

COREtec® Plank & Tile Glue Down Installation Instructions

ATTENTION! READ BEFORE INSTALLING!

FOR BEST VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF YOUR FLOOR

This flooring replicates the look of a natural product which has natural variations in color, texture, and sheen/gloss. For best visual effect, shuffle planks or tiles from several cartons and do not install similar planks or tiles next to one another.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloor should be dry and level to 3/16" per 10 ft. radius for best installation results.

Glue Down Installation Instructions for COREtec Plus® Brand Floors

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call USFloors toll free at 800-404-2675 (706-733-6120).

FLOORING MATERIAL SHOULD BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Responsibility for the suitability of USFloors® flooring and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by USFloors, since USFloors has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank or tile be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. USFloors will send a replacement in a timely fashion.

NOTE: USFloors COREtec Plus floors may be installed with a direct glue-down method on approved wooden (or) concrete substrates that are on or above grade only. Use only USFloors Cork Underlayment Adhesive (or) comparable premium multipurpose flooring adhesive. Please consult with adhesive manufacturer to determine if suitable for use with this material.

READ BEFORE INSTALLING

While COREtec Plus is waterproof, it's not a moisture barrier. It's still a good idea to make sure concrete is cured and tested for moisture and that a moisture barrier is installed in the crawl space. Moisture won't damage COREtec Plus, but it can get in the walls and structure of the home. A couple of extra dollars and a few minutes is a small investment for the added protection and peace of mind.

Use good common sense installation practices, and you'll have a successful installation that results in a beautiful floor.

PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

USFLOORS cannot be held responsible for site conditions.

Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for color, finish, sheen, and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. **If flooring is not acceptable, contact your supplier immediately and arrange for a replacement.** USFLOORS cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects. Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these instructions. USFLOORS is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project.

Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" (46 cm) from the ground to the underside of the joists. A ground cover of 6–20 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier. Joints must be lapped 6" (15 cm) and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.

Room temperature and humidity of installation areas should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week before installation of flooring. Maintaining an optimum room temperature of 70° F and a humidity range of 30-50% is recommended.

PRE-INSTALLATION SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

All Subfloors must be:

- Dry
- Structurally sound
- Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris
- Level: Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius

Wood subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland-based leveling patch.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old. Subfloor should be flat and level within 3/16" per 10' radius. If necessary grind high spots down and level low spots with a Portland-based leveling compound.

Ceramic tile, resilient tile and sheet vinyl must be well-bonded to subfloor, in good condition, clean, and level. Do not sand existing vinyl floors, as they may contain asbestos.

INSTALLATION TOOLS

- Tape measure
- Chalk Line
- Hammer
- Pull Bar
- 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" Square-Notch
- Pencil
- Crosscut Power Saw
- Tapping Block
- 30GT400 Cork Underlayment Adhesive

ACCEPTABLE SUBFLOOR TYPES:

- Concrete: above or on grade
- APA registered plywood underlayment
- Hardboard
- Association grade particleboard

NOT recommended over existing vinyl flooring.

STARTING YOUR INSTALLATION

Work from several open boxes of flooring and "dry lay" the floor before permanently laying the floor. This will allow you to select varying textures, colors, and sheens, and to arrange them in a harmonious pattern. Remember, it is the installer's responsibility to determine the expectations of what the finished floor will look like with the end user first and then to cull out pieces that do not meet those expectations.

Begin installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank or tile. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks or tiles to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of straight.

You may want to position a few rows before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line. When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 8" (20 cm) for planks, and equal to 12" (51 cm or a half piece) for tiles. For plank installations, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row when cutting the last plank in a row to fit. If cut-off end is less than 8", discard it and instead cut a new plank at a random length (at least 8" in length) and use it to start the next row. For tile installations, always begin a row with either a full tile or a half tile so that the joints are consistently staggered in a "brick work" type pattern. Always begin each row from the same side of the room.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Inspection: Prior to installation, inspect material in daylight for visible faults/damage. Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied, do not install, and contact your supplier.

Before laying: Measure the room at right angle to the direction of the flooring. For the best visual effect, planks or tiles in the final row should be at least at least 1/3 the width of the plank or tile. For this purpose, planks or tiles in the first row can be cut to smaller size. Shuffle boards in order to obtain a pleasant blend of shades. Lay boards, preferably following the direction of the main source of light. We recommend laying on wooden floors crossways to the existing floorboards.

One of the key features of COREtec Plus floors is the ease and speed with which they install as a glueless floating floor. However, there are instances where the customer may wish to install these floors using the direct glue down method. In addition, there is an instance where USFloors requires that COREtec Plus floors be installed using the direct glue down method:

When installing COREtec Plus floors milled with the angle/tap profile using the glue down method, 30GT400 Cork Underlayment Adhesive should be used and applied to the subfloor using adhesive manufacturer's recommended trowel. Surfaces must be clean, dry and smooth, free of voids, projections, loose materials, oil, grease, sealers, and all other surface contaminants. Maximum floor variation is 1/8" in 10'. Concrete slabs requiring patching or leveling should be repaired with Portland cement based material.

