

ProXL Tile Installation Manual

I. Introduction

SportFloor® ProXL is manufactured in a dual layer format. The top layer consists of a colored virgin blend rubber with marbled accent colors added, calendered and vulcanized to a bottom layer blend of SBR recycled rubber. The slip-resistant, matte top wear layer is very durable and provides a non-porous, safe, resilient floor finish.

- Available in a standard square tile which is glued down, or installed in an interlocked format.
- Designed to be used in gyms, hotels, arenas, schools, ski resorts, military bases, fitness centers, community centers or residential buildings.
- Manufactured of high quality materials and carefully inspected before shipment, however, a quality installation is the responsibility of the installer. The installer needs to verify the accuracy of the order, and materials need to be inspected for damage, defects and satisfactory color match (there may be a slight color variation from the sample provided) prior to installation.

An authorized SportFloor® distributor must be immediately notified of any damages or product irregularities prior to installation and final adhesive application.

ProXL is designed for interior installations only and is not recommended for environments where the product will be exposed to oils or petroleum based materials.

II. Quality Assurance

Floor Contractor/Installer Qualifications

- Flooring contractor shall be experienced in the flooring field and approved by the manufacturer.
- Flooring contractor shall be proficient in installing this type of rubber flooring and have completed at least three projects of similar magnitude and complexity.

III. Handling & Storage of Materials

Receive tiles in a careful manner to avoid any damage. Adhesives or surface preparation product containers shall be unbroken and labels intact until time of use. Prevent damage or contamination to materials by water, moisture, freezing, excessive heat, foreign matter or other causes.

ProXL should be stored on site with adhesives, etc., for at least 48 hours prior to installation (extreme cold or hot conditions may require additional time).

Tiles should be removed from pallets and any loading/shipping constraint pressures be removed in order to acclimatize to room conditions.

Work from all other trades must be complete, especially overhead trades, before installation can begin.

Caution is required on site, as under no circumstances should the tiles be left bent, folded, stepped on or crushed, as this may destroy the material.

Rubber tiles are susceptible to dimensional changes due to temperature and climate conditions. It is vital that site conditions remain constant within the acceptable working range.

Avoid exposure to direct sunlight as UV rays can alter appearance of colored rubber.

IV. Installation Materials

- **SportFloor® ProXL**
- Adhesive – only use **SportFloor® 1 or 2-part Urethane Adhesive** solvent free.
- Tools:
- Sharp utility knife & spare blades
 - Carpenter square & straight edge
 - Measuring tape

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- Chalk line (for layout)
- Markers (to indicate cut lines)
- Rubber gloves
- Safety glasses
- 1.5mm x 1.5mm x 1.5mm (1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16") square notch trowel
- 45 kg (75 lbs) minimum sectional roller
- 50mm (2") masking tape (to secure seams)
- Concrete blocks (for weighting seams)
- Kraft paper (to protect flooring from blocks)

V. Sub-Floor Preparation

The installation of any resilient rubber flooring is only as good as the sub-floor it is laid upon. This is especially true when the flooring is glued down. Rough and uneven sub-floors can diminish the appearance, cause uneven top surfaces and shorten the life span of such flooring. We therefore recommend proper preparation of such sub-floors as follows:

Existing Flooring

- Do not install ProXL over existing flooring.

Wood Floors

- New wood sub-floors should be CDX exterior plywood installed smooth side up.
- All nails, staples or screw fasteners must be caulked and surface sealed with epoxy sealant.
- Plywood should be acclimatized for a 48-hour period prior to installation of flooring tile.
- All wood sub-floors must be clean and dry of all dust, dirt, and previous floor finishes.
- Patch cracks, holes, and rough or uneven areas with an appropriate cement based leveling compound (such as Mapei Planipatch, etc) to manufacturers' standards.

Concrete Floors

- Ensure sub-floor is smooth and level to a tolerance of 3.2mm (1/8 in) in 3.05m (10 ft).
- Ensure concrete floors have cured for minimum 6 weeks.

It is vital that a moisture test be completed prior to floor installation. Moisture is the single most significant factor that causes bonding failure to the sub-floor. Moisture tests must be performed on all concrete floors regardless of age and grade level.

