

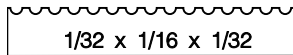
# EXPRESSIONS VINYL COMPOSITION TILE COMMERCIAL INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

## Expressions™ by Tarkett

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

These installation specifications are general guidelines for **Expressions** Vinyl Composition Tile. Overall conditions should meet the following criteria:

1. All flooring material, accessories, and area to be installed must be kept at 65°F (18.3°C) and no greater than 85°F (29.4°C) for at least 48 hours previous to, during and 48 hours after installation.
2. All subfloor/underlayment patching must be done with a portland/hydraulic cement based latex underlayment material, such as the **TARKETT** Kwik Patch System.
3. **Expressions** Vinyl Composition Tile may be installed over residual asphalt (cutback) adhesive. These residues must be scraped to a thin smooth film free of any adhesive ridges or puddles. A quality asphalt emulsion or black thin spread adhesive should be used for installation of the new tile. If any other adhesive is to be used existing asphaltic adhesive will need to be removed, covered over with appropriate underlayment plywood or **TARKETT**'s Kwik Patch and Additive.
4. **Expressions** Vinyl Composition Tile may be installed over an (1) existing layer of on or above grade vinyl composition tile **only**. No other existing floor coverings are acceptable as a substrate.
5. **Expressions**'s True Step slip resistant tile products should be installed following the directional arrows on the back of the tile.
6. Use the recommended **TARKETT** adhesives and trowel notches recommended for application:
  - **TARKETT #100 Clear Thin Spread**
    - 1/32" (0.8mm) deep, 1/16" (1.6mm) wide, 1/32" (0.8mm) apart.
  - **TARKETT #110 Sprayable Clear Thin Spread Adhesive**
    - Graco Ultra Max 695 Airless Spray Equipment (Please request Spray Adhesive Information Sheet for directions)
  - **TARKETT #940 Polyurethane Adhesive (Specialized Wet Set)**
    - 1/32" (0.8mm) deep, 1/16" (1.6mm) wide, 1/32" (0.8mm) apart. (For Slip Resistant products in areas exposed to temperature and topical moisture extremes.)



Use of any other products may affect or even void your warranty.

### II. SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The finished appearance of any resilient floor covering will only be as good as the subfloor it is installed upon. The subfloor should be hard, smooth, and dry. Irregularities will show in the finished job.

#### A. CONCRETE SUBFLOORS:

**NOTE:** Regardless of the type of concrete or cement-like material used as a base for **TARKETT** resilient flooring the responsibility for use or suitability rests with this products manufacturer, installer or specifier and not with **TARKETT**.

All concrete floors, old or new, should be tested for moisture and proper bonding of the resilient flooring.

Concrete substrates of all grade levels are suitable for the installation of **TARKETT** resilient flooring. These substrates should be dry, clean, smooth, cured to hard non-powdery finish and structurally sound. The concrete surface should be free of dust, loose or scaly surface solvents or other foreign matter. Cracks and depressions must be filled and abraded until they are completely level, using **TARKETT**'s Kwik Patch cementitious latex patching compound. **Gypsum based patching compounds are not recommended.**

#### CURING AND PARTING COMPOUNDS

Curing and parting compounds used on concrete subfloors on which resilient floorings to be installed may not be compatible with the adhesive and may interfere with bonding of the adhesive, patching and/or leveling compound. If a compound has been applied which contains silicone or oil, it must be thoroughly removed by sanding or grinding. After removal of curing or parting compound from the substrate, **TARKETT** recommends priming the subfloor with Kwik Patch Latex Additive or an equivalent before installation of the flooring.

**THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WARRANTIES, GUARANTEES AND PERFORMANCE OF A CONCRETE SUBFLOOR ON WHICH A CURING OR PARTING COMPOUND OR SEALER HAS BEEN APPLIED RESTS WITH THE MANUFACTURER OF THE COMPOUND OR SEALER FOR ADHESION OR LATEX UNDERLAYMENT FAILURES. THE RESPONSIBILITY DOES NOT LIE WITH THE RESILIENT FLOORING OR ADHESIVE MANUFACTURER.**

#### MOISTURE TESTING

All concrete substrates should be tested for moisture vapor transmission. The Calcium Chloride Moisture Test using the Quantitative Method Test as detailed under the ASTM F 1869 Standard Test Method is recommended. Test results should be below the upper safe threshold of 5 pounds/1,000 sq. ft./24 hours (1.4 Kg/93 M<sup>2</sup>/24 hours).

Surface alkali testing is also recommended. The use of a quantitative method is preferred such as pH paper, distilled water, pH pencils or electronic devices. Acceptable substrates will have a pH reading of no more than 9.

#### BOND TEST

A bond test should be performed on all grade levels of concrete substrates to determine if the concrete is sufficiently dry and for the compatibility of the flooring adhesive with concrete surfaces having curing agents, dust inhibitors, paint or other special surface treatments.

An easy method of testing for adherence is to perform a bond test. Use 2' x 2' (600mm x 600mm) pieces of the flooring material selected for the installation and adhere with **TARKETT** recommended adhesive. Pay particular attention to the adhesive open time. If after 72 hours an unusual amount of force is required to lift the material from the subfloor, and if after doing so, adhesive clings to both the subfloor and to the back of the material, the material can be considered "securely bonded."

**NOTE:** Regardless of the bond test or the type of surface treatment used, the responsibility for warranties, guarantees and performance of a concrete substrate on which a surface treatment has been applied rests with the manufacturer of the surface treatment product for adhesion and/or patching compound failures and not with **TARKETT**.

**Radiant Heated Floors.** **TARKETT** resilient flooring may be installed over radiant heated floors, provided the operating temperature does not exceed 85°F (29.4°C) at any point in the floor.

### B. WOOD SUBFLOORS

**NOTE:** Regardless of the type of underlayment material used as a base for **TARKETT** resilient flooring the responsibility for use or suitability rests with this products manufacturer, installer or specifier and not with **TARKETT**.

**Wood Subfloor Construction:** Suspended wood subfloor shall be 5/8" (16mm) or heavier, conforming to the current CSA or FHA standards, well seasoned, strongly constructed, free from springiness and have a minimum of 18" (460mm) of well-ventilated air space clearance above the ground. All subfloor panels must be fastened to the joists in accordance with their manufactures recommendations to preserve their warranties. **NOTE:** Protruding fasteners must be made flush with the plane of the subfloor panels before commencing installation of the underlayment material.

**Single Wood Floors:** These subfloors must be covered with a minimum of 1/4" (6mm) or heavier approved underlayment grade plywood. **This includes Sturd-I-Floor systems.**

**Stripwood Subfloors:** Single and/or double tongue-and-groove stripwood floors should be covered with a 3/8" (9.5mm) or heavier underlayment to eliminate telegraphing of the stripwood floor board joints.

#### WOOD UNDERLAYMENTS

Underlayment grade panels for residential resilient floors must be 1/4" (6mm) or heavier with fully sanded face meeting CSA or FHA standards. The following underlayment recommendations are intended as a guide. **TARKETT** strongly suggests that whoever is buying the underlayment material obtain a warranty from the supplier.

#### Canadian Standards Association:

- CSA 0121 - Douglas Fir Plywood
- CSA 0151 - Canadian Softwood Plywood
- COFI (underlayment grade) - Council of Forest Industries of B.C.

#### APA-American Plywood Underlayment:

- 1/4" (6mm) or heavier APA Underlayment Exposure 1 (with fully sanded face)
- 1/4" (6mm) or heavier APA Underlayment C-C Plugged Exterior (with fully sanded face)
- APA Rated Sturd-I Floor Plywood, Exposure 1 or exterior (with fully sanded face)

**NOTE: Maranti or Luan Type 11 (Int) interior glue plywood is not recommended as underlayment.** The porosity and moisture sensitivity of these panels have been known to cause problems with adhesive bonding and panel edge swelling.

