



# Commercial Resilient Homogeneous Sheet Flooring

## INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Medella

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## General

Mohawk Group guidelines for preparation and installation of Medella homogeneous resilient sheet. Full Spread is the required installation method for all Mohawk Group commercial resilient sheet applications.

**Note:** Commercial resilient sheet flooring installations required specialized applications that are different than Residential. Mohawk Group recommends contracting a qualified commercial flooring installation service for all 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 Preparation (Commercial)

### Materials Required for Installation

- 1/16" x 1/32" x 1/32" U Notch Trowel
- Mohawk M95.0 or Mohawk M99 Resilient Flooring Adhesive
- Recess or Under Scribes
- Heat Weld Equipment
- Sharp Utility Knife
- Straight edge
- 3 Section 100 lb roller
- Handroller for areas not accessible with 3 Section 100 lb roller
- White clean cloths and mineral spirits

## Acceptable Underlayments

### • Wood

Wood underlayment panels require a double layer construction and must be underlayment grade as specified and warranted by the manufacturer. Always fasten 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 slabs shall be tested for moisture regardless of age or grade level.

**Suspended:** An acceptable suspended floor is a concrete or wood substrate with a minimum of 18" (460mm) of well-ventilated air space beneath it. 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 must be protected from moisture penetration and incorporate a proven intact 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 must be protected from moisture penetration and incorporate a proven moisture vapor retarder.

- **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
- **Self-leveling and Patching Compounds**—Portland-based only
- **Resilient Floor**—No more than one layer, well bonded, non-cushioned
- **Radiant Heat Floors**—Not exceeding 85° F (29° C) and approved by the manufacturer for use with resilient sheet flooring.

## UNACCEPTABLE Underlayments

- Inter-flex or any perimeter-bonded products
- Cushion-back vinyl
- Any floating floor system
- Resilient tile installed below grade
- Cork
- Carpet
- OSB - Non APA approved
- Gypsum-based underlayment

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

**Substrate preparation should be carried out in accordance to ASTM F710.**

Floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Remove all foreign substances such as wax, grease, dirt, construction marks, paints, sealers and contaminants, and any substance or chemical that would interfere with a good bond. Fill all holes and cracks with a Portland-based patching 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 by determining relative humidity in concrete floor slabs using In-Situ Probes, which should be less than 99% RH.

### pH Levels

Concrete pH must not exceed adhesive limits.

**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. 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. Installation site should never drop below 55° F during the life of the floor.

The permanent HVAC should be fully operational.

## **II. Installation Fast Facts**

- Store Medella rolls standing upright.
- Medella must be installed in roll sequence. Check batch or dye lot prior to installation.
- Do not reverse edges.
- Do not use factory edges.
- Do not butt factory edges together for seaming.
- Do not net fit Medella until you are ready to glue. Due to tension in the factory roll it may shrink.
- Do not undercut seams when using a hook knife. Nothing will be left to heat weld.
- Always inspect the flooring thoroughly before installation. Report any defects PRIOR to installation.
- Never roll and store Medella face in. If it must be temporarily rolled face in for positioning in the room, make the rolls as large as possible.
- DO NOT slide heavy equipment over or across newly installed flooring. Always lift objects and place them on hardboard on top of the flooring, and gently reposition them.
- Use caulk along bathtubs, showers, sliding doors, metal door jambs or similar areas.
- Make sure equipment has large surface, non-staining floor protectors. 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.

## **III. Seaming Instructions** (Medella MUST Heat Weld)

1. After positioning the flooring, overlap the seam edges. For non-descript/non-patterened/random designs which do not have (an obvious) pattern repeat, overlap the seam edges an average of 1".
2. Mohawk recommends the use of recess or under scribes for seams that are only slightly open.
3. Seams CANNOT be cut tight or full or it will result in a peaked seam.
4. Double cut seams are an option if substrate will not be damaged.
5. Fold back both sides of the seam area and apply the Mohawk M95.0 or M99 Resilient Flooring adhesive to the dry zone. Allow the adhesive to flash before placing the material into the adhesive.
6. Place one side of vinyl into the adhesive and roll the seam area using a 3 section 100 lb roller.
7. Place the edge of the uninstalled vinyl against the edge of the installed vinyl and press into place.
8. Using a clean cloth, repeat until all residue is removed from the surface of the Medella vinyl.



## Heat Weld Seams

Professionally heat welded seams provide a strong, watertight, hygienic, monolithic surface.

- Use only Mohawk Medella solid vinyl welding rods.
- Wait a minimum of 12 hours before heat welding newly installed Medella Homogeneous sheet.
- Seam edges should be only slightly gapped (about a business card thickness) and vertical. Wide gapped and/or undercut seams will prevent quality welds.
- The depth of the groove should be 1/2 to 3/4 the thickness of the material. DO NOT go too deep. The groove must also be centered between edges. Both are critical to ensure proper strength and bonding.
- Medella weld rod measures 4mm in diameter. Recommended groove width is 3.5mm.
- Grooves must be clear of all debris including dust.
- Use only professional quality welding equipment that will maintain sufficient temperatures. A welding tip must be chosen to produce a quality weld without damaging the appearance of the sheet vinyl.
- Preheat welding gun. Temperature should be set approximately 700° F. Just above 5 on the green Leister gun. Practice on a scrap piece to fine tune temperature and pace for type of substrate and site conditions.
- Determine the correct welding speed by ensuring that the welding rod actually fuses into the groove. A small ridge must form on either side of the welding rod, at the vinyl surface. If no ridge forms, you have not heat welded the seam.
- While the welding rod is still warm, trim off 1/2 -2/3 the excess rod with a spatula knife and trim plate.
- After the rod has cooled to room temperature, make the final trim pass using only a razor-sharp spatula knife in one continuous movement.