Adhesive manufacturer's instructions should be followed completely.

When employing the direct glue down installation method, DO NOT include a 6-mil polyfilm vapor barrier in the assembly. Flooring material must be adhered directly to the subfloor. Flooring should NEVER be glued to a polyfilm vapor barrier.

In-floor Radiant Heat:

COREtec Plus can be installed over 1/2" embedded radiant heat using the floating or glue down method. When gluing floor, use only USFloors recommended multipurpose adhesive over manufacturer's recommended substrate.

- **Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors**
- Failure to turn the heat off may result in significantly shortened working time of the adhesive
- Floor temperature must not exceed **85°F (30°C)**.
- Once the installation has been completed, the heating system should be turned on and increased gradually (5 degree increments) until returning to normal operating conditions.
- Failure to strictly follow adhesive manufacturer's guidelines may result in failure and void the warranty.

Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath COREtec Plus floors. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath COREtec Plus floors could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install COREtec Plus flooring over embedded radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the guidelines listed above.

FLOOR PREPARATION

Floor must be clean, level and dry. Remove all foreign substances such as wax, grease, dirt and any substance or chemical that would interfere with a good bond. Test concrete subfloor for alkalinity (pH of floor should be between 5 and 9). Take corrective measures if concrete surface pH is outside these limits. Moisture tests should be performed using an anhydrous calcium chloride test according to ASTM F-1869 test method. Moisture emissions should not exceed 5.0 lbs. per 1000 square feet per 24 hours (2.27 kg/92.9m2/24 hours). Relative Humidity readings according to ASTM F-2170 should not exceed (RH) 85%. If both tests are performed the RH test is the qualifying standard. Fill all holes and cracks with a Portland cement based patching compound. Sand high spots, install underlayment grade plywood or particleboard underlayment over tongue and groove flooring to eliminate the possibility of telegraphing. For best results, the room, floor covering and adhesive should be between 65°F (18°C) and 95° F (35°C) and at a relative humidity between 30% and 60% for 24 hours before, during and after the installation.

TROWEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Flooring Product	Trowel Size* and Notch	Coverage
Sheet goods and cushion to floor double stick	1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" Square-Notch 1.6 mm x 1.6 mm x 1.6 mm	Up to 250 sq. ft./gal Up to 6.1 sq. meters/liter

*Trowel dimensions are width x depth x spacing. Coverage is approximate and may vary depending on porosity of substrate and the angle at which the trowel is held.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Apply adhesive to substrate with the recommended notch trowel (trowel size will depend on the type of backing and smoothness of the substrate). Minimum trowel size for COREtec is 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" Square-Notch (1.6 mm x 1.6 mm x 1.6 mm) V-notch. Lay most floor coverings into wet adhesive. Open time will vary from 15 minutes to one hour, depending on the dryness of the floor, thickness of adhesive application, temperature and humidity.
2. Lay in flooring, lifting occasionally to be sure of making 100% contact with backing.
3. Roll COREtec immediately after installation with a 100 lb. (45.4 kg) roller. Work from the center towards the edges to expel trapped air.
4. Clean up: use soap and water if adhesive is still wet. If dried, use recommended Adhesive Remover/Stripper from WF Taylor, Touchdown 9 (<http://www.wftaylor.com/index.php/1199/9/#.Vz3AA2OpQ-0>).

Base: Synthetic rubber, resin blend

Appearance: Off-white, smooth, easy to spread mastic

Working time: 20 - 30 minutes under normal conditions

Shelf life: One year in unopened container at 70° F (21°C).

Other features: Solvent-free, non-flammable, freeze/thaw stable to 10° F (-12° C). Anti-microbial-protected with Meta-Sept®.

CAUTION: DO NOT take internally. If swallowed, DO NOT induce vomiting. Call a physician immediately. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

AFTER INSTALLATION

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup and turnover to the owner, use rosin paper and only use 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape to hold the rosin paper to the floor (other blue tapes may damage the finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. DO NOT USE plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.
- Dust-mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- It is suggested that you clean the floor using a recommended pH neutral cleaner available at www.1877floorguy.com/usflcoplevp.html.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, etc.).
- Permit light foot traffic on the new floor after 3-4 hours giving the adhesive time to set up.
- Keep furniture, fixtures and rolling traffic off the new floor for 48 hours.
- Wait 72 hours (3 days) before wet cleaning the new floor. This will allow the adhesive to fully cure.
- The floor must be allowed to set overnight for 24 hours before resuming normal usage of the room.

Protection and Maintenance of Your Floor

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.

- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Floor covering subjected to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Use appropriate precautions to minimize potential effects on the floor covering.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile-oil drips onto the vinyl floor covering.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Protective mats are required under office chairs.
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the floor.
- Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with casters or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do NOT use ball type casters as they can damage the floor.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Do NOT use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off.
- Do NOT use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do NOT use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor. Do NOT use abrasive scrubbing tools. Do NOT use detergents, abrasive cleaners or "mop and shine" products.
- Vinyl flooring, like other types of smooth floors, may become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after cleaning. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substances or wet feet.