



# SPECTRIM FLOORS

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS LOOSE LAY GLUE DOWN

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

This information provides general guidelines for Spectrim Floors Loose Lay product. All instructions and recommendations should be followed for a proper installation

1. Install Spectrim flooring only after the clear of dust and debris that could create lifting and an improper installation
2. All subfloor/underlayment patching must be done with a non-shrinking, water-resistant Portland cement patching compound.
3. Doorways and archways must have a suitable "T" molding installed to protect the exposed edges of the flooring. Use of a 9" band of adhesive in all entryways is recommended to keep the flooring from movement.
4. Adhesives used with this product must be a pressure-sensitive releasable adhesive either from Spectrim Floors or approved by Spectrim Floors. Recommended Adhesives include: Mapei 360, XL Brands 5300, or Spectrim Loose Lay Adhesive.
5. For areas that run greater than 20 square feet, it is recommended to section the area into equal 10-12' sections and utilize the perimeter-X pattern for the adhesive.
6. Commercial applications should utilize and additional "X" pattern of adhesive from corner to corner.
7. High traffic areas such as restaurants and universities should be installed in a full-spread adhesive application.
8. All areas where the product will be installed must have a working heat and air conditioning source operational and remain in operation during and after installation. Humidity should be no great than 65%
9. Acclimation is required of flooring for 48 to 72 hours, between a temperature of 65 and 85 degrees

required. If you install outside of these temperature ranges, then depending on whether you installed it hot or cold, you may experience expansion or contraction of the flooring and adjustments may be required. If for example, you install in a cold environment and later the space is heated, you may experience a buckling of some planks in places. If for example, you install in a hot environment and later the space is cooled, you may experience gapping or contraction of your flooring in places.

10. Calculate the total quantities required and add 5% for excess and waste.
11. Luxury Vinyl Planks should be laid randomly across the floor to create the best color effect. We recommend that you install the planks using a mix from several different cartons to ensure a random appearance
12. Planks should be fitted lengthways towards the main incoming light source and, where possible, down the length of the room. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel to the length of the hallways.
13. To prevent problems staining of finished flooring and the general movement of a free-floating floor, areas to receive resilient flooring shall be permanently dry, clean, smooth, level and structurally sound. They shall be free of all contaminants, including but not limited to: dust, solvents, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening or parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation mold, and mildew.
14. In the kitchen, bath, or restaurant areas, it is recommended that wet areas are fully glued down and not loose laid.

## RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

- Safety Glasses, Utility Knife
- Measuring Tape
- Straight Edge Chalk Line
- Trowel (As per adhesive manufacturer's recommendation)
- Primer
- Vinyl Plank/Tile Cutter (Optional)
- Portland Cement-Based Compound
- Carpenter's Square or Straight Edge

## TROWEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Flooring Product Trowel Size\* and Notch Coverage Sheet goods and cushion to floor double stick  
1/16" x 1/16" x 1/32" Square-Notch Up to 220 sq. ft.

\*Trowel dimensions are width x depth x spacing. Coverage is approximate and may vary depending on porosity of substrate and the angle at which the trowel is held.

## MOISTURE TESTS (If Full Spread Glue)

All moisture tests must be performed and recorded prior to installation with results not to exceed the adhesive manufacturer's specifications. A significant number of installation failures in the market today are due to moisture related issues.

This product should be stored at the jobsite free from all the elements. This product should be acclimated to the conditioned temperature inside and must be kept between 70-80 degrees before, during and after the

installation for at least 48 hours. The jobsite must be cleaned and prepared prior to starting the installation. All patch work and preparation to the subfloor must be done and allowed to dry prior to starting the installation.

