Traverse Quartz Vinyl Tile Flooring

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS R1 05.25.2023

This document is intended to cover substrate preparation requirements, adhesive application, and special installation instructions for resilient flooring concepts listed above. Please refer to the Table of Contents for the specific sections and if you view a digital document, the sections are a link to that place within the document. If there are any questions or concerns, please reach out to info@traverseflooring.com.

Prior to acceptance of this document refer to the product website to confirm that you have the most current revision. For additional technical support, send an e-mail to info@traverseflooring.com.

1. RECOMMENDED ADHESIVES (Read Complete Installation Instructions Document)

Adhesive should be selected based on the conditions the installed area will be subjected to and conditions of the substrate. Porosity should be reviewed to determine the appropriate method of using the adhesive and proper trowel size to utilize when applying the adhesive. All information given in the document below is based on the prescribed installation environment information in this document. Any adhesives being used outside of the conditions should be expected to act differently than specified due to the environment they are being utilized in.

Divergent 574 Adhesive - Install semi-wet, do not allow the adhesive to flash off completely. Adhesive is tan when wet / semi-wet and will dry clear. If the adhesive flashes off completely (clear in appearance) it needs to be removed and fresh adhesive re-applied before installation of Traverse Quartz Vinyl Tile. For a permanent installation over porous concrete using a 1/16” x 1/32” x 1/32” sized trowel, lay flooring into the adhesive wet / semi wet. Once the adhesive transfers to the backing of the flooring, it will no longer be releasable. Adhesive will begin to tack up after 5-10 minutes and will be dry to the touch (no transfer) after 45-60 minutes depending on temperature and humidity. It is the responsibility of the installer to note when the adhesive is ready to receive flooring. Plan sections accordingly. Once the flooring has been installed, it must be rolled using a 100 lb. 3-section roller, in both directions.

Taylor Pinnacle - Hard set, transitional pressure sensitive acrylic adhesive. It is important to ensure adhesive transfer to the back of the tile. Install semi-wet, do not allow the adhesive to flash off completely. Light tan (wet), dark, translucent tan (dry). If adhesive dries, scrape up and re-apply before installing quartz tile. For installations over porous subfloors (see below for more information) use 1/16” x 1/16” x 1/16” Sq Notch trowel. Work off the product is recommended early in the section. Later in the section once glue has flashed off more and some moisture absorbed into the concrete it will become possible to work off the product. Knee boards and blue tape method to help hold tiles in place is recommended. Adhesive will begin to tack up after 15-20 minutes depending on temperature and, although it is possible to lay into the adhesive immediately after it has been applied. Adhesive will be dry within 45-60 minutes depending on temperature and humidity. Plan sections accordingly. Once the flooring has been installed, it must be rolled using a 100 lb. 3-section roller, in both directions.

2. PRE-INSTALLATION & HANDLING OF MATERIALS

Consult all associated product literature concerning adhesive installation, maintenance, and warranty prior to installation of flooring. It is recommended to allow all trades to complete work prior to installation when possible.

2.1 PRODUCT LIMITATIONS

Our products are not recommended in the following areas. Please consult Traverse for installation methods if one or more of these conditions apply.

Areas exposed to stiletto heels, cleats, spiked or other footwear that will cause damage.

Areas exposed to certain conditions that may cause staining, for example areas such as newly applied asphalt in driveways or parking lots, antioxidants in certain types of rubber used in mats, wheels, and tires. Areas which may be subjected to objects that may burn or melt flooring, protect from excessive heat.

Areas where forklifts and/or pallet jacks travel at high speed, for example sudden stops, turns or other maneuvers will create friction and lead to surface damage from tire burn. Areas where the presence of sharp items, such as nails protruding from pallets or other objects, could cause severe physical damage.

Areas subjected to excessive spillage of alcohols, ketones or other solvents which may cause damage to flooring products. Areas where inappropriate, improperly designed, or inadequate floor protection devices are utilized. It is the responsibility of the equipment manufacturer to provide suitable floor contacts to prevent indentation or delamination.