**OSB or Particleboards: (Chipboard or Flakeboard):** While some particle boards may be suitable for resilient flooring, **TARKETT does not recommend particle or OSB boards as acceptable underlayments for any of its Installation Systems.**

#### LAYING PANELS

The method for underlayment installation shall conform in accordance with their manufacturer's recommendations to preserve their warranties.

### C. OTHER TYPES OF SUBFLOORS

#### TERRAZZO OR CERAMIC SUBFLOORS:

Old terrazzo or ceramic flooring subfloors shall be treated in the same manner as a concrete subfloor, with additional precautions.

- If they are to be used as a subfloor they must be checked with moisture and bond tests conducted.
- Remove all sealer, varnish, wax, oils and soil to prevent their interfering with the adhesive bond.
- Any glazed or very smooth surfaces must be abraded.
- Make surfaces level and smooth using **TARKETT**'s Kwik Patch with the properly diluted Kwik Patch Additive.

#### EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORS

**TARKETT** does not recommend installation of **Expressions** Vinyl Composition Tile directly over any existing resilient flooring other than one single layer of vinyl composition tile installed on or above grade floors only. Any other old flooring material must be either removed or covered with an appropriate underlayment that will provide a smooth, hard surface for the installation of the new flooring materials.

## REMOVAL OF EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING

### WARNING

Removal of existing flooring, which may contain asbestos, can cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Unless you are sure, beyond any doubt, that the existing floor contains no asbestos, assume it does.

Inhaling asbestos dust may cause asbestosis or other serious illnesses. Consult a contractor knowledgeable in the safe removal of asbestos. Make sure the contractor is properly licensed where required and familiar with the Resilient Floor Covering Institute Work Practices and all local, state, and federal regulations that apply. Individual copies of the *Resilient Floor Covering Institute Work Practices* are available free of charge by writing:

Resilient Floor Covering Institute  
401 E. Jefferson Street, Suite 102  
Rockville, MD 20850

**TARKETT Commercial**  
Installation Services Dept.  
P.O. Box 2467  
Houston, Texas 77252

Do not sand, dry scrape, bead blast or mechanically pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, solvent based cutback adhesives, or lining felt. These products may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Do not use power devices which might create asbestos dust.

### WARNING

#### WARNING REGARDING COMPLETE ADHESIVE REMOVAL

Some solvent-based cutback asphalt adhesives may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Do not use power devices which create asbestos dust in removing these adhesives. The inhalation of asbestos dust may cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Smoking greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Some adhesive removal systems may leave residual traces in the substrate that may affect at a later date the new flooring/adhesive system. Any type utilized must be of the type guaranteed by its manufacturer as non-damaging to new resilient flooring. **TARKETT** does not warrant for flooring damages resulting from the use of these products or their method of application.

#### Underlayment Surface Preparation

Subfloor unevenness in excess of 1/32" (0.8mm) must be sanded or sloped down to a feather edge, as well as holes, underlayment joints, etc. should be filled with **TARKETT's** Kwik Patch, then sanded smooth when thoroughly set. Acceptable subfloors must be smooth, clean, and dry. Any irregularities will show through the new flooring and may not be accepted by the end users.

#### Cleaning

After the subfloor has finally been rendered smooth, sweep the area thoroughly, especially around the perimeter removing all dust, dirt, grit, or other foreign matter. Concrete substrates should be vacuumed.

### III. GENERAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS:

General tile layout procedures should be utilized including straight or diagonal layouts, borders, and designs mixing tile and **Expressions** Vinyl Composition Feature Strip together. Many variations using these products are possible and in many cases only limited by the designers imagination.

#### TARKETT #100 Clear Thin Spread

The dry-set system requires the adhesion to be troweled on the approved subfloor and allowed to dry prior to tile placement. This procedure allows the adhesive vehicle to dissipate into the atmosphere. This procedure is recommended for all **Expressions** Vinyl Composition Tile, except for True Step slip resistant products installed in some critical locations.

