



# Light Commercial Resilient Sheet Flooring

## INSTALLATION

Social Harmony

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Mohawk Group recommends the following guidelines for preparation and installation of all Mohawk Group light commercial resilient sheet products using permanent bond adhesive. Permanent Full Spread is the required installation method for all Mohawk Group light commercial resilient sheet applications. *NOTE: Mohawk Group Light Commercial resilient sheet flooring may NOT be heat welded. Mohawk Group will not warrant or accept responsibility of any kind for flooring failures related to the use of heat welding of light commercial resilient sheet. Flooring seams must be chemically fused using Infuze Seam Sealer.*

*NOTE: Light commercial resilient sheet flooring installations require specialized applications that are different than Residential. Mohawk Group recommends contracting a qualified commercial flooring installation service for all commercial and light commercial installations. The installer should be well-versed and experienced with all procedures indicative of quality installations with resilient flooring.*

## I. Full Spread Adhesive Installation Method (Light Commercial)

### Materials Required for Installation

- 1/16" X 1/32" X 1/32" U-Notch trowel
- Mohawk M95.0 Adhesive for Resilient Flooring or Mohawk MS160 Spray Adhesive

NOTE: Mohawk Group will not be held responsible for problems that may arise from use of unapproved adhesives.

- Infuze Seam Sealer, if seaming is required
- Sharp Utility Knife
- Straight edge
- 100 lb. roller
- Plastic putty knife, white clean cloths and denatured alcohol if seaming is required

### Acceptable Substrates

**Wood**—Wood substrates require a double layer construction. All panels must be APA-approved and designed for floor applications. Always fasten 1/4" underlayment panels in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Any failure of the underlayment or Mohawk Group flooring as a result of the underlayment is NOT the responsibility of Mohawk Group. Mohawk Group does not recommend installing resilient flooring over wood flooring or subfloors applied directly over concrete or sleeper-construction floors.

**Concrete**—See Grade Levels below. All concrete substrates require moisture testing.

**Suspended:** An acceptable suspended floor is a concrete or wood substrate with a minimum of 18" of well-ventilated air space beneath. Mohawk Group recommends that a moisture vapor barrier be placed on the ground below the air space.

**On-Grade:** An acceptable on-grade floor is a concrete substrate in direct surface contact with the ground at the surrounding ground level. The concrete slab should be protected from moisture penetration and incorporate a proven moisture vapor retarder.



**Below-Grade:** An acceptable below-grade floor is a concrete substrate partially or completely in contact with the ground below the surrounding ground level. The concrete slab should be protected from moisture penetration and incorporate a proven moisture vapor retarder.

**Gypsum-based lightweight concrete**—May be utilized when necessary due to radiant heat and in high rise buildings. Lightweight concrete must meet the requirements outlined in ASTM F 2419 for density. Lightweight concrete should be sealed using the manufacturer’s approved sealer, if required. All issues with lightweight concrete cracking, crumbling, powdering and resulting in the release of adhesive bond are NOT warranted by Mohawk Group.

**Self-leveling and Patching Compounds**—Portland-based only

**VCT**—Well bonded, on or above grade, in absence of waxes or sealers.

**Ceramic**—Well bonded and properly prepared

**Terrazzo**—Well bonded and properly prepared

**Resilient Floor**—No more than one layer, well bonded, non-cushioned

**Radiant Heat Floors**—Not exceeding 85° F and approved by the manufacturer for the use of their product with resilient flooring applications

**OSB (underlayment grade)**—OSB panels must be subfloor grade as specified and warranted by the manufacturer. Panels must be fastened according to manufacturer’s instructions. OSB has high and low spots throughout the floor that could telegraph through the vinyl.

### Unacceptable Underlayments

- Inter-flex and ALL perimeter-bonded products
- Cushion-back vinyl
- Any floating floor system
- Resilient tile installed below grade
- Carpet
- Particle board

Mohawk Group will not warrant or accept responsibility of any kind for flooring failures related to the use of unacceptable substrates and surfaces.

### Floor Preparation

Floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Remove all foreign substances such as wax, grease, dirt, construction marks, paints, sealers, contaminants, and any substance or chemical that would interfere with the adhesive bond. Fill all holes and cracks with a Portland-based patching compound.

Mohawk Group only recommends the use of Portland- based products as a satisfactory patching or leveling compound.