Areas with excessive surface moisture, it is the responsibility of the end-user/maintenance provider to assure excessive water does not penetrate or damage the finished flooring.

DO NOT use markers (sharpies, pens, construction crayons, etc.), tapes or paints (construction or other) on the flooring or on the substrate as these items may bleed through or otherwise cause permanent staining.

Use only recommended cleaning chemicals or their equivalent in the correct dilution. Do not mix two different cleaning products together, and always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Always check the suitability of cleaners for use on vinyl floors with the chemical manufacturer. Do not use cleaners containing pine oil, phenolic sanitizer, or enzyme cleaners that will be left on the surface of the flooring. We assume no liability for damage to our flooring resulting from the misuse or improper use of markers, paints, or maintenance products. Please confirm with the manufacturer of all tape, cleaning products, chemicals, and equipment for their recommendations.

2.2 STORAGE OF MATERIAL

We understand there may be a need to store material for lengthy periods after purchase and prior to installation. As with all products it is important to make sure they are protected from the elements and stored indoors. Our products are stored in warehouses for inventory and distribution prior to shipping. These are not climate-controlled warehouses but are protected from extreme conditions of excessive cold or heat. We would recommend similar conditions for storage after receipt of material.

Avoid storage of material in shipping containers, direct sunlight, outdoors, etc. It is extremely important after long terms of storage to properly acclimatize material into the service environment prior to installation.

Deliver all materials to the installation location in its original packaging with labels intact. Do not stack pallets to avoid damage. Remove any plastic and strapping from packaging after delivery to the installation location. If delivering smaller quantities to jobsite, lay material flat during and after transport and not on edges of boxes. Inspect all material for proper type, color, and matching lot numbers if appropriate. Ensure that all adhesives intended for installation are approved for use with accessory materials if appropriate.

2.3 SERVICE ENVIRONMENT

Service environment is defined as the environment in which the materials will be utilized. Service temperature is defined as the normal setting of the HVAC in the environment in which the material is installed, i.e., typically 72° F in most commercial applications.

The reported technical data information for these products is based on a formulation that is designed, manufactured, and evaluated to perform at constant temperatures, not fluctuating more than 10° from normal selected service temperatures from the allowable 60° F (15° C) - 85° F (26° C) range. These products are designed for service on substrate temperatures ranging from 60° F (15° C) - 85° F (26° C) unless otherwise noted in the specific installation section. These products are designed for service within ambient relative humidity between 40% and 60%.

If there are concerns regarding this information or the service temperature, substrate temperature or installation environment will not meet these requirements, please contact Technical Services for recommendations prior to installation at info@traverseflooring.com we will be happy to discuss and provide direction or confirmation of the project at that time.

3. JOB SITE CONDITIONS

Before starting the job and performing any preparations, testing and/or installation we recommend the following conditions be met to ensure a successful installation.

Facility must be fully enclosed, sealed and weather tight. Building HVAC must be up and running in permanent operation prior to installation. Allow all trades to complete work prior to installation whenever possible, if not possible be aware of issues that can be created by other trades during the installation process. These include but are not limited to adhesive displacement from ladders, rolling carts and job boxes, etc.

Installation areas must have adequate lighting to allow for proper inspection of the flooring and substrates prior to installation.

Installation areas must be properly moisture evaluated to ensure the substrate is properly dry to receive flooring products. Review additional information below and of course, if conditions are not in agreement with the requirements notify the General Contractor and Technical Services if needed.

By covering a substrate, underlayment, or existing surface, you have indicated acceptance of substrate and installation environment.

3.1 ACCLIMATION

Installation area and all materials must be maintained at ***desired service temperatures*** for a period of 48 hours prior to installation, during the installation and for the service life of the installation afterwards. If the material must be installed outside of the above acclimation and service temperature ranges, contact Technical Services for more detailed installation recommendations.

