

**INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR MODULAR TILE - (NON RS)**

**General Notes**

These instructions cannot cover all sub-floor conditions. C&A Floorcoverings cannot be held responsible or warrant Tile products if these floor preparation and installation procedures are not followed. If you have any questions concerning the proper installation (or use) of any C&A Floorcoverings products, please contact your C&A Floorcoverings representative.

All C&A products should be inspected for dye lot, style, color, size quality and shipping damage prior to installation. **Do not install C&A products if any problems are noted.**

**It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to make certain the sub-floor is properly prepared prior to starting the installation.**

**Installer Certification**

C&A provides a certification program for installers of C & A Floorcoverings. Additionally, C&A requires that all installers be certified prior to performing the installation of Modular Tile products under actual jobsite conditions. Contact the C&A Floorcoverings Account Executive in your area for more information on installer certification.

C&A Floorcoverings' modular products are intended for inside installations on dry, properly prepared sub-floors. The product is not intended for installation on walls, stairs, ramps, outside, or on wet surfaces.

C&A Floorcoverings is not responsible for any product failure if floor preparation and installation procedures are not followed. Use only installation materials approved by C&A Floorcoverings. See the shipping container for details on shelf life and freeze-thaw stability of the C&A product installation materials.

**Moisture & pH** – Excessive sub-floor moisture and/or high sub-floor pH alkalinity on any sub-floor, especially concrete, can cause product failure. The maximum allowable amount of moisture emission from the sub-floor is 3.0 pounds moisture vapor emission rate (MVER) for all C&A floor covering products. The acceptable pH range is 7.0 to 9.0. If performing In-Situ / RH (relative humidity) testing on concrete on or above grade the maximum allowable RH is 75%.

**Exceptions:** Maximum allowable amount of moisture emission from the sub-floor when utilizing ER3 tile is 5.0 pounds MVER. The pH requirement stands at a maximum of 9. The maximum allowable RH for concrete substrates on ER3 is 80%.

*Installation of C&A products on a sub-floor outside the specifications provided in this document will void the applicable limited warranties. C&A does not represent or make any express or implied warranties that C&A floor covering products will or will not affect, prevent or cure any other moisture or alkalinity-related issues that may arise because of the moisture and alkalinity levels found in the concrete. C&A expressly disclaims such express or implied representations or warranties.*

Testing of concrete pH is conducted by slightly wetting the concrete sub-floor with a small amount of water and allowing the water to stand for one minute. Apply pH test paper to the wet concrete surface. Allow five minutes for the pH test paper to remain in place in the wet area to reach equilibrium before taking the reading. The pH test paper changes color depending on the pH present. A color scale is provided with the pH test papers.

Testing of moisture emission is conducted using a calcium chloride moisture kit. The kit includes a sealed container of calcium chloride, a transparent plastic cover, and a sealant material to secure the cover to the floor. The basic requirements of the test include weighing the crystals, opening the crystal container and placing a transparent cover over the concrete sub-floor for 60 to 72 hours, re-weighing the crystals, and calculating a formula using the weight difference and time. The basic requirements of the test include weighing the crystals, opening the crystal container and placing a transparent cover over the concrete sub-floor for 60 to 72 hours, re-weighing the crystals, and calculating a formula using the weight difference and time. C&A Floorcoverings can provide more detailed instructions on request. C & A

Floorcoverings will also accept In-Situ / Relative Humidity testing of concrete as outlined above (Moisture & pH & Exceptions).

**Temperature & Humidity** – The area in which the modular tile is to be installed (including the sub-floor) should have a minimum temperature of 65°F for at least 72 hours prior to, during and after the installation. All C&A products and installation materials should be stored at this temperature for at least 48 hours prior to installation. This temperature should not exceed 90°F. Relative humidity above 65% will retard primer and adhesive set times.

**Floor Inspection** – The sub-floor must be structurally sound, and dry prior to installation. Any curing chemicals, sealers, finishers or other chemical treatments used on sub-floors must be chemically and physically compatible with the C&A backing and adhesive systems. If you have questions concerning the compatibility of these chemicals with C & A backing and adhesive systems please contact the Tandus Field Technical Service Department at 800-241-4902 ext 2129

**Floor Debris Cleaning** – Clean the sub-floor of all excess concrete spots, solid debris or paint spots using suitable scraping methods. Completely remove all wax, dirt, grease, paints or old adhesives (especially cutback or emulsion). **DO NOT** use solvents or any other chemical adhesive removers to clean the sub-floor. **DO NOT** use oil-based or silicone based sweeping compound. Contact C&A Floor coverings for specific floor preparation guidelines for installation over cutback or general purpose adhesive.

**Floor Patching and Leveling** – All sub-floors should be level to assure good installation. Concrete sub-floors should be toweled smooth and should conform to the standard specifications as recommended by the Portland Cement Association. The sub-floor should be flat to within 1/8" in 10 feet.

