



XCLUSIVE™
DESIGNER INLAID®
HIGHLIGHT®
CONCEPT®
VALUFLOR®

ULTIMA®
UTOPIA®
PACSETTER™
PRELUDE®
FLOR-EVER®

INSTALLATION SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES

Product	Installation System	Adhesive	Seam Sealers	Seam Sealing Application
Xclusive	Your Choice	3044	SU-106	Insert
Ultima	Your Choice	3044	SU-105	Insert
Designer Inlaid	Your Choice	3044	SU-104	Top Seal
Utopia	Your Choice	3044	SU-105	Insert
Highlight	Your Choice	3044	SU-102	Insert
Pacesetter	Your Choice	3044	SU-80/92	Insert
Concept	Your Choice	3044	SU-80/92	Insert
Prelude	Your Choice	3044	SU-80/92	Insert
Valuflor	Fully Adhere*	3044	SU-80/92	Insert
Flor-Ever	Fully Adhere*	3044	SU-80/92	Insert

*These products can be perimeter adhered in residential installations only if the subfloor is concrete.

The listed products are manufactured on Congoleum White Shield® backing.

All of these products, with the exception of Flor-Ever and Valuflor, can be installed using the Your Choice™ Installation System. This system provides you with options to install the flooring either fully adhered or perimeter fastened over qualifying wood, concrete, and existing flooring products.

Refer to “Congoleum Professional Installation Guide” (M0176) for details on installation procedures and subfloor preparation. To obtain a copy, contact a Congoleum distributor, or write to Congoleum Corporation, Installation Dept., P.O. Box 3127, Mercerville, NJ 08619.

RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS

- **Fully Adhered Installation Method** — The fully adhered method is recommended when installing White Shield-backed products on self-coved installations, complicated layouts, and where a lot of net fitting is required, as well as all other installations where the subfloor is smooth and in sound condition.
- **Perimeter-Fastening Method** — The perimeter-fastening method masks subfloor imperfections better and can reduce underlayment telegraphing in new home construction and other areas where subfloor movement is more likely to occur. Perimeter-fastened floors also have better indentation recovery and make an excellent choice when covering existing floors that have been prepared with embossing leveler. **This system is recommended in residential applications only.**

WARNING

DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC “CUT-BACK” ADHESIVE, OR OTHER ADHESIVE. THESE PRODUCTS MAY CONTAIN **ASBESTOS FIBERS** AND/OR **CRYSTALLINE SILICA**. AVOID CREATING DUST. INHALATION OF SUCH 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 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.

Whenever possible, existing flooring should be left in place and the new floor installed over the top. Options for covering over and procedures which provide precautionary steps for removal are detailed in “Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Covering” which is available by writing Congoleum Corporation, Installation Department, P.O. Box 3127, Mercerville, NJ 08619 or the Resilient Floor Covering Institute, 401 East Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Rockville, MD 20850. Regulations outside the United States may vary.

Mold and Mildew Issues

Prior to removing an existing floor following the RFCI Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings (unless state or local law requires other measures), if there are visible indications of mold or mildew or the presence of a strong musty odor in the area where resilient flooring is to be removed or installed, the source of the problem should be identified and corrected before proceeding with the flooring work. In virtually all situations, if there is a mold issue, there is or has been an excessive moisture issue. Visible signs of mold or mildew (such as discoloration) can indicate the presence of mold or mildew on the subfloor, on the underlayment, on the back of the flooring, and sometimes even on the floor surface. If mold or mildew is discovered during the removal or installation of resilient flooring, all flooring work should stop until the mold or mildew problem (and any related moisture problem) has been addressed.

In areas where flooding has occurred, it is recommended that damaged flooring be removed following the RFCI Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings (unless state or local law requires other measures). Any underlayment and subfloor should be allowed to thoroughly dry and, if necessary, cleaned, disinfected, and otherwise remediated consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines referenced below. Any structural damage or signs of mold or mildew must be corrected before reinstalling resilient flooring. This may include for example replacement of the underlayment and/or subfloor.

