury, property damage or other costs or losses resulting from incorrect or inadequate installations.

### **Warranty**

ARC shall warranty the flooring materials it has supplied to be free from manufacturing defects in MATERIAL ONLY for a period of one (1) year from date of substantial completion and the flooring contractor shall warrant the installation to be free from defects for the same period. The foregoing warranty is in lieu of and excludes all other warranties not expressly set forth herein, whether express or implied, including, but not limited to any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness.

Skive/knife marks on product is an inherent characteristic of using recycled rubber and will not be viewed as an appropriate reason for rejecting the final finished product.

ARC and its contractors shall not be liable for incidental or consequential losses, damages, or expenses, directly or indirectly arising from the sale, handling or use of the goods, or from any other cause relating thereto, and their liability hereunder in any case is expressly limited to the replacement of goods of complying with this agreement, or, at their election, to the repayment of, or crediting Buyer with, an amount equal to the purchase price of such goods, whether such claims are for breach of warranty negligence.