3.2 SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

All substrates must be prepared according to the following information (ASTM F710 & ASTM F1482 have been used as a baseline, keep in mind our requirements are more detailed than these documents), as well as applicable ACI and RFCI guidelines.

Substrates must be clean, smooth, permanently dry, flat, and structurally sound. Substrates must be free of visible water or moisture, dust, sealers, paint, sweeping compounds, curing compounds, residual adhesives and adhesive removers, concrete hardeners or densifiers, solvents, wax, oil, grease, asphalt, visible alkaline salts or excessive efflorescence, mold, mildew and any other extraneous coating, film, material, or foreign matter.

It is recommended that all substrates have a floor flatness of FF32 and/or a flatness tolerance of 1/8” in 6’ or 3/16” in 10’. Substrates that do not meet this requirement shall have a cementitious patch or self-leveling underlayment installed to flatten the installation area.

All substrates must have all existing adhesives, materials, contaminants, or bond-breakers mechanically removed via scraping, sanding, grinding, or buffing with a 25 grit DiamaBrush Prep Plus tool prior to adhesive installation. In extreme situations, shot blasting may be required. Mechanical preparation must expose at least 90% of the original substrate. Following cleaning and removal, all substrates must be vacuumed with a HEPA approved vacuum and flat vacuum attachment to remove all surface dust. Sweeping without vacuuming will not be acceptable.

NOTE: Regarding substrate preparation when mechanical sanding, grinding, shot blasting, and vacuuming always follow the Resilient Floor Covering Institute's (RFCI) "Recommended Work Practice for Removal of Existing Floor Covering and Adhesives," and all applicable local, state, federal and OSHA requirements regarding Asbestos and Silica containment regulations.

NOTE: Do not use solvent/citrus based or other chemical adhesive removers prior to installation.

3.2.1 CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

All concrete substrates, whether on-grade and/or below grade must have an intact and effective moisture vapor barrier which meets the current requirements of ASTM E1745.

On-grade and/or below grade slabs not containing an intact and effective moisture vapor barrier meeting the current requirements of ASTM E1745 then contact Traverse regarding 'Traverse Waterproof Adhesive' for European Collection installations only. Do NOT use Traverse Waterproof Adhesive for US Collection installations.

All concrete substrates must have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 PSI and be prepared in accordance with the information below. When flooring is being installed directly over concrete, concrete surfaces that have an ICRI Concrete Surface Profile (CSP) over 4 shall be smoothed with a self-leveling underlayment or a patch to prevent imperfections from telegraphing through flooring materials.

3.2.1.1 CHEMICALLY ABATED CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

Not recommended. Instead use mechanical methods. In situations where existing flooring adhesive was removed chemically, since there are known concerns with this process, one of the following conditions now exist.

(1) Once the chemical is present in the substrate it cannot recognize the difference between the old adhesive and the new adhesive, (2) it is considered a penetrant and there is no way to know how deep into the substrate it could have penetrated into the substrate due to porosity, (3) there is no way to tell (in a short term test) if the substrate has been neutralized or rinsed (abatement chemical removed) well enough to accept new adhesive.

However, if a chemical abatement has already been performed, then the substrate needs to be prepared to receive Traverse Quartz tile, which requires a porous surface for wet / semi-wet adhesive installation.

3.2.1.2 CONCRETE SUBSTRATES CONTAINING MOISTURE CONTROL ADMIXTURES

Not recommended.

3.2.1.3 MOISTURE TESTING

Moisture testing is an essential part of determining the suitability of a concrete slab to receive a resilient floor covering. Moisture testing must be performed on all concrete slabs, regardless of their age or grade level, including areas where resilient flooring has already been installed.

Moisture testing shall be conducted with the area or building at service conditions, (i.e., fully enclosed, weather-tight, and with the permanent HVAC in operation). In general, moisture testing shall be conducted on concrete surfaces that exhibit the final prepared stage before the installation of the flooring material and before installation of smoothing or leveling compounds. Test results are only indicators of current moisture conditions at the time of testing and do not predict future moisture conditions.