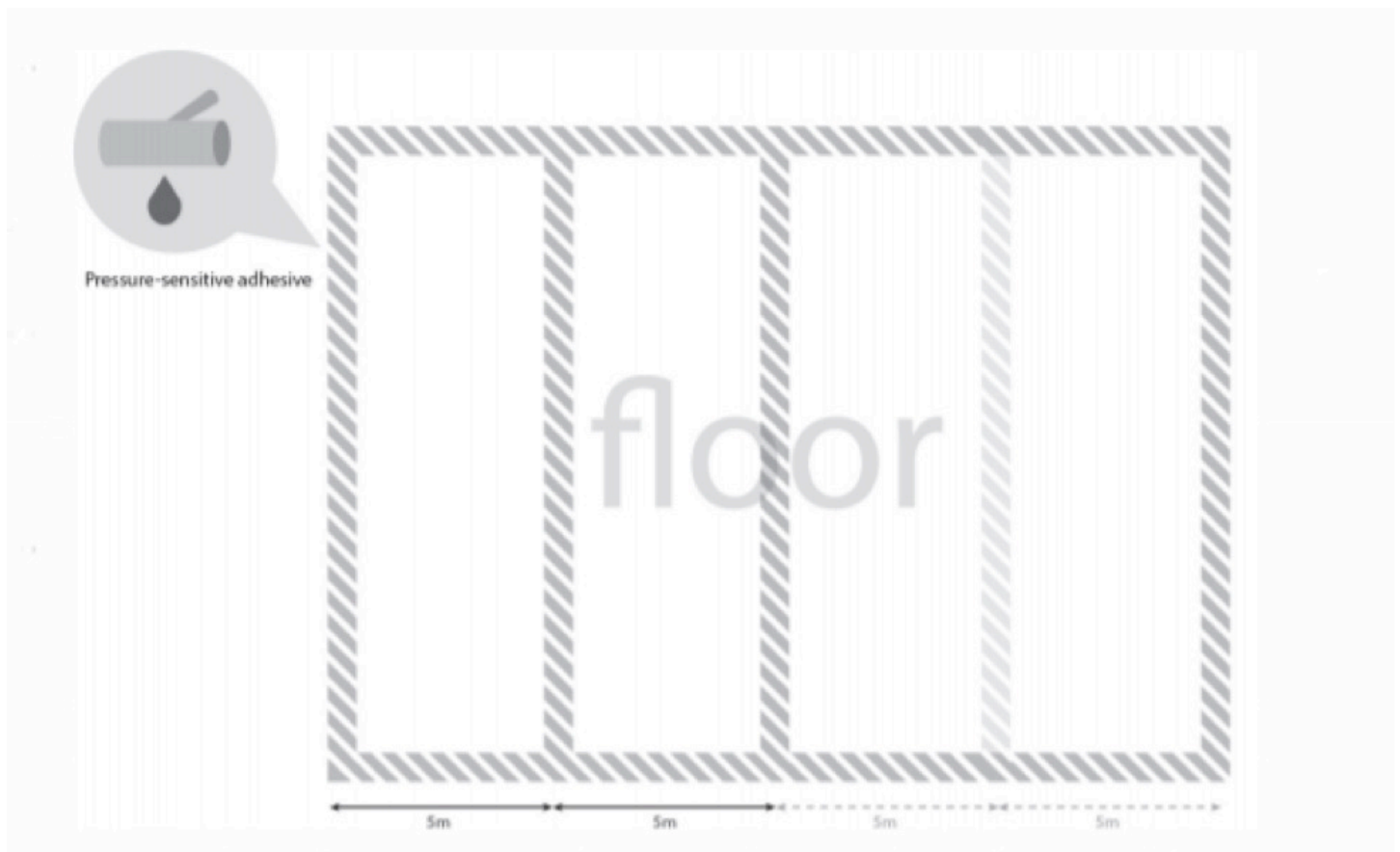
Thoroughly inspect all material. Installed flooring found to be defective will not be covered by warranty nor labor costs associated with removal & reinstallation.

Check cartons and confirm that the product is correct and has the same batch and lot number. If a different batch or lot number, to minimize shade variation mix product from several boxes. If the product looks incorrect stop the installation immediately and call Spectrim Floors .

## **DO NOT INSTALL LOOSE LAY IF MOISTURE TESTS EXCEED THE APPROPRIATE AND RECOMMENDED LIMITS**

### **ADHESIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Pressure Sensitive Adhesives are required for all installations of LooseLay. We recommend spreading adhesive every 10 square meters either in the pattern below or in an X Pattern every 10 linear feet.