- Test shall be in accordance with **ASTM F-1869** Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Sub-floor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride.
- One test should be conducted for every 1000 sqft of flooring and the results not exceed 2.27 kg per 92.9m² (5 lbs per 1000 sqft) in 24 hours.
- Use ASTM F2170, the Relative-Humidity Test, as an alternate. Slab not to exceed 75% humidity.
- If test results exceed limitations or hydrostatic pressure exists, the installation must not proceed until the problem has been corrected or an approved vapor barrier underlayment is installed.
- All test results must be kept on file and be accessible upon request.
 - If lightweight concrete has been used in construction DO NOT use the F1869 test.
 - If poured-gypsum underlayment has been used, check with the underlayment manufacturer on how to test for dryness. Never use calcium chloride testing with gypsum underlayment.
 - Ensure existing concrete floors are clean, dry and smooth.
 - Remove any wax, paint, varnish, adhesive or any other material that would prevent proper bonding of adhesive.
 - Repair any low spots with a cementitious based latex patch mix.
 - Fill and smooth any rough or porous concrete sub-base prior to installing flooring.

Note: If concrete sealers, curing compounds or floor hardeners have been applied, the surface must be treated prior to adhesive application to ensure proper bond.

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Concrete Floors with Radiant Heating System

- Ensure concrete slab has cured appropriately
- Prior to flooring installation, the radiant heating system must be operating at between 20°C (70°F) and 30°C (85°F) for minimum 7 days to dissipate any moisture in the concrete and ensure proper bonding conditions.
- Turn radiant heating system off 48 hrs. prior to flooring installation and until minimum 48 hrs. after the flooring is installed.
- After installation, turn radiant heating system on again, controlling the temperature up gradually over a 48 hour period to ensure a proper bond
- Maximum set temperature of radiant heating system must not exceed 30°C (85°F)

VI. Cutting ProXL

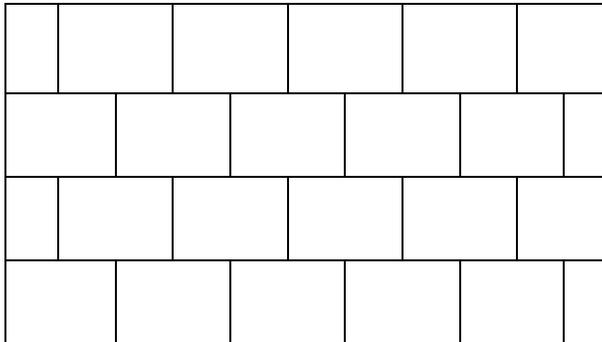
Use Caution. *ProXL* can be cut with a utility knife using a straight edge or square as a guide. Round holes can be cut using a hole saw or fine tooth jigsaw.

VII. Installation (with Adhesive or Interlocking)

Before work commences, examine the areas to be covered and report any flaws or adverse conditions to the general contractor and/or architect. Do not proceed with installation of *ProXL* until substrates and conditions comply with the requirements indicated in manufacturer’s instructions.

Room temperatures for installation must be maintained at a minimum 15°C (60°F) to a maximum 24°C (75°F) and a relative humidity 65% or less for at least 48 hours before installation. These conditions must be maintained 24 hours per day for the duration of the installation and for a minimum of 72 hours after installation is complete.

- Lay flooring in a running bond (staggered) pattern installation with color accent marbling oriented in the same direction.
Note: Each tile has an arrow on the underside signifying the direction of manufacture. All tiles should be installed so that the arrows are pointing in the same direction.



- Layout in such a way as to blend any color variance and to produce a minimum number of seams.
- Border widths minimum 1/3 width of full material.

Dry lay the entire floor including all cut trim prior to applying any adhesives, then view the floor under normal, occupied lighting conditions.

- Adjoin factory edge to factory edge. Where possible, place cut edge of tiles along walls or vertical surfaces.
- The floor area should be squared by locating the mid-point of the room and chalking a start line down the center of the room. Chalk another similar start line 90 degrees and square to the first one. Begin tile installation from the point where the two chalk lines intersect.

It is the installer’s responsibility to inspect the dry laid installation and notify the appropriate authority of any imperfections or irregularities prior to final adhesive installation.

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VII.I Installations with Adhesive

- Begin spreading adhesive from the intersection of the chalk lines, and continue down the line in one direction, spreading enough adhesive to install one starting row of tiles.
- Apply adhesive uniformly using recommended trowel and application rate. Ensure a minimum 85% transfer from the floor to backing of flooring.
- Do not spread more adhesive than can be covered by flooring before initial set takes place.
- Ensure joints are tight. All joints should be secured to prevent gaps, by applying **masking tape** across joints onto adjoining tiles until adhesive has cured. (300 mm [12 in] long at typical 400 mm [16 in] centers.)