NOTE: Moisture failures are generally a complex, cumulative, and synergistic series of events. The moisture testing information below is provided as an industry service and to help reduce the likelihood of moisture related failures within the floor covering industry.

Moisture testing determines a snapshot at the time of testing only and does not guarantee or preclude the possibility of issues in the future. To effectively determine moisture at the time of installation the on-grade or below grade substrates must have an effective moisture vapor barrier that meets the current requirements of ASTM E1745. If these conditions do not exist, we recommend a moisture mitigation system prior to installation of resilient flooring.

We require ASTM F2170 RH moisture testing on all concrete substrates. In addition to ASTM F2170, we strongly recommend ASTM F1869 MVER testing be performed, especially on concrete substrates that have previously had flooring installed. ASTM F1869 MVER testing is beneficial to the installation performed on the substrate in the prepared condition if not going to prepare the substrate to the extent required in the testing procedure.

ASTM F2170 Relative Humidity testing indicates the amount of moisture in the concrete that has the potential to come out of the substrate during equilibration. ASTM F1869 Calcium Chloride testing indicates how much and how quickly the relative humidity in the concrete is evaporating from the top 1/2” to 3/4” of the concrete.

For moisture readings exceeding the RH and/or MVER limitations, a dehumidification system can be utilized until moisture readings when reevaluated are within acceptable levels.

3.2.1.3.1 ASTM F2170 - RELATIVE HUMIDITY TESTING (*in-situ* PROBES)

This test method covers the quantitative determination of percent relative humidity in concrete slabs for field or laboratory test. This method is measured in percentage (%) content. Refer to recommended adhesives chart at the beginning of this document for the acceptable RH levels for installation.

Conduct one test for every 1,000 square feet (minimum 3 tests) to ensure concrete does not exceed the recommended RH for the flooring product and the adhesive being used.

NOTE: Take particular care with +/- 2% margin of error. Even with high RH rated acrylic adhesives, there should be a significant comfort zone below the maximum claimed by the adhesive manufacturer. Consult Traverse regarding Traverse Waterproof Adhesive for readings 90% RH and greater.

3.2.1.3.2 ASTM F1869 - MOISTURE VAPOR EMISSION RATE TESTING (CALCIUM CHLORIDE)

This test method covers the quantitative determination of the rate of moisture vapor emitted from below-grade, on-grade, and above-grade (suspended) bare concrete floors. This method is measured in lbs. / 24 hours / 1000 square feet. Refer to recommended adhesives chart at the beginning of this document for the acceptable levels for installation.

To conduct the F1869, the surface of the concrete must be porous. Hard machine troweled concrete or concrete surfaces with extraneous substances on the surface such as residual adhesive, sealers, curing compounds, etc. must be mechanically removed prior to testing.

3.2.1.3.3 WATER ABSORPTION (POROSITY)

All concrete substrates must be evaluated per ASTM F3191 to confirm porosity, this is utilized to determine the method of adhesive application or how the adhesive will act upon the concrete.

Use a pipette or equivalent to conduct three tests by placing a .05 mL (1/4” wide) droplet of clean, potable water onto the surface. If the substrate absorbs water within 60 seconds, the substrate is considered porous. Conduct 3 tests for the first 2000 sq. ft. and one for each additional 3000 sq. ft., at least one per room. All other substrates that do not meet this requirement are considered non-porous. Ensure that all non-porous substrates are not contaminated.

3.2.1.3.4 DEW POINT (SURFACE TEMPARTURE AT WHICH CONDENSATION OCCURS)

Dew point is the temperature at which the humidity in the air begins to condensate on a surface. As it relates to indoor moisture condensation, the Dew Point is a crucial factor for ensuring adequate and proper conditions exist during substrate testing, substrate preparation, and installation of flooring products.