## IV. Flash Cove

- Medella Homogeneous sheet can be Flash Coved.
- All Seams must be heat welded.
- The use of cove stick is required at wall/floor junction.
- Mohawk M99 will provide excellent grab when used as a flash cove adhesive.

## V. Installation

1. Align 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.
3. Fold back half of the material and apply Mohawk M95.0 or M99 Resilient Flooring Adhesive to the substrate using the appropriate trowel (1/16" wide x 1/32" deep x 1/32" apart U Notch Trowel). If a seam is required, leave an 18" dry zone at the edge of the seam. Then follow the Seaming Instructions listed above.
4. Do not immediately place the material into wet adhesive. To avoid bubbling, allow time for the adhesive to flash before positioning the material. Do not allow the adhesive to dry completely.



5. Slide the material in place and remove air from under the material using a 3 section 100 lb roller over the entire adhered floor.
6. All areas must be rolled. Toe kicks will require the use of a small hand roller.

## **VI. Adhesives**

### **M95.0**

#### **Concrete Substrate Conditions**

Installations on, above or below grade over APA approved wood subflooring or over concrete substrates with up to 95% in-situ RH (per ASTM F2170), and pH between 8.0 and 10.0.

#### **Adhesive Working Time**

No more than 60 minutes after the adhesive has become dry to the touch.

#### **Recommended Coverage and Trowel**

1/16" wide x 1/32" deep x 1/32" apart U Notch Trowel  
220-260 sq ft/gallon

#### **Clean Up**

Use a water dampened cloth to clean up adhesive while still wet; dried adhesive may require the use of mineral spirits.

#### **Cleaning**

Immediate cleaning is allowed with seamless flooring

**Note:** See Mohawk M95.0 TDS for further details.

### **M99**

#### **Concrete Substrate Conditions**

Installations on or above grade over bare concrete substrates with up to 99% in-situ RH (per ASTM F2170), and a pH of 12.0.

#### **Adhesive Working Time**

Up to 4 hours after drying.

#### **Recommended Coverage and Trowel**

1/16" wide x 1/32" deep x 1/32" apart U Notch Trowel  
220-260 sq ft/gallon

#### **Clean Up**

Use a water dampened cloth to clean up adhesive while still wet; dried adhesive may require the use of mineral spirits.

#### **Cleaning**

Immediate cleaning is allowed with seamless flooring

**Note:** See Mohawk M99 TDS for further details.



## Routine Maintenance

Mohawk Group homogeneous resilient sheet flooring is designed for Light Commercial and Commercial use. As such, care and maintenance options may range depending upon the end-use. Carefully determine what your floor's end-use and traffic conditions will be to help you select which care and maintenance practice is best for your floor.

## Initial Cleaning

It is necessary to protect newly installed floors from construction soil, traffic and damage until they are ready for initial cleaning.

1. Remove all surface soil, debris, sand and grit by dust mopping the floor, sweeping or vacuuming with a wet/dry vacuum. Vacuum must be suction only with no beater bar.
2. Mix a neutral pH cleaning solution according to the label directions. The pH of the cleaner solution must be between 6.0 – 8.5 pH.
3. Apply the solution to the floor. Do NOT flood the floor. The solution can be applied with either a mop or an auto scrubber. Allow the solution to dwell on the floor for 5-10 minutes. Additional dwell time may be necessary for heavily soiled areas.
4. Scrub the floor with either a low speed rotary machine or an auto scrubber using a 3M™ Red Buffer Pad #5100 or equivalent.
5. Pick up the scrubbing solution with a wet vacuum or an auto scrubber.
6. Rinse the entire floor surface with a clean mop using clean, cool water. Pick up rinse water with wet vacuum or an auto scrubber.
7. Allow the floor to dry thoroughly before allowing traffic.

## Routine Cleaning

Cleaning should be performed a minimum of once a day, depending on the application, type of traffic and hours of operation.

1. Stains and spills should be wiped or mopped up immediately with a damp mop using a neutral pH cleaning solution. Rinse the affected area with clean, cool water. Be sure to allow the floor to dry thoroughly before allowing traffic.
2. Remove all surface soil, debris, sand and grit by dust mopping the floor, sweeping or vacuuming with a wet/dry vacuum. Vacuum must be suction only with no beater bar.
3. Mix a neutral pH cleaning solution according to the label directions. The pH of the cleaner solution must be between 6.0 – 8.5 pH.
4. Scrub the floor with either a low speed rotary machine or an auto scrubber using a 3M™ Red Buffer Pad #5100 or equivalent.
5. Pick up the scrubbing solution with a wet vacuum or an auto scrubber.
6. Rinse the entire floor surface with a clean mop using clean, cool water. Pick up rinse water with wet vacuum or an auto scrubber.
7. Allow the floor to dry thoroughly before allowing traffic.