

# UNDERBLOCK RUBBER UNDERLAYMENT

## RUBBER FLOORING UNDERLAYMENT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### RECEIVING AND HANDLING

Inspect rolls for shipping damage. Document any damage with pictures and having the freight company sign the BOL. Underlayment rolls should be stored in a dry/controlled area. Underlayment and any adhesive should be acclimated at room temperature for at least 24 hours prior to installation.

### INSTALLATION TOOLS

- Acoustical sealant (Titebond or equivalent)
- Utility knife
- 48" T-square
- Chalk
- (Optional) Adhesive compatible with rubber (DA5 or equivalent)
- (Optional) 1/16" square notch trowel

### SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS AND PREPARATION

- All subfloors/substrates must be inspected prior to installation.
- All supporting floors should be structurally solid, stable, and level. The surface should be flat to the equivalent of 3/16" in 10 LF or as recommended by flooring manufacturer.
- Clean and remove all dirt and dust. The subfloor should be free of solvents, paints, wax, oil, grease, asphalt, adhesive residue, sealers, and other extraneous materials according to ASTM F710.
- Concrete surfaces should be dry, completely cured and free of hydrostatic conditions and/or moisture problems. New concrete surfaces should be wood floated or broom finished.
- Use plywood specified. Plywood surfaces should be installed with the smooth side face-up. Offset joints of subfloor and underlayment. Leave a 1/4" gap around drain pipes, conduits, posts/columns, and along the wall. Seal the gap with acoustical sealant. Fasten plywood with non-rusting floor wood screws at every 6" OC around the perimeter and 8" OC in each direction through the wood panel. The adjacent edges of the wood subflooring should not be more than 1/32" above or below each other.
- If a waterproof membrane is required, the membrane can be used above or below the underlayment based on the recommended flooring assembly by the flooring manufacturer.
- Comply with the flooring manufacturer's instructions for the proper environmental conditions during installation.



- If the floor is not stable, you will not reduce impact noise with an underlayment. Poorly built floors or unstable floors must be stabilized.

### HOW TO INSTALL RUBBER UNDERLAYMENT

- After preparing the subfloor, roll rubber underlayment out to cover 100% of the subfloor. The factory edges are straight and should be laid tight directly next to each other.

- Leave a ¼" gap between the underlayment and the wall and around any obstructions (pipes, drains, columns, posts, etc). Seal this ¼" gap with acoustical sealant.
- To cut the rubber underlayment, use a T-square and utility knife. For diagonal cuts or cuts longer than your T-square, use chalk to mark off a straight line.
- If any cuts or edges are not factory straight, seal those gaps with acoustical sealant. Duct tape if desired.
- When installing grouted materials or on job sites expecting heavy traffic. Always use adhesive as directed to by the architect/designer or flooring manufacturer. Adhesives should be installed as close to room temperature as possible to ensure proper curing.
- Second Skin recommends using Mapei Ultrabond Sport PU 1K, DA5, or equivalent adhesive from flooring manufacturer designed for 100% rubber.
- (If adhering underlayment to subfloor) Fold the material halfway back to expose the substrate. Spread adhesive on the substrate using a 1/16" square notch trowel. Carefully lay the material onto the wet adhesive (DO NOT "flop" into place and trap air!) Continue the process folding underlayment onto wet adhesive. Use a 35 to 75 lb roller within 45 minutes to ensure proper bonding to adhesive.
- Wait 24 hours to cure before installing finished floor.

## INSTALLING FLOORING ON RUBBER UNDERLAYMENT

- Most wood and LVP/LVT flooring can be installed directly on top of UnderBlock rubber underlayment. Tiles (porcelain, ceramic, marble) **can only be installed directly on top of the 2mm UnderBlock**. If you'd like a thicker underlayment, install it under the subfloor. Thin tiles (VCT, linoleum, sheet vinyl) will always require a subfloor layer.
- Follow all instructions from flooring manufacturer to install finished flooring.
- Leave a ¼" gap around the perimeter at the wall and around any obstructions (pipes, drains, columns, posts, etc).
- Seal this ¼" gap with acoustical sealant.