Note: Never use duct tape or high grab masking tape. Duct tape adhesive chemically reacts with the flooring surface and leaves a permanent residue.

- Continue to spread adhesive and install tiles in each direction from the first row of tiles.
- Lay tiles into fresh adhesive in small sections and roll with at least a 45 kg. sectional roller a minimum of 3 times in multiple directions within 15 minutes of lying to ensure proper adhesive transfer.
- **Suitable weight must be applied over every seam after taping and rolling is complete.** Grey concrete utility bricks (2" x 4" x 8") are the only suitable weights. Place bricks, 2 layers deep, over all seams in continuous rows for a minimal period of 24 hours.

Note: Lack of weight on seams can result in peaking. Never use wood, boxes, sand bags, cinder blocks or any other substitute materials.

- Any excess adhesive appearing on the top surface of **ProXL** should be immediately wiped clean with a soft rag soaked in denatured alcohol.

Note: Excess adhesive which is allowed to harden on the top surface is nearly impossible to remove without marring the ProXL finish.

- Cut tiles neatly around fixed objects, and to fit irregular and fill-in spaces using a sharp utility knife. Make repeated passes when cutting to ensure straight cuts.
- Flooring installed around any irregular or sloped surface (i.e., around drains), should be weighted with bricks to ensure proper bonding of flooring to adhesive. It is also necessary to brick the perimeter and all edges (i.e., doors, walls, columns, sleeves, etc.).
- Continue flooring through areas to receive movable type partitions without interrupting floor pattern.
- Terminate flooring at centerline of door openings where adjacent floor finish or color is dissimilar.
- Install edge strips at unprotected or exposed edges where flooring terminates.
- Promptly clean adhesive from top surface of tiles using a soft cloth soaked in denatured alcohol.
- Prevent foot traffic on flooring for minimum 24 hours after installation. If heavy equipment must be moved across the finished floor, use extra care to avoid damage to the flooring.
- Plywood or Masonite should be used as a protective layer over the flooring to avoid damaging the surface.

VII.II Interlocking Installation

- Interlocking tiles have a tab detail on the outer edges which must be fitted together securely such that the finished flooring becomes a unitary monolithic floor, independent of the sub-floor over which it is placed. Install in a running bond pattern as per drawing.
- Ensure that tiles are installed tightly to the adjoining tiles to prevent gaps in the seams. If peaking occurs at the seams, place double sided tape onto the floor to hold the edge of the tile down.

VIII. Cleaning and Maintenance

See the SportFloor® Maintenance Guideline for complete cleaning details.

Initial Cleaning after installation

- For glued down tiles, wait 24 to 48 hours after installation before proceeding with floor maintenance.
- For interlocking tiles, when no adhesives are used, initial cleaning can be performed immediately after installation.

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- Caution should be taken in moving materials i.e., furniture, equipment, etc., over finished flooring. To avoid damage, Plywood or Masonite should be used as a protective layer over the flooring.

Floor Cleaning and Floor Finish

- An applied finish may alter the surface characteristic of the floor and is therefore not recommended.

Regular Maintenance

- **ProXL** may be cleaned at any time using a damp mop with a PH neutral cleaner diluted with water, and follow immediately to extract any moisture.

See the SportFloor® Maintenance Guideline for complete cleaning details.

Precautions

- **ProXL** must not be cleaned with any petroleum based cleaners. If any petroleum product is spilled on the matting, it should be removed immediately to avoid damage to the matting and voiding of warranty.

IX. Disclaimer

- This manual has been prepared to assist owners of **ProXL** Recreational Flooring in the recommended installation procedure. It is a guideline which may be used to produce an effective finished installation and should be reviewed in the context of the installation site(s).
- **North West Rubber Ltd.**, does not warrant any installation work not directly performed by **North West Rubber Ltd.**, and specifically disclaims liability for any direct or indirect personal injury, property damage or other costs or losses resulting from installations or applications by third parties. Please see the **North West Rubber Ltd.**, Limited Warranty for the particulars of warranty coverage relating to **North West Rubber Ltd.**, products.
- **ProXL** is not to be used for any purpose other than resilient recreational flooring.
- **ProXL** must only be used in accordance with the manufacturer's published specifications.