**Moisture Testing:** It is the responsibility of the flooring contractor and the installer to test all concrete substrates, both old and new, for moisture using In-Situ Probes, which should be 95% or less RH per ASTM F-2170 when using M95.0 Adhesive. When using MS160 Spray Adhesive, maximum RH limit is 95%. The jobsite and all flooring material and adhesive must be kept between 65° F and 85° F (18° C and 29° C) for 24 hours before, during and after installation.

**pH Levels:** pH must be between 8 and 10 when using Mohawk M95.0 adhesive. pH must be between 8 and 11 when using MS160 Spray Adhesive

**Inspection of flooring material prior to installation is required.** Any defects should be immediately reported to the seller from which the flooring was purchased before installation. Mohawk Group will not be responsible for labor costs to repair or replace material with defects that were apparent before or noticed at the end of an installation.

*NOTE: If removal of existing resilient floor covering is required, follow all recommended Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) work practices at [www.rfci.com](http://www.rfci.com).*

| M95.0 TROWEL SPECIFICATIONS            |                      |                                  |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Application<br>Width x Depth x Spacing | Spread Rate          | Type of Installation             |
| 1/32" x 1/16" x 1/32" U-Notch Trowel   | Up to 225 sq. ft/gal | Porous and non-porous substrates |

## II. Full Spread Adhesive Installation Steps (Light Commercial)

1. Align the pattern with the most dominant wall, and using a sharp utility knife, trim away excess material along the walls, cabinet and other permanent objects, leaving approximately 2" of material (rough cut) to be trimmed off later.
2. Make relief cuts at corners to allow the material to lay flat before the final cuts are made. Final trimming requires a minimum 1/16" expansion gap around all fixed objects. Flooring should not be compression fit or snug to any immovable object.
3. Fold back half of the material and apply adhesive to the substrate using the correct trowel notch or spray pattern. If a seam is required, leave an 18" dry zone where the seam will be located. Then follow the Seaming Instructions in a Full Spread Adhesive Installation (Light Commercial) found below.
4. Do not immediately place the material into wet adhesive. To avoid bubbling, allow time for the adhesive to flash (approximately 15 minutes) before positioning the material. Do not allow the adhesive to dry completely.
5. Slide the material in place and remove air under the adhered areas using a 100 lb. roller.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 for the remaining half of the flooring material.

## III. Seaming Instructions in a Full Spread Adhesive Installation (Light Commercial)

1. After positioning the flooring, overlap the seam edges (make sure to match patterns). For non-descript/ non-patterned/ random designs which do not have (an obvious) pattern repeat, overlap the seam edges as needed to create the desired visual.
2. Place a 4" - 5" wide scrap of the flooring between the substrate and flooring, under the seam area.



3. Double cut through the layers of flooring, creating a snug fit when the seam edges are joined.
4. Fold back both sides of the seam area and apply the adhesive to the dry zone. Allow the adhesive to flash (approximately 15 minutes) before placing the material into the adhesive.
5. Place one side of flooring into the adhesive and roll the seam area using a 100 lb. roller.
6. Apply small bead of Infuze Seam Sealer along the edge of the installed flooring.
7. Place the edge of the uninstalled flooring against the edge of the installed floor and press into place.
8. Remove excess Infuze Seam Sealer using a plastic putty knife followed by wiping the seam area using a clean dry cloth followed immediately with a clean cloth dampened with denatured alcohol. Repeat until all residue is removed from the surface of the floor.
9. Protect the seam for a minimum of six hours.

#### IV. Additional Instructions/Notes

- Always inspect the flooring thoroughly before installation. Report any defects PRIOR to installation.
- DO NOT slide heavy appliances or furniture over or across the flooring.
  - Always lift objects to set in place or place them on hardboard on top of the new flooring for gently repositioning.
- Use permanent caulk next to bathtubs, showers, toilets, sliding doors, patio doors, around metal door jambs or similar areas.
- Depending on local codes, it may not be necessary to remove the toilet in bathroom installations.
- Make sure furniture legs have large surface, non-staining plastic floor protectors or non-staining felt pads. The protectors should be at least one inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor.
  - When using MS160 Spray Adhesive, shake can well before each use.

Please contact the Mohawk Group Technical Services Department at 888-833-6954 with any questions.