For water damage caused by leaking fixtures, the source of the moisture leak must be located and corrected. Any structural damage must be repaired and any signs of mold or residual moisture must be addressed before replacing the resilient flooring in the affected area.

To deal with mold and mildew issues, you should refer to the EPA guidelines that address mold and mildew. Depending on the mold and mildew condition present, those remediation options range from cleanup measures using gloves and biocide to hiring a professional mold and mildew remediation contractor to address the condition. Remediation measures may require structural repairs such as replacing the underlayment and/or subfloor contaminated with mold and mildew as a result of prolonged exposure to moisture.

The EPA mold guidelines are contained in two publications “A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home” (EPA 402-K-02-003) and “Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings” (EPA 402-K-01-001). Appendix B of the “Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings” publication describes potential health effects from exposure to mold, such as allergic and asthma reactions and irritation to eyes, skin, nose and throat. These publications can be located on EPA’s website at www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/

GENERAL INFORMATION

Handling and Storage

Roll all White Shield felt-backed products face out, wrapped tightly around a rigid core when storing or transporting. Avoid stacking other heavy rolls or objects on rolls that can crush or distort them.

Installation Temperature

Condition the room(s) and all flooring materials at a constant temperature between 65°F (18°C) and 85°F (29°C) for 48 hours prior to, during, and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter, maintain a room temperature between 55°F (13°C) and 100°F (38°C).

Self-Coving

- Do not perimeter fasten self-coved installations. Fully adhere only.
- Use a cove stick with a minimum 1 1/8" diameter.
- Use Congoleum 3044 adhesive to adhere flooring to the walls and seal all corners and seams with the appropriate seam sealer.

Moving Appliances and Heavy Furniture

Always move heavy appliances and furniture on strips of hardboard or plywood to protect the floor covering.

Flooring Maintenance

For recommended maintenance instructions, refer to the Congoleum "Maintenance and Warranty Information" brochure (M3702).

Fitting

The listed products can be fit by the freehand, direct scribing, or pattern scribing methods. **Note:** The factory selvage edge may contain printed information that should be trimmed off.

Do not take the material from one temperature extreme to another, e.g., laying it in direct sunlight for trimming, then transferring it to the room, as curling may result.

RECOMMENDED SUBFLOORS AND PREPARATION (Refer to page 4.)

ADHESIVE

Congoleum 3044 is the only adhesive needed on fully adhered or perimeter-fastened floors regardless of whether the subfloor is porous or nonporous.

- Trowel notch size:
1/16" wide x 1/32" deep x 1/32" apart; all substrates

Fully Adhered Method

To adhere the flooring, roll one-half of the sheet back, taking care to avoid bending or creasing it. The adhesive must be spread on 100% of the exposed subfloor with no voids, puddles, or thin spots. Uniform coverage can be maintained by using a clean, properly notched trowel. The adhesive should be spread in a straight line to where the flooring laps or tubes back on itself. After the flooring material has been placed into the wet adhesive, it must be rolled immediately with a 3-section steel, 100-pound (45 kilogram) or heavier flooring roller.

Perimeter-Fastened Method

At the completion of the installation, flooring must lie completely flat with no buckles or waves. To accomplish this, a few basic rules must be observed:

- **Store and transport** material on a flat surface with continuous support.
- **Avoid stacking** other heavy rolls or objects on rolls that can crush or distort them.
- **Always keep flooring rolled face out around a sturdy core** with a minimum 4" diameter until ready for installation. **Note:** Complex installations may require the flooring to be rolled face in for placement into a room. Make sure it is brief, then immediately unroll the floor and allow it time to relax prior to fitting or cutting. Flooring rolled face in for an extended period of time (more than 5 minutes) may experience noticeable contraction and curl that will make it difficult to adhere along the perimeter and at seams.

