



# Click, Rigid SPC Enhanced Resilient Tile

## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

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## General Guidelines

Click Enhanced Resilient Tile (ERT) is constructed with the patented Unilin click system that locks the planks together to form a tight and durable joint, limiting moisture from passing through the seams. Click ERT is installed as a floating floor. Exceptions include bathrooms, where ERT can be floated or glued down with Mohawk's M95 adhesive.

*WARRANTY NOTE:* Exclusions apply to areas with frequent or heavy rolling traffic. The warranty for this product excludes any problems associated with rolling loads.

## Owner/Installer Responsibility

Examine flooring for color and quality prior to installation. If material is deemed unacceptable, contact the seller immediately. Visual defects are covered for material replacement only. Owner and Installer are responsible for final inspection of flooring quality and grade. Purchase an additional 5% of flooring to allow for cuts and an additional 10% to 15% if installing diagonally.

*WARRANTY NOTE:* Installer should provide owner with one carton end label from product installed and recorded moisture test results for warranty purposes. Owner should also retain carton label, moisture test results and invoice for their records. Excess flooring should be stored flat in a climate controlled area for repairs in the event of future damage.

## Job Site Conditions

- It is the responsibility of the Owner and Installer to ensure job site environmental, substrate and subsurface conditions meet all requirements as outlined in installation instructions prior to substrate testing and flooring installation. Manufacturer declines all responsibility for product performance or installation failure due to structural, substrate or environmental deficiencies or jobsite conditions.
- Resilient flooring installation should be scheduled after all other trades have completed their work.
- In all areas where product will be installed, fully operational HVAC systems must run for at least 10 days prior to substrate moisture testing or flooring installation and remain in operation during and after installation with constant temperatures maintained thereafter. Conditions at testing should be set at the same temperature and humidity levels expected during occupancy. The temperature should never fall below 55°F for the life of the installation. Portable heaters will not provide consistent or adequate heat. Never use kerosene heaters.
- Proper acclimation of the room, substrate, flooring material, adhesive and all installation accessories is critical to successful long term flooring performance. Installation over cold substrates will interfere with product dimensions, affecting the size of the flooring, and will increase the potential for indentation, joint fracture or separation. The substrate temperature must be between 65°F and 85°F and the humidity below 65% for 48 hours prior to, during and after preinstallation testing and installation. All substrate preparation and testing procedures must conform to appropriate ASTM F 710, ASTM F 1869 and ASTM F 2170 requirements.
- Unopened cartons of flooring should be stored flat and neatly stacked in the climate controlled installation area for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation to allow product to acclimate. Open cartons just prior to installation.
- When installing flooring from two or more cartons, check the pattern, color and run (lot) numbers on the carton labels to ensure they match.



## Tools and Materials

- Circular saw or reciprocating jigsaw
- Carpenter square
- Cutting board
- Tape measure
- Utility knife
- Scrap piece of ERT flooring material
- In Situ RH moisture meter
- pH testing kit
- Small hand roller (seam roller)

### *Optional:*

- Mohawk ActiveSound™ Underlayment for sound transmission reduction

## Subfloor Preparation

- Proper preparation of the subfloor is vital to a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor. All subfloors should be smooth, flat and dust free with the variance not exceeding more than 3/16" in a 10' span. All subfloor and underlayment patching must be done with a non-shrinking, water resistant, portland based patching compound.
- Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth and free from dust, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, asphalt sealing compounds, and other extraneous materials. The surface must be hard and dense and free from powder or flaking. The floor should have a reading of 95% RH or less (ASTM F2170) with a pH range between 8 and 9.
- Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a portland based underlayment and troweled smooth and feathered until even with the surrounding surface.
- Concrete underlayments with a radiant heating system are acceptable, provided the temperature of the subfloor does not exceed 85°F at any point.
- When installing over existing ceramic tile, apply a portland based patching or leveling compound to smooth substrate surface.
- Any wood and wood composition panels should be APA rated and approved and intended for subfloor use. Panels should be smooth, flat, structurally sound and free of deflection.