Within the installation parameters regarding air temperature of 60° F - 85° F and relative humidity of 40% - 60%, the substrate temperature shall be at least 5° F above the Dew Point. Adhesives shall not be spread, and flooring shall not be installed any time the concrete surface temperature is within 5° F of dew point. See the chart below to determine Dew Point Temperature to compare to current slab temperature.

Dew Point Reference Chart								
		Ambient Air Temperature In Degrees Fahrenheit						
		60° F	65° F	70° F	75° F	80° F	85° F	90° F
Relative Humidity Percentage	70%	50° F	55° F	60° F	64° F	68° F	74° F	78° F
	65%	47° F	53° F	57° F	62° F	66° F	72° F	76° F
	60%	45° F	50° F	55° F	60° F	64° F	69° F	73° F
	55%	43° F	48° F	53° F	58° F	61° F	67° F	70° F
	50%	40° F	45° F	50° F	55° F	59° F	64° F	67° F
	45%	37° F	42° F	47° F	52° F	56° F	61° F	64° F
	40%	35° F	40° F	43° F	49° F	52° F	58° F	61° F
	35%	31° F	36° F	40° F	45° F	48° F	54° F	57° F
	30%	28° F	32° F	36° F	41° F	44° F	50° F	52° F

To determine the dew point; read the room air temperature, read the room relative humidity and the concrete surface temperature. Locate the intersection of the air temperature and relative humidity readings and determine the dew point. If the concrete surface temperature is within 5° of each other, installation shall not occur.

3.2.2 WOOD SUBSTRATES

Wood substrates must be prepared in accordance with ASTM F1482. Prior to installation, moisture retardant sheeting with a maximum rating of 1.0 perm must be in place beneath the wood subfloor. It shall be overlapped at a minimum of 8” and the crawl space shall be well-ventilated.

Wood substrates shall be, at a minimum double layer construction with a total thickness of 1”. It shall be rigid and free of any movement. It shall be structurally sound and designed as a resilient flooring underlayment, smooth enough to prevent telegraphing through the flooring product. At a minimum, the top layer directly under the flooring and adhesive should come from section 3.2.3.1 Approved Wood Substrates and have a minimum thickness of 1/4”.

It shall be free of any substance that may stain such as marking inks, paints, solvents, adhesives, asphalt, dye, etc. and be of uniform density, porosity, and thickness. It shall be installed in strict accordance with the board manufacturers’ recommendations.

3.2.2.1 APPROVED WOOD SUBSTRATES

APA Certified Plywood, Poplar Underlayment, Birch Plywood Underlayment

3.2.2.2 NON-APPROVED WOOD SUBSTRATES

Lauan, OSB, Particle Board, Masonite, Chipboard, Construction Grade Plywood, Flake board, Fire or Pressure Treated Plywood, Existing Hard Wood, or Strip Wood Flooring

Advantech Underlayments (requires a minimum of 1/4” of Approved Wood Substrates on top by Advantech Manufacturer)

3.2.2.3 WOOD SUBSTRATES MOISTURE TESTING

Wood substrates must not exceed 8% moisture content.

3.2.3 GYPSUM BASED SUBSTRATES

Gypsum-based substrates must have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 PSI. The substrate must be structurally sound and firmly bonded to the subfloor below. Compressive strengths below 3500 PSI can reduce performance properties of products installed. Sometimes steps can be taken to improve the PSI of at least the surface of the gypsum-based surface. In residential installations this may be lower due to the specification of the product and therefore just be aware of the possibility of reduced performance due to the performance of the gypsum substrate.

Any cracked or fractured areas must be removed and repaired with a compatible patch or repair product for gypsum-based substrates. Follow those products installation instructions for installation over a gypsum substrate.

Most if not all gypsum substrates require the application of a sealer on the surface to prevent dusting and promote adhesion to the substrate. New or existing gypsum substrates may require additional primer just prior to finished floor being installed. These products are available from many suppliers as standard latex primers and do not interfere with the installation of our products. Follow all manufacturers’ recommendations regarding preparation for resilient flooring installation.

