

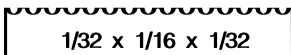
AZROCK VINYL ENHANCED TILE
COMMERCIAL INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES
Cortina Grande®, SolidAir™ and Cortina Grande® SR



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

These installation specifications are general guidelines for Azrock Vinyl Enhanced Tile. The latest edition of Azrock's Installation and Maintenance Manual should be consulted for complete details. 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. Never install Azrock Vinyl Enhanced Tile over residual asphalt (cutback) adhesive. These residues must be covered over with appropriate underlayment plywood or TARKETT's Kwik Patch and Additive.
4. Azrock Vinyl Enhanced 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. Azrock's Vinyl Enhanced Cortina Grande and SolidAir 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 #800 Pressure Sensitive Adhesive 1/32" (0.8mm) deep, 1/16" (1.6mm) wide, 1/32" (0.8mm) apart.
 - TARKETT #940 Polyurethane Adhesive (Wet Set) 1/32" (0.8mm) deep, 1/16" (1.6mm) wide, 1/32" (0.8mm) apart. (In areas exposed to direct sunlight, temperature extremes, and large amounts of topical moisture.)



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 AND ALKALI TESTING

All concrete substrates should be tested for moisture vapor transmission. The RMA Calcium Chloride Moisture Test using the quantitative method as detailed under ASTM F 1869 is recommended. Test results should be below the upper safe threshold of 5 pounds/1,000 sq. ft./24 hours (1.4 Kg/93 M²/24 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 10.

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 1" (25mm) 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 manufacturers 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" (9.53mm) 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 Azrock Vinyl Enhanced 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.

AZROCK VINYL ENHANCED TILE COMMERCIAL INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

Cortina Grande®, SolidAir™ and Cortina Grande® SR



AZROCK CORTINA GRANDE VINYL ENHANCED TILE

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. Daily sweeping with a soft broom or damp mopping is the only maintenance recommended during this period.

A permanent coating of TARKETT's unique Tritonite II is applied at the factory to seal the surface of Vinyl Enhanced Tile. This greatly simplifies the initial maintenance procedure and reduces the amount of additional coats of finish that need to be applied prior to opening the floor to traffic.

Stripping is not necessary before application of any finish. However the floor tile must be clean and free of all foreign matter.

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 the floor would need to be stripped prior to initial maintenance to remove the finish and construction dirt.

After the initial bonding period the INITIAL DEEP CLEANING PROCEDURE FOR ALL FLOORS is all that is required to prepare the new tile floor for the needed coats of floor finish. Excellent maintenance results are easily obtained by spray buffing either during the initial maintenance procedure or during the normal General Maintenance cycle. The use of floor sealer is not recommended.

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.

INITIAL DEEP CLEANING PROCEDURE FOR ALL 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.

FLOOR FINISHING

1. Pour TARKETT Commercial Floor Polish into clean mop buckets.
2. Use new properly prepared or clean mops for applying floor finish.
3. Dip mop in floor finish, place mop in wringer and tamp lightly. The mop should be full but not dripping.
4. Apply one or two thin coats of finish to floor. One or two additional thin coats of finish should be applied prior to opening building for use.
5. 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 enhanced 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.

MAINTENANCE OF AZROCK TEXTURED SURFACE (CORTINA GRANDE SR) SLIP RESISTANT TILE

Azrock 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 Azrock Slip Resistant Tile. Azrock Slip Resistant Tile should be maintained in the same manner as other Azrock Vinyl Enhanced Tile products except:

1. 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 Slip Resistant floors be scrubbed or buffed with nylon pads. High Speed machines should not be used on Azrock 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 2 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 traffic areas where needed. Taking care to avoid finish build up along wall and fixture perimeter areas.
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 Azrock 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 Azrock 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. **Azrock** 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 enhanced 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 enhanced 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

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.

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 1 to 5 as indicated under the FLOOR FINISHING section.
7. Move stripping operation to next area of floor and repeat the procedure.

APPLICATION OF FINISH

See FLOOR FINISHING section 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 Azrock Product Warranties and Floor Care procedures write to:

TARKETT Inc. USA
Installation Services
1705 Oliver Street
Houston, TX
USA 77007
AZTech@Tarkett.com
www.azrock.com

Tarkett

AZROCK
by Tarkett