General directions are as follows:

1. After the recommended subfloor has been prepared and is ready for flooring installation, prepare tile layout in accordance with architectural diagrams.
2. Spread recommended adhesive in area to be covered in accordance with adhesive label recommendations. In the case of clear thin spread, adhesive should be spread over flooring layout lines, adhesive will dry translucent and lines can be seen. Over some sub-floors if lines are removed during adhesive troweling or when using black thin spread these should be re-struck over the spread adhesive.
3. Allow adhesive to dry completely to the touch. Proper drying is usually determined when by placing your thumb into the adhesive it has a "tack" and does not transfer to your finger. Do not lay tile until adhesive has sufficiently

dried and developed tack.

4. Begin installing tile carefully at the pre-set starting point. Once placed into the adhesive tile will be difficult to shift, remove, and/or replace. Starting off properly is most critical in that the first tile placement will greatly determine the lay-up of the area to be installed.
5. Continue laying tile, working away from the start point by placing and pressing tile into the adhesive film. Carefully place tile wherever a new row is started. Since adhesive will instantly grab tile placed into it, it will not shift, allowing you to work on newly laid tile.
6. Follow this same procedure when installing other areas of the jobsite.
7. Floor is ready for light traffic only immediately. Do not allow heavy traffic on the floor for several days or until after recommended initial maintenance has been performed. Do not maintain the floor for at least 3 days after installation.

#### For Expressions True Step Slip Resistant Tile ONLY

#### TARKETT #940 Polyurethane Adhesive (Specialized Wet Set)

The wet-set system is the recommended procedure to install all **Expressions** True Step slip resistant tile products underneath and within 5 feet of all refrigerators, freezer, water spraying, or similar units. In addition for use in any other areas where temperature or topical moisture extremes do occur. This system offers the best performance when utilized over properly prepared porous concrete subfloors below, on or above grade as well as above grade plywood subfloors.

General directions are as follows:

1. Spread recommended adhesive in area to be covered in accordance with adhesive label directions spreading only enough adhesive that can be covered over within its working time. Trowel up to layout lines. Proper adhesive application and tile placement usually requires working "backward." Working this way helps to avoid spreading too large of an area and adhesive setting up prior to tile placement.
2. Place tile into the wet/tacky adhesive film. Wet/tacky film will allow some "slip" if tile placement needs to be adjusted slightly. Continue laying tile by carefully placing them into the wet film. Do not press hard or kneel on newly installed tile as this may result in adhesive displacement or oozing. If it is necessary to work on freshly installed tile use kneeling boards or similar apparatus. We recommend that periodically a tile be lifted and checked to ensure adhesive transfer.
3. Thoroughly cross roll installed area using the recommended weighted three-sectional-roller. Rolling procedure should involve rolling first in one direction (north/south), the other (east/west), then diagonally. This would ensure proper transfer of adhesive onto tile backs. Proper transfer is when 90% or better of the tile backs are smeared with adhesive with little or no distinct trowel ridges visible. Failure to ensure this can lead to tile loosening later.
4. Continuing working backward follow this same procedure when installing other areas of the jobsite. Roll completed areas occasionally and entire job upon completion.
5. Do not allow traffic on floor a minimum of 24 hours when tile was installed with **TARKETT** #940 Polyurethane Adhesive. Allow only light traffic on the floor for the next several days or until recommended initial maintenance has been performed. Do not maintain the floor for at least 3 days after installation.

### IV. FINISHING THE JOB

- ✓ Sweep the floor and remove scraps from the area.
- ✓ It is absolutely essential that all exposed edges be covered using cove base, wood moldings, or quarter round.
- ✓ Apply a bead of non-staining silicon or non-staining latex caulk around bathtubs, shower stalls, and toilets.

#### MOVING APPLIANCES

Do not move appliances, equipment or furniture directly across the new **Expressions** Flooring, or try to slide furniture or equipment in place with a piece of carpet pile face down.

Appliances or equipment should be "walked" from one plywood panel to another until it is in place. Loaded panels must not be pushed across the flooring.

**CAUTION:** Resilient flooring should be the last material installed in a new construction or remodeling. If this is not possible, the new floor should be fully protected from other construction traffic and activity.