## GENERAL SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

Although Spectrim LooseLay is designed to be a “loose-lay” floor installation, proper preparation of the subfloor is still a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the Spectrim Loose lay flooring, resulting in an unsightly surface and cause excessive wear on high spots.

## APPROVED SUBFLOORS

All substrates must be properly prepared and tested according to the following guidelines.

### Concrete Subfloors

Proper subfloor preparation and suitable underlayment installation are essential for a trouble-free job. Uneven or rough subfloor surfaces will show through (or telegraph) to the surface of this product resulting in an unsightly surface and can make high spots more susceptible to excessive wear. Correct the subfloor imperfections before you begin installing this product.

- Proper preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor. Verify that the substrate is flat within 1/8” of a ten foot radius.
- All subfloors should be smooth, flat and dust-free with the tolerance not to exceed more than 1/8” in a 10’ span. Holes, grooves, expansion joints, and other depressions must be filled with a Portland-based underlayment and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.
- **(If Gluing Entire Surface)** New concrete slabs (foundations) must cure for a minimum of 90 days AND must meet all moisture, pH and RH requirements prior to installation of Spectrim Flooring. Review the acceptable ranges for these items in the Moisture, pH and RH section of this installation document.
- Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth and 85% free from dust, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, asphalt sealing compounds and other extraneous materials. Spectrim Loose lay floors must be installed on dry floors. The floor must have a moisture reading of less than 95% RH. If any subfloor shows moisture readings above 95% RH then an acceptable damp proof membrane/moisture suppression system must be applied. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
- New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry and completely cured. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.
- Concrete underlayments with a radiant heating system are acceptable, provided the temperature of the sub floor does not exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit at any point. The system should be covered with a self-leveling underlayment separating the flooring from the heat source by at least 1/2”.
- Be sure that Radiant Heat sub-floors are properly cast 1/2” below the surface of the concrete slab. This ensures safe use of the radiant heat sub-flooring and provides the proper distance between the adhesive and Spectrim Floors, and to be covered by Spectrim Floors Warranty.
- Expansion joints, grooves, holes, and other depressions must be filled with a Portland cement-based compound.

**NOTE:** If contaminants have thoroughly penetrated the concrete, and cannot be removed, then we do not recommend installing Spectrim Floors.

## Wood Subfloors

- All wood panels for use Spectrim Loose lay must be smooth, flat, structurally sound and free of deflection.
- A combination of wood subfloor and panel underlayment construction shall be a minimum of 1” in total thickness.
- There shall be at least 18” of well-ventilated air space beneath all wood subfloors. Crawl spaces shall be insulated and protected by a suitable vapor barrier.
- Wood subfloors installed directly on concrete or over “sleeper” joist systems are not acceptable for use under Spectrim Flooring Resilient Flooring.
- Panels designed as suitable underlayment shall be at a minimum ¼” in thickness, dimensionally stable, fully sanded face to eliminate grain texture or show through and have a written manufacturer’s warranty and installation instructions.
- Panels shall be installed according to manufacturer’s instructions regarding stapling pattern, sanding and filling of joints, and acclimation to the installed environment
- Spectrim Flooring will not cover or accept responsibility for unevenness in the subfloor causing lippage or gapping. This is a subfloor issue.
- Unacceptable substrates shall be covered using a ¼” or thicker panel underlayment recommended for commercial use. Follow the underlayment manufacturer’s installation instructions fully.

## Removal of Old Adhesives

- Adhesive residue shall be properly removed before the installation of Spectrim Flooring Luxury Vinyl Flooring. It is recommended that mechanical scraping or grinding be used as a primary means of removing old adhesive residue.
- Residues include, but are not limited to carpet, vinyl, VCT, and or wood flooring adhesives.
- If chemical/liquid adhesive removers are utilized, the manufacturer’s recommended instructions for cleaning after use of the remover shall be followed fully. Spectrim Flooring is not responsible for any adhesive failures, indentation, bubbling, or delamination of new flooring due to improper cleaning of residue left from liquid adhesive removers.