3.2.4 UNDERLAYMENT PANELS

Cementitious and Gypsum based underlayment panels are acceptable substrates if the installation of those panels follows the guidelines set forth by the panel manufacturers. If there is no designation of porosity or how to treat the panel when it comes to adhesive application, we would recommend a porosity test to determine how to apply the adhesive.

3.2.5 RESINOUS SUBSTRATES

When installing directly over a resinous product, such as a urethane moisture barrier or an epoxy coating, ensure that coating is dry to the touch and has cured for the prescribed length of time. Substrate must be clean, dry, sound, and free of contamination. Resinous substrates are considered ***non-porous*** and will require skim or self leveling to ensure porosity. Self leveling will be sufficiently thick to achieve porosity. Contact manufacturer of skim to determine minimum thickness of skim required for sufficient porosity.

3.2.6 METAL SUBSTRATES

Contact Traverse

3.2.7 CRACKS, JOINTS & VOIDS

All cracks, joints, and voids, as well as the areas surrounding them, must be clean and free of dust, dirt, debris, and contaminants. All minor cracks and voids may be repaired with a suitable cementitious patch. Due to the dynamic nature of concrete slabs, we cannot warranty installations to cover expansion joints, cracks, or other voids such as control cuts, saw joints, moving cracks, and/or voids. Do not install flooring directly over any expansion joints as all expansion joints shall be honored and have a suitable expansion joint covering system installed to allow expansion joint to move as it was designed. In areas where random cracks are 1/16” or greater it is hard to tell if the slab will continue to move or has finished moving. Consult a structural engineer if there are any questions or concerns with a crack or joint, especially those that may affect structural integrity such as expansion joints or excessive random cracking in areas that are not designed to move.

3.2.8 RADIANT HEATING SUBSTRATES

When installing flooring products approved for radiant heated substrates (individual installation sections and product data sheets will indicate if product is not to be installed over radiant heated substrates) over a substrate that contains a radiant heating system, ensure the radiant heat is turned off 48 hours prior to installation and remains off during the entire installation.

The radiant heat may be turned on 48 hours after installation and the normal operating temperature shall be increased gradually over the course of 24 hours. Ensure the temperature of the radiant heating system does not exceed 85° F (29.5° C) and avoid making abrupt changes in radiant heating temperature.

3.2.9 EXISTING FLOORING SUBSTRATES

Existing carpet, rubber, LVT, LVP, linoleum, cushioned vinyl, cork, asphaltic materials, and/or floating floors as well as the adhesives used to install them, must be completely removed from the substrate prior to installation.

Existing VCT, VAT, quartz tile, solid vinyl tile, non-cushioned sheet goods, and/or asphaltic materials and existing adhesives or adhesive residue must have a compatible cementitious patch or cementitious self-leveling underlayment installed over the substrate (existing flooring) prior to installation.

Existing hardwood flooring requires suitable underlayment grade plywood be installed over the substrate.

New flooring may be installed over existing stone flooring substrates, such as terrazzo, porcelain, or ceramic tile. Ensure existing flooring is a single layer of material and that all materials are clean, dry, sound, solid, well adhered, and free of site-applied finishes, waxes and/or contaminants. All loose tiles must be removed and repaired or replaced. All grout lines and irregularities must be filled and troweled flush with a suitable primer and cementitious patch to prevent telegraphing of the existing floor. All existing flooring substrates that are outside of flatness tolerances that cannot be repaired with a suitable patching compound shall be leveled with a suitable cementitious self-leveling underlayment to achieve a smooth, flat substrate.

All existing flooring substrates must have all site-applied finishes and/or waxes completely removed prior to flooring installation to ensure a proper adhesive bond. For mechanical removal, use a low-speed buffer and 40-60 grit sandpaper. Properly prepared substrates shall not have any remaining gloss or sheen. For chemical removal, ensure chemical treatments will not disrupt adhesion of the existing flooring to the substrate. Be sure to rinse the existing flooring adequately with clean, potable water to remove all chemicals from the surface of the material.