For further information regarding Tarkett Product Warranties and Floor Care procedures write to:

**TARKETT Inc. USA**  
Installation Services  
1705 Oliver Street  
Houston, TX  
USA 77005  
TarTech@Tarkett.com  
www.tarkett.com



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# EXPRESSIONS VINYL COMPOSITION TILE COMMERCIAL INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES



A factory finish is applied to **Expressions** Vinyl Composition Tile at the time of manufacture to help protect the surface of the tile during the packing, shipping, and during the initial installation procedure. This temporary finish is not meant to be a wearing surface and must be augmented by additional coats of finish. In the past, the factory finish on new **Expressions** Vinyl Composition Tile had to be removed completely before application of other floor finishes. Otherwise, a problem of adhesion between the factory finish and the new owner applied finish might occur after the building had been opened to traffic.

The stripping step is not necessary when using **TARKETT** Commercial Floor Polish. The **Expressions** factory finish is also compatible with most good quality finishes available from other manufacturers. The following guidelines are a general overview appropriate when **TARKETT** supplied maintenance products are utilized. If other manufacturers products are to be utilized we would suggest that products manufacturers recommendations be consulted and followed. Before application of any finish, the **TARKETT** floor tile must be clean and free of all foreign matter before applying additional coats of floor finish. Initial maintenance should begin only after all tiles are thoroughly bonded to the subfloor. A week to ten days is usually required for the tile to become properly seated. Any moisture or cleaning fluid allowed to get under the tile during this bonding period will attack the tackiness of the adhesive, resulting in unnecessary expense for replacement due to breakage. Daily sweeping with a soft broom or damp mopping is the only maintenance recommended during this period. If the possibility exists as to extreme amounts of dirt and debris to be present on the newly installed floor, prior to initial maintenance procedure, tile may be given a light coat of finish a day after installation to help protect the floor. In this case floor would need to be stripped prior to initial maintenance to remove the finish and construction dirt.

After the initial bonding period, a deep scrubbing with a neutral cleaner, such as **TARKETT**'s Commercial Floor Cleaner, is usually all that is required to prepare the new tile floor for the needed coats of floor finish. In some instances, the new tile floor may require more than a deep scrub due to abuse received from construction activities. In this case floor may need to have factory finish stripped. In this case, use **TARKETT** Commercial Floor Stripper, properly diluted, to remove the construction soil and factory finish. If a floor sealer is to be utilized, as recommended by manufacturers of alternate maintenance products, factory finish will need to be removed prior to application of sealer.

## STEPS TO FOLLOW IF STRIPPING IS DESIRED

### Note if contemplating stripping a newly installed floor:

Due to the increased use of highly alkaline "quick strip" solutions and procedures on the market today vinyl composition tile manufacturers have seen an increase in the amount of damage they are causing on new and even older existing vinyl composition tile floors. The recommendations on stripping that follow, when properly done, have shown not to be damaging to vinyl composition tile floors. Whenever possible new floors should not be stripped immediately after installation. If they must our recommendations should be followed. If maintenance materials or procedures other than that recommended by **TARKETT** are utilized the responsibility for these materials performance or reaction with flooring materials or adhesives rest with that products manufacturer, specifier, and/or applicator not **TARKETT**.

## JOB CONDITIONS REQUIRED

1. AC/Heat fans must be operating to assure circulation and drying.
2. Water and plumbing in building must be in working order.
3. Hot water heater must be hooked up and operating.
4. Floor area must have adequate lighting.
5. Electrical plug outlets in floor area must be "hot" and properly grounded.
6. All debris and equipment must be removed from the floor area.
7. An adequate supply of **TARKETT** Commercial Floor Cleaner should already be on hand.
8. All spray painting and clean-up procedures that will generate airborne dust particles must be completed before floor preparation begins.
9. Secure the services of an experienced, professional floor service to provide necessary equipment and manpower to complete the job.

## EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

To prevent delays and to complete the job in a reasonable amount of time, a professional floor service may be considered to provide the following equipment to complete the initial strip and finish operation:

- Clean dust mops
- Mop heads and handles (soak new mops 24 hours)
- Buckets with wringers
- Blue/Green stripping pads or equivalent natural fiber brushes
- Side-to-side slow speed buffers, generally 375 RPM or slower
- Automatic floor scrubbing machine (with full charge)
- Foot Traffic Safety "Caution: Slippery When Wet" Signs

**NOTE:** The number of pieces of equipment required depends on the size of the job and the manning required to complete the maintenance with the time allowed.

## STRIPPING PROCEDURE - NEW TILE FLOORS

1. Dust mop entire floor area and remove gum, tar, glue, etc. from floor.
2. Mix 3 quarts of hot water with 1 quart of **TARKETT** Commercial Floor Stripper.
3. Dip mop in stripping solution, let excess solution drain off and apply stripper liberally to floor. Let stripper set on floor 5 minutes before scrubbing. DO NOT

FLOOD FLOOR.

4. Important: With blue or green pad or equivalent natural fiber brushes, pass over each tile section at least twice. Do not rush this procedure-it is crucial. If necessary, apply more solution to keep floor wet so that it is wet at all times during the stripping procedure. Do not dry strip under any conditions.
5. After a section is stripped, pick up the stripping solution immediately with automatic scrubber or clean mop and clear water.
6. If using a scrubber, pick up any stripper left behind with cool water and clean mop. Additional rinsing is usually not necessary. Allow area to dry completely prior to application of finish. Finish floor following steps 7 to 11 as indicated under the FINISHING NEW **EXPRESSIONS** TILE FLOORS section below.
7. Move stripping operation to next area of floor and repeat the procedure.

## FINISHING NEW EXPRESSIONS TILE FLOORS

1. Consult and follow application instructions on product labels.
2. Dust mop entire floor area and remove gum, tar, glue, etc. from floor.
3. Mix 4-6 ounces of **TARKETT** Commercial Floor Cleaner with each gallon of hot water.
4. Dip mop in cleaning solution, let excess solution drain off and apply cleaner liberally to floor. Let cleaner set on floor 5 minutes before scrubbing. DO NOT FLOOD FLOOR.
5. Important: With blue or green pad or equivalent bristle brushes, pass over each tile section at least twice. Do not rush this procedure-it is crucial. If necessary, apply more solution to keep floor wet so that it is wet at all times during the deep scrub procedure. Do not let solution dry under any conditions.
6. After a section is deep scrubbed, pick up the cleaning solution immediately with automatic scrubber or clean mop and clear water. Rinse the floor clean and allow to dry.
7. Pour **TARKETT** Commercial Floor Polish into clean mop buckets.
8. Use new properly prepared or clean mops for applying floor finish.
9. Dip mop in floor finish, place mop in wringer and tamp lightly. The mop should be full but not dripping.
10. Apply three thin coats of finish to floor. Under normal conditions, allow a minimum of 45 minutes drying time between coats. One or two additional thin coats of finish should be applied prior to opening building for use.
11. Important: AC/Heat must be in operation to assure adequate drying time and curing of finish between coats. Temperature and humidity level in the building will determine drying time.

**CAUTION:** Do not dry buff, spray buff or burnish vinyl composition tile or asphalt tile floors without prior applications of a metal cross-linked acrylic finish which is resistant to neutral cleaners. Do not dry strip under any conditions.

If followed closely, these procedures will prevent costly delays and unnecessary expenses resulting from a new floor that has not been prepared properly for the owner.