- **Prevent distortions** from occurring during installation. Avoid folding, creasing, or kinking the flooring.
- **Make sure the flooring is not bowed** when installing around island cabinets, extending into alcoves or through doorways into adjacent rooms. Stretch a string or chalk line from one end of the sheet to the other, over a continuous grout line to make sure it's straight. Adjust the flooring to remove any bow before fitting it.
- **Maintain close relative temperature ranges throughout the installation** to prevent curl. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight.
- **Fit the flooring with a 1/16" gap** between the edge of the sheet and the walls where trim will be installed. In areas where no trim will be installed, **cut the flooring net, not tight.**

When ready for installation, unroll flooring and allow it to relax for a few minutes. Position the material using care to avoid folding or creasing it. Fit flooring to the room "net" not tight. Allow 1/16" gap in areas where finish trim will be installed.

To adhere the flooring, turn back one edge and apply a 4" to 6" wide band (minimum 6" for Designer Inlaid) of adhesive along the perimeter, at floor vents, and other cutouts. Place flooring into the adhesive and push any fullness out toward the perimeter. Thoroughly roll the adhered area before the adhesive sets up. It is important to flatten any adhesive ridges (including the seam area) to ensure a smooth transition between the adhered and unadhered areas. Repeat the procedure to adhere the entire perimeter.

Staples

Staples are actually preferred in place of adhesive in areas where finish trim will be installed. If using a combination of staples and adhesive, complete the adhered areas first. The minimum size staple should have a 1/2" crown with a 3/8" leg. Use the longest staple length that can be seated tightly to the floor surface. Staple every 2" along the wall and 1/4" away from the edge of the sheet. After the floor has been fastened, install trim.

Any minor fullness can be removed by warming the area with a heat gun and then covering it with a piece of underlayment or other flat object until it cools.

SEAMING

Seam Placement

Place seams:

- In the least conspicuous and least traveled area in the room.
- A minimum of 6" away from parallel underlayment joints.
- At least 6" away from seams in old sheet flooring or within the center of a row of tile.

Matching Designs

Very Important! Always install sheets in the sequence they were cut from the roll, starting with the first sheet. Follow the specification printed in the selvage for sheet reversal or non-reversal.

Align the match points and overlap the sheets to match the design:

- Reverse Sheets - Align C to C or I to I
- Do Not Reverse - Align arrow to arrow.

Note: A shade or texture variation may occur when seaming other than factory selvage edges.

It is not unusual to see minor run-out of the design in long seams. If this occurs, roll the larger sheet face in for a few minutes. (This will relieve stresses and cause the sheet to shrink.) Do not allow flooring to remain rolled face in for more than 5 minutes.

General

When seaming is required, install the first sheet, leaving 12" unadhered along the seam edge. Lay the second sheet in the room, overlap the selvage edges and carefully match the design. Adhere this sheet the same way as the first, leaving 12" unadhered at the seam. You should now have a 24" dry zone (no adhesive) centered under the entire length of the seam.

Seam Cutting

Seams must be cut using the Overlap and Double Cut method. The Straightedge and Butt, and Recess Scribe seam methods will not produce an acceptable seam on the listed felt-backed products.

When seaming designs with embossed mortar or grout lines wider than 5/32", the seam should be cut in the center of the embossed line as in Figure A.

On designs with narrow embossed lines, 5/32" or less, cut the seam along the top edge or shoulder of the embossing. Leave the embossed line on the top sheet when cutting the seam and completely remove it from the bottom sheet. (Figure B.)

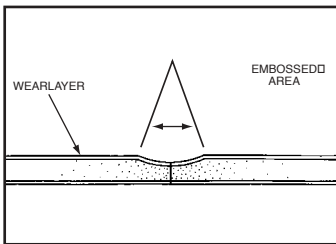


Figure A

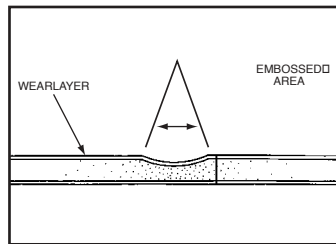


Figure B

- First, position a 3" piece of scrap flooring, face down, centered under the seam to protect the subfloor surface.
- Cut the seam using a sharp utility knife with a steel straightedge as a guide.
- Apply enough pressure to cut through both sheets in a single pass. Two passes may be required for cutting seams in Designer Inlaid.
- Leave the knife in the seam cut and adjust the straightedge to continue cutting the seam.
- Remove the scrap flooring and selvage edges.