*NOTE:* If the subfloor exhibits excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, it will likely do so after installation of the flooring is complete. Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

- Product may be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided the existing floor surface is smooth or can be made smooth. Existing floors must be solid; fix any loose areas. Installation over an existing resilient floor with deep embossing may require application of an embossing leveler. Cushioned flooring or multiple layers of resilient flooring are NOT suitable substrates for installation.



## Subfloor Preparation (continued)

- Product may be installed over existing ceramic tile. Remove any loose tiles and fill with appropriate portland based floor patching compound. Scarify the surface of the ceramic tile, then fill grout joints with patching compound to the level of the surface of the ceramic tile, carefully following the floor fill manufacturer's instructions for mixing, priming and spreading material over ceramic tile.
- Prior to installation over metal or painted floors, remove any loose paint or rust.
- Existing adhesive residue must be removed and/or encapsulated. Never scrape adhesive residue unless it is confirmed to be asbestos free. Scrape all ridges and puddles of adhesive down to the subfloor.
- NOTE: Never use liquid chemicals to remove old adhesive. Solvents and other abrasive chemicals used to clean the subfloor can damage the backing of click ERT if not properly removed and can affect the product's performance.
- For installation over other substrates, consult Mohawk Technical Services at 800.833.6954.

**ASBESTOS WARNING!** DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES. Previously installed resilient floor covering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesives used to install them may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the previously installed product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

## Installation Instructions

One advantage of the Unilin click system is that it allows you to choose your own starting position and work in either direction, one plank or tile at a time.

### Pre-Installation

- Floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry before installation.
- Check the tongue and groove of each plank to ensure they are free of debris or damage.

### Installation

1. Snap a chalk line for your first row to follow.
2. Determine if the starter row will need to be cut. If the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, proceed. Perimeter planks should be no less than 1/2 the width of the plank.
3. Identify the tongue on the short side of the first plank. Tongue side should start facing the wall if working left to right. You may also start with the groove side facing the wall if this is easier for you, but you must work right to left.
4. Check the groove on each plank to ensure it is clean and free of debris.
5. Continue to the next plank by dropping and locking the end of the new plank into the end of the existing plank.
6. Press the end joint into place with your hand and roll with a hand roller or seam roller to ensure a fully compressed and tight fit.



7. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row, or the reverse if working right to left, lifting slightly to engage lock. Rotate downward, clicking together for a tight fit. Use a hand roller or seam roller to press and lock the compressed fit end joint.
8. Work across the length of the room, installing planks with the long side seam first, then sliding back to drop the end joint into place. Roll ends to ensure a tight fit. It is critical to keep the first two rows straight and square, as they are the “foundation” for the rest of the installation. Check squareness and straightness regularly.
9. Continue installing planks, making sure to achieve a random appearance with end pieces of 6 inches minimum. Check that all planks are fully engaged. If a slight gapping is found, the gap can be tapped together with a tapping block, using a scrap of flooring to cover the tapping block in order to avoid damaging the planks.
10. When fitting under door casings, cabinets, etc., the flexibility and convenient connection of the Unilin click system becomes evident. If necessary, a flat pull bar may be used to assist in locking the planks. If needed, remove the locking profile on the groove in order to slide the plank into place and apply seam sealer to the edges to glue planks together.
11. When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, click ERT planks and tiles can be cut easily and cleanly using a reciprocating jigsaw. It is often beneficial to make a cardboard template of the area and transfer this pattern to the plank.
12. Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips.

## Additional Instructions

### *IMPORTANT:*

- For plank installation, we recommend staggering the end joints a minimum of 6 inches.
- For tile installation, we recommend staggering the end joints a minimum of 3 inches.
- Never insert nails or screws, including door stops, into the ERT flooring or the expansion zone around the flooring perimeter, as they will prevent proper expansion and contraction of the structure and flooring.
- Do not install four corners together, as this will not provide a stable installation.
- For bathrooms, this product can be floated or glued down with Mohawk’s M95 adhesive. Silicone caulk should be used around the perimeter of the bathroom, around fixtures, commodes and bathtub.

We continuously make technological advancements that improve product performance or installation techniques and methods. To confirm you have the most recent installation instructions, please visit our website at [mohawkgroup.com](http://mohawkgroup.com) or contact Technical Services at 800.833.6954.