- **Do not mechanically fasten any material into or through the rubber underlayment.** Any mechanical connection (nails, screws, staples, etc) will transmit noise into the building's structure and compromise the underlayment's performance.
- Always leave a ¼" gap between any building materials and the wall or any obstructions. This gap ensures the finished floor is isolated from the building's structure, and will prevent the transmission of sound. Seal all gaps with acoustical sealant.

## ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR GLUE DOWN FLOORS

- The Mapei Ultrabond Sport PU 1K or DA5 adhesive can be used if the flooring manufacturer does not have a recommended adhesive.
- Confirm that the flooring manufacturer does not have a required adhesive as part of their warranted installation.

## APPLICATIONS REQUIRING A NEW SUBFLOOR ON TOP OF RUBBER UNDERLAYMENT

Some floor finishes will require a new subfloor on top of the rubber flooring underlayment.

## NAIL DOWN FINISHED FLOORS (HARDWOOD OR ENGINEERED WOOD)

- Apply plywood subfloor panels / OSB (minimum ½" thick) or equivalent while Mapei Ultrabond Sport PU 1K, DA5 adhesive, or equivalent is wet.
- Leave a ¼" gap around the perimeter at the wall and around any obstructions (pipes, drains, columns, posts, etc). These should not touch the plywood. Seal this ¼" gap with acoustical sealant.
- Apply pressure to bond. Do not use nails, screws, or staples.
- Follow floor manufacturer's instructions to install the nail down floor. The nail down finished floor should not protrude through plywood / OSB / equivalent subfloor into the rubber. Leave a ¼" gap around the perimeter and all obstructions. Seal this ¼" gap with acoustical sealant.



- An alternative to a plywood subfloor is to glue down furring strips and nail the floor into the furring strips. Nails should not protrude through the furring strips. The entire assembly must "float" on the rubber underlayment!

## TILE FINISHED FLOORS (CERAMIC, MARBLE, PORCELAIN)

- All thicknesses of UnderBlock except the 2mm thick require a new plywood layer or OSB layer (minimum 1/2" thick) between the UnderBlock and the finished tile floor.
- Follow all flooring manufacturer instructions.
- Use the flooring manufacturer's recommended mortar. Apply it to the thickness recommended.
- Wait 24 hours or as recommended by the flooring manufacturer.
- Use the floor manufacturer's recommended grout.
- Wait 48 hours before walking on the finished floor or as recommended by the flooring manufacturer.
- Wait 7 days before allowing heavy traffic on the finished floor or as recommended by the flooring manufacturer.
- Do not rush! Wait for the mortar and grout to cure in accordance with the floor manufacturer's instructions.

## TILE OR GLUE DOWN FLOOR IN A WET AREA

- Apply cementitious backer board (minimum ½" thick) while Mapei Ultrabond Sport PU 1K, DA5 adhesive, or equivalent is wet. If not a wet area, plywood subfloor panels / OSB (minimum 1/2" thick)
- Leave a ¼" gap around the perimeter at the wall and around any obstructions (pipes, drains, columns, posts, etc). These should not touch the plywood. Seal this ¼" gap with acoustical sealant.
- Apply pressure to bond. Do not use nails, screws, or staples.
- Follow floor manufacturer's instructions to install the tile floor. Leave a ¼" gap around the perimeter and all obstructions. Seal this ¼" gap with acoustical sealant.

## EXTREMELY THIN TILES (LINOLEUM OR VCT TILE)

- Apply plywood subfloor panels / OSB (minimum ½" thick) or equivalent while Mapei Ultrabond Sport PU 1K, DA5 adhesive, or equivalent is wet.
- Leave a ¼" gap around the perimeter at the wall and around any obstructions (pipes, drains, columns, posts, etc). These should not touch the plywood. Seal this ¼" gap with acoustical sealant.
- Apply pressure to bond. Do not use nails, screws, or staples.
- Follow floor manufacturer's instructions to install the glue down or tile floor. Leave a ¼" gap around the perimeter and Follow floor manufacturer's instructions to install the tile floor.