Seaming 6' Wide Material Slit from 12' Width

Xclusive, Ultima, Utopia, Highlight, Pacesetter, Concept, Prelude and Valufloor are available in 6' widths that have been slit from 12' wide material. Therefore, only one side will have a true selvage edge. The seaming specifications on multiple seam installations will vary from one seam installations.

- **One seam only:** Install designs with "Reverse Sheet" specification in rooms requiring only one seam by following the procedure detailed earlier. **Be certain to seam the side of the sheet with the true factory selvage.**
- **Multiple seams:** In rooms where there is more than one seam, install the first 2 sheets reversed by seaming the factory selvages together. Install the third and alternating sheets (or fill pieces) reversed by overlapping the slit edges 2 full design units (one on each sheet of flooring). (Figure C.)
- **Optional Method:** An optional method can also be used when installing designs with "Reverse Sheets" specifications on jobs with multiple seams or with small fill pieces. **This optional method requires installing the flooring following Do-Not- Reverse seaming specifications.**

Position the slit edge over the factory selvage and visually match the design so that it repeats consistently across the sheets (Figure D.)

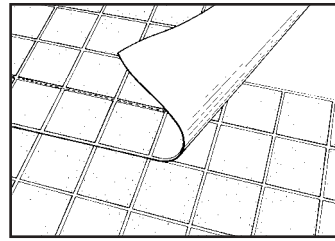


Figure C

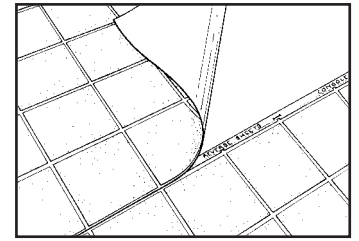


Figure D

Cut the seam 1/8" into the field area (beyond the embossed line) as shown in Figure E. Do not cut the seam along the edge of the mortar line because this will create a high/low condition weakening the seam weld.

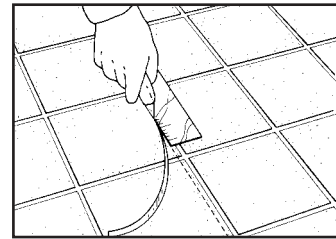


Figure E

Note: Some designs have a cross-direction match that will not divide equally into 72" (e.g. a design with a 26-1/4" cross-direction match will not be a slit at a grout line). If more than one (1) seam is required, 12-foot wide flooring should be considered to avoid excessive waste.

Adhering the Seam

Tube the seam edges back to expose the subfloor. Spread on adhesive with the recommended trowel. On perimeter-fastened floors, apply an 8" band of adhesive centered under the seam cut. **Do not apply excessive adhesive!** Use extreme care to prevent adhesive from being scraped or forced up into the seam cut as it will discolor the seam and weaken the seam sealer weld.

Lay the flooring material into the wet adhesive and roll in both directions with the floor covering roller. Use a steel hand roller to level the wearlayers at the seam cut (Figure F).

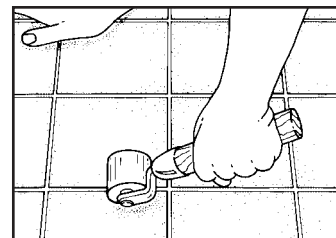


Figure F

Sealing the Seam

All seams in Congoleum sheet flooring must be sealed with Congoleum seam sealer, following package instructions. (Refer to the chart on page 1 for applicable seam sealing recommendations.) Seal seams immediately after completion or by the end of the day. Any adhesive in the seam cut must be completely removed prior to seam sealing.