Cracks, holes and depressions can be filled using a good grade of Portland Cement/Latex fortified patching material. Do not install over loose tile (VAT, VCT or others).

**Floor Cleaning** – Sweep and vacuum the floor after patching and debris removal. Do not use oil **or silicone** based sweeping compound. Make sure all perimeter areas are clean. Smooth, nonporous floors should be damp mopped prior to product installation.

#### **Floor Priming (General)**

All porous, gritty, chalky and dusty surfaces should be primed using C&A Floorcoverings' C-36E Floor Primer. All patched areas must be fully primed.

Surfaces that are nonporous **do not** require primer. These surfaces must be cleaned as noted above.

Primer can be applied using a paint roller. Allow the primer to dry completely. Primer turns light blue and will not transfer to hand when dry.

When old adhesives other than cutback or emulsion adhesives have been removed, the appropriate primer is C&A's C-46E Premium Floor Primer. This premium floor primer does an excellent job of covering small amounts of old adhesive that may interfere with adhesion of the new floorcovering. This is not a substitute for removal of old adhesive and proper floor debris cleaning, but a safeguard for problems caused by small amounts of old residual adhesive.

Where existing non-asbestos containing cutback adhesive is present remove the old cutback to the substrate. Removal of asbestos containing cutback adhesive should be performed by a licensed asbestos contractor in accordance with state and federal requirements. After removal of the cutback adhesive prime the sub-floor using C&A's C-46E Premium Floor Primer. This premium floor primer is only intended to cover small amounts of old cutback adhesives that may interfere with adhesion of the new floor covering. After the floor has dried completely, install the RS modular tiles following the C&A installation procedures.

*For installation over substrates not covered above, information on exposed edges, air pockets, repairs, more-detailed installation instructions, and/or other installation information, please contact C&A Floorcoverings' Installation Services at 800/241-4902, ext. 2023, 2670, 2649, or 2129.*

## **Installation**

Determine the lay direction of the carpet based on building design and installation efficiencies.

- 1) Locate the first centerline in the installation area by marking the center point of two opposing, parallel walls. Snap a white (not blue or red) chalk line between the two center marks. Snap a second, perpendicular chalk line at the mid-point of this line (use a 3-4-5-triangle method to make sure the second line is perpendicular to the first. **This procedure is very important.**
- 2) Check the distance from each centerline to its parallel wall and determine how many 18” tiles will be required. Shift the line as needed (in a parallel direction) to balance the width of the border tiles (tiles against the wall). Border tiles where possible should not be less than half-tile widths.
- 3) C&A C-14E Pressure Sensitive Adhesive must be used in a full spread mode to install C&A Modules. Apply C-14E with a short nap paint roller. Do not allow the wet adhesive to puddle. Allow the adhesive to set prior to installing tiles. C-14E is set when it dries clear and will not transfer to the hand when touched. Tiles should be installed immediately after the adhesive has dried. C-14E Adhesive **MUST BE DRY** prior to installing Modular Tile. **DO NOT apply C-14E adhesive over flat cable.**
- 4) Directional arrows are printed on the back of all tiles. Determine the “arrow direction” for the installation and make sure all tiles are installed in the same direction (unless a quarter-turn or other **installation** pattern is required).
- 5) Start from the intersection point in the center of the floor and install the first line of tiles along the first centerline. Install the second line of tiles along the perpendicular centerline. Keep all the tiles exactly on the chalk lines. Fit the tiles snugly next to each other by sliding them into place. **DO NOT FORCE THE TILES. DO NOT TRAP FACE YARN BETWEEN OR UNDER TILE EDGES.** Press the tiles into place. When the tiles are properly positioned roll with a 75 to 100 lb roller to assure a positive contact between the tile backing and the application of C-14E adhesive. Tiles can be removed from the floor at any time for realignment.
- 6) Continue to install the tiles in a stair-step or pyramid pattern starting from the intersection point. Check to make sure the tiles are properly aligned at the edges during installation.
- 7) Install border tiles by placing a tile face down exactly on top of the last full line of field tile, keep the arrows pointed in the same direction. This is the *cut tile*. Take another full tile and butt it against the wall allowing it to fall on top of the cut tile. This is the *reference tile*. Score a line on the back of the *cut tile* using the edge of the *reference tile* as a guide. Cut the *cut tile* along the reference line. Do not cut through to the field tile. Install the *cut tile* with the cut edge along the wall. Doorways and other permanent objects can be fitted using this method, by making a pattern or by measuring techniques. Provide transition strips on all exposed tile edges.

## **Other**

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***SEAM WELD / SEAM SEALER NOT RECOMMENDED ON TILE PRODUCTS.***

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