## EXPRESSIONS TRUE STEP SLIP RESISTANT TILE MAINTENANCE

**Expressions** True Step slip resistant tile offers a safer walking surface than smooth surfaced flooring, making it an excellent choice for areas in commercial interiors where slip resistance is a concern. A clean, well maintained surface is essential to preserve the beauty, durability, and performance of **Expressions** slip resistant tile. **Expressions** slip resistant tile should be maintained in the same manner as other **Expressions** Vinyl Composition Tile products except:

1. First sweep and/or vacuum the floor to remove grit and dirt which could be ground into the finish if left too long. As with any embossed product, bristle brushes should be utilized in lieu of nylon pads for any scrubbing operation. We recommend a polypropylene bristle such as that provided by Clark/Pullman™ or an equivalent. We do not recommend floors be scrubbed or buffed with nylon pads. High Speed machines should not be used on **Expressions** True Step slip resistant tile.
2. The use of a quality floor finish, such as **TARKETT** Commercial Floor Polish, is definitely recommended. Appropriate floor finishes will meet or exceed the minimum co-efficient of friction slip resistance of 0.50 as measured by the James Machine (ASTM F-2047). Excessive applications of finish or finish build-up should be avoided. These circumstances would affect the proper performance of the slip resistant surface. In most cases no more than 3 thin coats are necessary. During normal maintenance floor should be observed to determine if a refresher coat of finish is necessary, most likely in the high traffic areas. Apply single coats of refresher finish when deemed necessary only in areas where needed.
3. As with any flooring material manufactured to aid in surface traction increased maintenance will be necessary. These surfaces do tend to "grab" dirt particles from foot wear and "hold" onto them. Since each area where this material will be utilized will have different environmental and use conditions maintenance frequency will need to be adjusted. Normally the areas selected for Slip Resistant Tile receive more than normal amounts of traffic and spillage, thus increased attention to maintenance will be necessary.
4. Stripping of the floor should be done when needed using a quality stripper, such as **TARKETT** Commercial Floor Stripper, and re-coated. Normally a polypropylene bristle brush is appropriate for use when stripping, however if the floor is unusually dirty a clean grit impregnated brush may be used. This brush is abrasive and should not be used on a consistent basis. Never use carbide brushes.

## SPECIAL MAINTENANCE PRECAUTIONS

- **SPILLS** - Most spilled household substances and virtually all spills encountered in a commercial environment should be wiped up immediately with an absorbent

paper towel or white cloth and the area washed with full strength **TARKETT** Commercial Floor Cleaner or household detergent. If removal is not complete, try rubbing with isopropyl alcohol or lighter fluid. Alcohol and lighter fluid are flammable; follow all recognized cautions when using these products.

- **SLIPPERINESS** - Water, other liquids, chemicals and foreign matter on the surface of the floor can cause it to be slippery. They should be removed immediately! Incompatible floor finishes can cause slipperiness. Do not allow furniture polish to come in contact with the floor, whether finished or unfinished. It will cause severe slipperiness! Caution signs should be placed in commercial areas where the floor becomes slippery and should remain until the condition has been fully remedied. CAUTION: When washing, finishing or stripping the floors, traffic should be excluded from the area because wet floor surfaces are usually slippery. The use of improper waxes and floor finishes can cause problems such as slipperiness and dirt accumulation.
- **STAINS** - All resilient floor coverings, especially white or light colors, can be stained by certain materials. These include tracking from asphalt paving or asphalt driveway dressing, solvent liquid or paste waxes, certain formulations of rubber casters or furniture cups, shoe sole material, shoe polish, lipsticks, pigmented clays, paints, pigments, petroleum by-products and tires. In many instances, tire stains are difficult or impossible to remove. Be sure your **Expressions** floor is properly protected from contact with these materials. Protect the floor from direct contact with tires. Use either extra tiles or a piece of Plexiglas to provide protection.
- **INSECTICIDES, DISINFECTANTS AND SOLVENTS** - Care should be exercised in the selection and excessive use of insecticides and disinfectant sprays, such as those used in hospitals. Some disinfectant and insecticide sprays contain oil or solvents which may settle in sufficient quantity on the floor to discolor, cause slipperiness and harm the floor covering. These include some cleaning agents containing caustics, strong soaps, or solvents such as gasoline, kerosene, or turpentine.
- **COATINGS** such as shellac, lacquer, varnish, and paste wax or those containing aromatic solvents are NOT recommended for **Expressions** floors. They may permanently injure the floor finish. NOTE: There are a number of specialized clear urethane or epoxy formulated "permanent" maintenance coatings being marketed for application on mainly vinyl composition tile floors. Some of these products, if not applied correctly or applied on newly installed tile or on poorly bonded tile have lead to tile release from the substrate. TARKETT makes no statement as to these products acceptability for use on our resilient flooring products. Damage resulting to flooring from these types of coatings will need to be addressed by the manufacturer and / or applicator of such coating.
- **SWEEPING COMPOUNDS OR MOP TREATMENTS WITH PETROLEUM SOLVENTS, SILICONE COMPOUNDS OR LOOSE ABRASIVES** - Solvent oils may adversely interact to change surface hardness of the floor finish, cause slipperiness, and shorten the service life of the tile. Improper or harsh abrasives may unduly scratch the finish. Use only floor sweep and mop treatments that contain water based or emulsion based materials that are compatible with the floor finish.
- **STILETTO HEELS** - Resilient flooring, as well as wood and other commercial floors, may suffer visible damage as a result of the extreme high forces (up to 2,000 pounds per square inch psi) exerted by stiletto or high heels. **TARKETT** will not accept claims for damage caused by stiletto or high-heeled traffic. Stiletto or high-heel damage is intensified by protruding nail heads. An exposed nail head on a stiletto heel can exert a force up to 6,000 psi. **Expressions** commercial resilient flooring and other types of commercial flooring are not designed to perform under such concentrated high pressure.