NOTE: Seams in Xclusive featuring Scotchgard™ Protector must be prepared prior to applying seam sealer by lightly abrading the seam area with the 3M Scotch-Brite® pad and dowel pin found in the SU106 Seam Sealer Kit.

DANGER: Seam Sealers are extremely flammable. Avoid open containers. Do not smoke. Extinguish all flames or other sources of ignition in area.

Avoid prolonged contact with skin. Provide adequate ventilation. Keep from children. Carefully read all labels on cans or bottles before using.

RECOMMENDED SUBFLOORS AND PREPARATION

Concrete Subfloors

Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth and structurally sound. Cracks, holes, unevenness, roughness, etc., must be brought smooth and level with a latex-modified portland cement-based patching compound. Additionally, subfloors must be free of dust, paint, oil, grease and other foreign material. All concrete subfloors should be tested for moisture prior to resilient floor covering installation. Refer to "Congoleum Professional Installation Guide" (M0176) for details.

WHEN EXCESSIVE MOISTURE OR ALKALINE CONDITIONS EXIST, THE INSTALLATION OF CONGOLEUM FLOORING PRODUCTS IS NOT RECOMMENDED. INSTALLATION OR SERVICE FAILURES DUE TO EXCESSIVE MOISTURE OR ALKALI THROUGH CONCRETE SUBFLOORS ARE NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONGOLEUM CORPORATION AND IT DOES NOT ASSUME LIABILITY FOR SUCH FAILURES. THE LISTED PRODUCTS ARE MANUFACTURED WITH BAC STOP MILDEW PROTECTION. THESE PRODUCTS HAVE SUPERIOR COLOR RETENTION WHEN SUBJECTED TO NORMAL MOISTURE AND ALKALINE CONDITIONS.

Wood Subfloors

- Wood floors must be double-layer construction, a minimum thickness of 1" and have a well-ventilated air space of 18" or more below the joist (Figure G is an example).

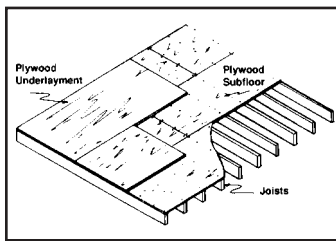


Figure G

- Subfloor and/or underlayment must be smooth, dry, solid, free from movement and properly fastened.
- Countersink fasteners 1/32" below the surface on new construction sites.
- Sand joints smooth.
- Gaps between underlayment panels that exceed 1/32" must be filled with latex patching compound.

Underlayment Guidelines

- APA underlayment-grade plywood with "sanded face"
- APA C-C plugged Ext. glued plywood with "sanded face"

Other panels may be suitable for use as underlayments for resilient floor coverings. Consult your supplier for recommendations and warranty information prior to performing the installation.

The responsibility for warranties and performance guarantees for the underlayment, regardless of the type, rests with the underlayment manufacturer and not with Congoleum.

Existing Resilient Floors

⚠ WARNING: DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST, OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVE, OR OTHER ADHESIVE. See Warning Statement on Page 1.

Various federal, state and local government agencies have regulations governing the removal of in-place asbestos containing material. If you contemplate the removal of a resilient floor covering structure that contains, (or is presumed to contain) asbestos, you must review and comply with all applicable regulations. Regulations outside the United States may vary.

Whenever possible, it is desirable to leave the old flooring in place with the last alternative being removal.

Congoleum floors can be installed directly over old, smooth, non-cushioned flooring (sheet or tile) provided it meets the following qualifications:

- Single-layer flooring
- Fully adhered and securely bonded
- Clean and free of wax, floor finish, and polish.

Old embossed cushioned and non-cushioned flooring should be made smooth with a latex-modified portland cement-based embossing leveler or wood panel underlayment. Do not install new flooring or underlayment over cushion-backed flooring or flooring with a heavy cushion layer.