## Other Substrates

- Ceramic, porcelain, marble, and granite tiles are suitable as substrates when the following conditions are met:
  - i. Tiles must be properly bonded with intact grout joints and free of cracks
  - ii. The surface of tile and grout joints should be free from sealers, coatings, dirt, and contaminants.
  - iii. Properly prepare the surface of tiles by grinding any high areas and using a suitable Portland- based leveling compound and primer to fill in all low areas. Follow leveling compound manufacturer’s recommendations for surface preparation and application of the product.
- The following are not suitable substrates for installation of Spectrim Flooring LV Flooring: rubber, cork, or asphalt tiles; and any other material covered in the sections above and listed as unsuitable.
- Unsuitable substrates should be covered with an approved ¼” wood underlayment or suitable Portland-based cement leveler or patching compound. Always follow the manufacturer’s recommended practices when covering an existing substrate.



# INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

## General

- Spectrim Floor Plank simulates wood planks and can be installed in the same pattern as a wood plank floor in a random pattern, staggered design, diagonally or other design.
- Planks are best in appearance when lying parallel to the longest walls in the room.
- Spectrim Flooring products can be cut using a tile cutter or a utility knife. Keep knife blades sharp for easy, accurate and safe cuts. Fit planks to walls, columns, door jambs, etc. using the same methods other floor tiles; overlap, pattern scribe, wall scribe, and freehand.
- When working on top of loose lay flooring during the installation, be sure to not disturb tiles and planks that have already been laid. If a piece does become dislodged simply peel it up and reinstall; use of a scrap piece as a tapping block can help readjust disturbed tiles and planks also.
- If it is necessary to heat the planks to achieve a cut, heat slightly from the back only with minimal heat setting (a standard hair dryer will produce enough heat). Carefully make cuts with a sharp utility knife on the heated plank.
- If it is determined that a non-Spectrim approved Flooring adhesive is to be used on an installation, Spectrim Flooring recommends a written warranty be obtained by the adhesive manufacturer warranting this specific installation with their products.
- Recommended Trowel – Requires a trowel notch of 1/16" x 1/32" x 1/32" u-notch is used. The adhesive should be allowed to dry to the touch sufficient to prevent slippage. Loss of adhesion can result if the flooring is not installed within the working time of the adhesive
- Do not install flooring into wet adhesives on non-porous substrates.

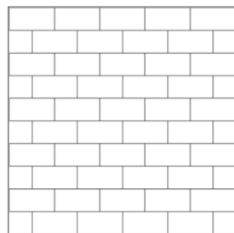
## Layout

- Determine the center of the room and dry lay a section of tile/plank from the centerline to one wall to determine that the pattern is centered and fit. Measure the border cuts along the wall and compare them to the following criteria. If necessary adjust the first row at the centerline to meet either the plank or tile
- Planks should never be less than 9 inches long or less than half of the width of the plank. Avoid small pieces in border areas and adjust the center lines to achieve the proper pattern.
- Tiles should not be less than 6" in length or width. Avoid small pieces in border areas and adjust the center to achieve the proper pattern
- Tiles are designed to be laid in any fashion with the most popular being point-to-point and ashlar patterns. All tile sizes and patterns look best when the layout is balanced in the installed room.

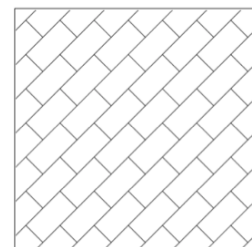
## LVT Patterns



Stack  
Bond



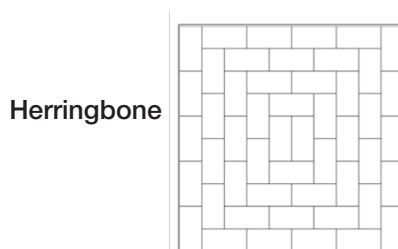
Subway



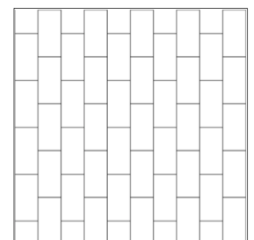
Diagonal



Running  
Bond



Herringbone



Vertical  
Subway

## Installation of flooring

Spread adhesives using the proper trowel notch:

- After determining the starting point, apply adhesive in a band 18” along the starter wall and down the side walls, keeping in mind the open time for the adhesive on the side walls. Allow to tack up. Some slippage of the plank/tile may occur with a “wet” method. Be careful to follow layout lines and allow the adhesive to set before rolling.
- Begin laying the first row of flooring into the adhesive, keeping a 1/8” gap along all vertical surfaces. Lay the flooring by tightly butting the edges of the pieces together, making sure that the runs are parallel to your centerline or layout lines. Work toward the first wall from your starting line into the band of adhesive.
- Once your starter rows are secure and the flooring planks/tiles are tightly butted together, continue applying adhesive along the perimeter of the adjacent walls so that enough flooring can be placed within the working time of the adhesive. Spectrim Flooring recommends an additional “X” pattern be placed corner-to-corner in the room for commercial applications.
- Start laying the next rows by continuing the pattern and tightly butting all joints together. A scrap piece of flooring can be used to lightly tap the pieces into the previous row.
- Continue in this manner spreading only enough adhesive along the perimeter and the center “X” pattern that can be safely installed within the working time of the adhesive.
- Be sure to stagger all end joints by at least 6” or the width of one plank. Vary the length of your planks during installation to ensure that end joints are not bunched and randomness is achieved in the pattern.
- During installation, roll the areas of the floor that are utilizing adhesive with a 3-section 100 lb. roller to ensure proper transference of adhesive to the plank backing.

## INSTRUCTIONS AFTER INSTALLATION

1. Be sure planks are set, flat and have tight edges. Re-roll the entire installation along the perimeter and any area where adhesive is used with a 3-section 100 lb. roller to ensure all planks are properly set into the adhesive. If necessary, weigh down any loose planks overnight to ensure a bond. Adhesive can be carefully reactivated using a heat gun after drying to re-install planks.
2. Clean adhesive residue from the face of the flooring following these instructions:
  - a. Wet adhesive residue on the surface of the planks can be cleaned with a clean, white cloth dampened with warm, soapy water. Do not use water as this can seep between the seams of planks and lead to an adhesion failure!
  - b. Dry adhesive residue can be cleaned with mineral spirits or denatured alcohol and a clean cloth sparingly. Carefully follow the directions on the mineral spirits container.
  - c. Do not pour soapy water, mineral spirits or denatured alcohol directly on Spectrim Flooring
  - d. If working with epoxy or urethane adhesives you must clean these up while wet according to the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions, which can be generally found on the container label.
3. Spectrim Floor recommended adhesives should be cured according to the following guidelines:
  - a. It is important to allow the adhesive to set before accepting any foot traffic for a minimum of 12 to 24 hours. Failure to adhere to this guideline may result in shifting of planks, oozing of adhesive through seams or permanent indentations.
  - b. Do not allow heavy loads, rolling traffic, furniture or fixtures on the floor for 24-48 hours after installation.
  - c. Spectrim Flooring is not responsible nor will warrant our products if this is not properly followed.
  - d. Proper rolling of floors during and after installation is a must on Luxury Vinyl products. Use a 3-section,

100-pound roller to set flooring into the adhesives.

4. If Spectrim Floors is not the last portion of the construction project, the floor must be protected from construction traffic and damage. Wait 24 hours and utilize a reinforced fiber protective board or a heavy kraft paper (min. 60 lbs.) and cover the floor. Failure to wait 24 hours before covering can impact adhesive curing.

## **INITIAL MAINTENANCE**

### **Initial Maintenance**

1. Wait 7 days after installation is completed and thoroughly clean the floor using a neutral pH cleaner.
2. If necessary, a slow (175rpm) buffer can be utilized with a white, non-abrasive pad to remove heavier deposits.
3. Rinse the floor thoroughly and allow it to dry.

### **Daily and Weekly Maintenance**

1. Sweep, vacuum or dust mop the floor as needed to remove dust loose dirt and grit. In high traffic areas, this may be a daily or twice daily procedure. Use only a vacuums that do not have bristle beater bars.
2. Clean liquid spills immediately to prevent the possibility of stains, slips or falls.
3. Damp-mop the floor as needed to remove dirt and stains. Use a neutral pH cleaner and a red pad if needed to remove ground-in dirt. Soft bristle brushes can also be used on flooring with embossed surfaces.

