

# UNDERBLOCK HD 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 as damaged if applicable. 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) 3/16" V-notch trowel

### SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS AND PREPARATION

- All supporting floors should be structurally solid, stable, and level. The surface should be flat to the equivalent of 1/4" 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.
- 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 finish flooring manufacturer's instructions for the proper environmental conditions during installation.



- If the floor is not stable, impact noise may not be fully reduced with an underlayment. Poorly built floors or unstable floors must be stabilized.

( CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE )

## HOW TO INSTALL RUBBER UNDERLAYMENT

- 1 After preparing the subfloor, roll rubber underlayment out to cover 100% of the subfloor. The factory edges are straight and should lay tight directly next to each other.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 If any cuts or edges are not factory straight, seal those gaps with acoustical sealant. Duct tape over sealant if desired.
- 5 Using an adhesive between the subfloor and the underlayment is not required for all flooring types.
- 6 Second Skin recommends using DA5 (or equivalent adhesive from flooring manufacturer designed for 100% rubber) 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.
- 7 (If adhering underlayment to subfloor) Unroll the material halfway back to expose the substrate. Spread adhesive on the substrate using a 3/16" (or bigger) V-notch trowel. Carefully lay the material onto the wet adhesive (DO NOT "flop" into place and trap air!) Continue the process of unrolling underlayment onto wet adhesive. Use a 35 to 75 lb roller within 45 minutes to ensure proper bonding to adhesive.
- 8 Wait 24 hours to cure before installing finished floor.

## HOW TO INSTALL FLOORING ON RUBBER UNDERLAYMENT

- 1 Most finished floors can be installed directly on top of the UnderBlock HD rubber underlayment.
- 2 Floating floors, glue down floors, and most tiles (porcelain, ceramic, marble) can be installed directly on top. (SEE BELOW FOR EXCEPTIONS)
- 3 Follow all instructions from finish flooring manufacturer to install finished flooring.
- 4 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.

( CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE )

## ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR GLUE DOWN FLOORS

- The DA5 adhesive is designed for use with 100% rubber and can be used if the finish 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.

## ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR TILE FLOORS

- Follow all finish flooring manufacturer instructions.
- Use the finish flooring manufacturer's recommended adhesives or 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.

## 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)

- 1 Apply plywood subfloor panels / OSB (minimum ½" thick) or equivalent while DA5 adhesive (or equivalent) is wet.
- 2 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.
- 3 Apply pressure to bond. Do not use nails, screws, or staples to any added subfloor.
- 4 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.
- 5 Do not mechanically fasten material into or through the rubber underlayment. Any mechanical connection (nails, screws, staples, etc) will transit noise into the building's structure and compromise the underlayment's performance.



- 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!

( CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE )

## TILE OR GLUE DOWN FLOOR IN A WET AREA

- 1 Apply cementitious backer board (minimum ½" thick) while DA5 adhesive (or equivalent) is wet.
- 2 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.
- 3 Apply pressure to bond. Do not use nails, screws, or staples.
- 4 Follow floor manufacturer's instructions to install the glue down or 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)

- 1 Apply plywood subfloor panels / OSB (minimum ½" thick) or equivalent while DA5 adhesive (or equivalent) is wet.
- 2 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.
- 3 Apply pressure to bond. Do not use nails, screws, or staples.
- 4 Follow floor manufacturer's instructions to install the glue down or tile floor.