CAUTION: Do not dry buff, spray buff or burnish vinyl composition tile or asphalt tile floors without prior applications of a metal cross-lined acrylic finish which is resistant to neutral cleaners. Do not dry strip under any conditions.

#### MAINTENANCE HINTS

- Use full width entrance walk-off mat. Clean mats frequently. Do not use walk-off mats with rubber base that can come in contact with floor tile. Stains often result when rubber comes in contact with vinyl composition tile.
- Sweep floors daily to remove grit and dirt which will be ground into the finish if left

too long.

- Buffing over the finish with a polishing machine adds luster to the finish coat and helps dislodge dirt and blends touch-up spots with original finish coat.
- Operators of ultra-high speed machines must be thoroughly trained in the machine's proper use. Improperly used, these machines can damage any resilient floor covering.
- Don't polish **TARKETT** floor finishes until thoroughly dry - such action kills its luster.
- Don't apply floor finish in a heavy coat. One or several thin, even coats provide better floor protection and improved appearance.
- Mop with clear water if dirt accumulation is not removed by sweeping. DO NOT flood the floor when mopping.
- Be sure no floor cleaner film is left on the floor before applying finish. Floor finish over a floor cleaner film reduces the water resistance of the finish and may leave a spotted floor.
- Touch up worn spots in heavy traffic areas before finish film wears through completely. Usually, it is not necessary to reapply finish to the entire floor.
- NEVER apply floor finish over a dirty surface. The dirt will be trapped under the new coating. If the floor has been exposed to traffic since the last floor finish application, it should be mopped clean.
- Do not force-dry **TARKETT** Commercial Floor Polish or any other high quality metal cross-linked acrylic floor finish. This often will cause powdering of the finish.

#### CONTINUING GENERAL MAINTENANCE JOB CONDITIONS

Interior air conditioning or heating must be in operation.

#### EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

See previous page for a list of equipment needed. The amount of each item will be determined by the cleaning crew size required to finish a defined area within an allotted time. Improperly equipped crew members will waste time and increase maintenance costs.

#### STRIPPING PROCEDURE

See previous page for details on stripping. If a new brand of finish is being applied after an incomplete stripping, there is a good possibility that the new brand may not adhere to the old one. To prevent "non-adherence" of the new finish, it is very important that the old finish be removed completely.

#### APPLICATION OF FINISH

See previous page for details on finish application. Do not rub in the finish. A coat of finish will dry to a sheen in approximately 45 minutes depending on temperature and humidity. Apply two to four coats depending on gloss desired.

For further information regarding Tarkett Product Warranties and Floor Care procedures write to:

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