### **Preventative Steps**

1. Use mats at all entry areas to keep dirt, sand, and water off of the floor. Clean the mats regularly. If mats are placed directly on top of the Spectrim Flooring floor, be sure the mats have a non-staining back. Rubber mats are also not recommended over Spectrim Floor products.
2. Furniture shall have protective glides of at least 1" in diameter to minimize the chance of indentations or scratching to the surface of the floor. Do not use narrow chair glides! Felt pads are also excellent protection for the floor for furniture that will be frequently moved directly across the floor.
3. Do not move heavy furniture, appliances or fixtures directly across the floor. Use protective boards or appropriate furniture movers designed for use over hard surface flooring.
4. Protect the floor from direct sunlight by using appropriate window coverings.
5. Use chair mats at desks to protect the floor from damage due to chair legs or casters.
6. Periodically clean caster wheels and check for wheels that may be broken or no longer rotating. Replace damaged wheels immediately.
7. Avoid the use of metal or razor scrapers to remove dirt, residues or other marks from the flooring. This will damage the protective wear layer of the vinyl flooring.



# WARRANTY STATEMENT

## General Terms

This warranty document covers products manufactured and applied in a residential, light commercial and heavy commercial settings. Spectrim Flooring reserves the right to repair any floor and/or obtain the services of a professional to conduct repairs or replace the flooring. Spectrim Flooring branded vinyl products when installed in any area, regardless of use designation, must be professionally installed by a certified flooring contractor to validate this warranty. No exclusions or exceptions will be made to this clause.

Self-adhesive, D.I.Y products, closeouts, seconds and cash-n-carry sales are not covered under this warranty.

## WARRANTY PERIODS FOR SPECTRIM PRODUCTS

### Manufacturing Defect Warranty

Spectrim Flooring International warrants that Spectrim floors will be free from manufacturing defects for 1 (one) year from the date of purchase. If such defect occurs, upon verification of the defect by Spectrim Flooring, Spectrim Flooring will authorize repair or replacement of the affected area of installed flooring. Labor reimbursement will be according to approved and reasonable labor charges and must be submitted to Spectrim Flooring in writing for validation.

### Wear Warranty

Spectrim Flooring International warrants that the installed product will not wear through to the printed film layer, stain or fade under normal household use for some time as defined in Table A above. Wear-through is defined herein that the wear layer is sufficiently depleted or compromised so that the printed film layer is damaged, altered or affected from normal use. Stains and fading must be sufficient that the affected area of flooring is permanently discolored from normal household use and cleaning.

### Warranty Limitations

- This warranty is not transferable.
- This warranty covers only properly installed and maintained floors, according to Spectrim Flooring installation guidelines and accepted industry practices.
- For products sold as “Do-It-Yourself” or cash-n-carry sales, no reimbursement for labor costs will be provided.
- Spectrim Flooring excludes and will not pay for any consequential or incidental damages under this limited warranty.
- Spectrim Flooring will not pay for the loss of time, inconvenience or other incidental expenses incurred during the initial installation and the subsequent removal and/or reinstallation of affected material, including clearing any items placed over the finished flooring and affected area after the original installation.
- This warranty does not cover the exclusions indicated on the package.
- Spectrim Flooring reserves the right of final judgment and may refuse claims in certain instances.
- Spectrim Flooring reserves the right to modify or withdraw the warranty at any time.

## ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS FOR STANDARD PRACTICES

### **American Concrete Institute (ACI)**

P.O. Box 9094  
Farmington Hills, MI 48333  
[www.concrete.org](http://www.concrete.org)

### **ASTM International**

100 Barr Harbor Drive  
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959  
[www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

### **APA – The Engineered Wood Association (APA)**

7011 S. 19th Street  
Tacoma, WA 98466-5333  
[www.apawood.org](http://www.apawood.org)

### **Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI)**

115 Broad Street, Suite 201  
La Grange GA 30240  
[www.rfci.org](http://www.rfci.org)