Do not install flooring until any moisture on, between or below existing flooring has completely dried. Ensure all dust, dirt and debris are removed prior to flooring installation.

3.2.10 LOOSE LAY MOISTURE OR SOUND CONTROL PRODUCTS

It is not recommended to install over Loose Lay moisture or sound control products, please contact Traverse with the product information you are installing over for further directions.

4. ADHESIVE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The application of the adhesive is a critical part of the successful installation of the product. Below we have provided typical application information regarding the different adhesives and how they should work when applied within the stated jobsite conditions. We consider porosity as the only difference and not substrate type such as cementitious or wood. Of course, any variation in temperatures will cause the adhesive actions to vary and it is essential to refer to the adhesive manufacturer literature for recommendations.

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installation over porous concrete using a 1/16” x 1/32” x 1/32” sized trowel, lay flooring into the adhesive wet / semi wet. Once the adhesive transfers to the backing of the flooring, it will no longer be releasable. Adhesive will begin to tack up after 5-10 minutes and will be dry to the touch (no transfer) after 45-60 minutes depending on temperature and humidity. It is the responsibility of the installer to note when the adhesive is ready to receive flooring. Plan sections accordingly. Once the flooring has been installed, it must be rolled using a 100 lb. 3-section roller, in both directions.

Taylor Pinnacle - Hard set, transitional pressure sensitive acrylic adhesive. It is important to ensure adhesive transfer to the back of the tile. Install semi-wet, do not allow the adhesive to flash off completely. Light tan (wet), dark, translucent tan (dry). If adhesive dries, scrape up and re-apply before installing quartz tile. For installations over porous subfloors (see below for more information) use 1/16” x 1/16” x 1/16” Sq Notch trowel. Work off the product is recommended early in the section. Later in the section once glue has flashed off more and some moisture absorbed into the concrete it will become possible to work off the product. Knee boards and blue tape method to help hold tiles in place is recommended. Adhesive will begin to tack up after 15-20 minutes depending on temperature and, although it is possible to lay into the adhesive immediately after it has been applied. Adhesive will be dry within 45-60 minutes depending on temperature and humidity. Plan sections accordingly. Once the flooring has been installed, it must be rolled using a 100 lb. 3-section roller, in both directions.

4.6 ADHESIVE BOND TEST

After the substrate has been properly prepared and adhesive chosen for installation, it is recommended to perform an adhesive bond test using material to be installed and selected adhesive being used for installation to determine adequacy. This will help to ensure application of the adhesive and the bond achieved is adequate for the project to continue.

5. INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to installation, confirm material installation pattern and direction per design specifications or work order. Inspect all tiles before installing or during installation to verify that there are no visible defects, damage or excessive shading variations. Blend materials from several cartons to ensure consistent appearance and color or shade variation. Some flooring products, colors and textures have latent and acceptable color and shade variations. If there are concerns regarding shade or color variation, do not install material and consult a sales representative and manufacturer’s technical staff.

Traverse Quartz Vinyl Tile ‘US Collection’ colourways is required to be installed in line with the directional markings on the back of the tiles. Tiles can be installed in monolithic or quarter-turn layouts while observing the directional markings. See specific requirements in the sub sections below.

Due to the hardness and durability of Traverse Quartz, a tile cutter shall be used for all standard cuts. For intricate or specialty cuts, use a tungsten-carbide blade and heat the back of the tile using a heat gun or equivalent to ease cutting. Pre-cut borders and other specialty pieces to fit snugly against or around walls, thresholds, transition strips, fixtures and other protrusions or accessories.

Ensure the substrate is suitably prepared prior to installation, as the manufacturer is not responsible for substrates that have not been properly prepared and tested for moisture. Ensure adhesive is approved for use with flooring material and the proper trowel type and size is used, as manufacturer is not responsible for any and all adhesion issues related to improper adhesive selection or usage.

Select appropriate adhesives for the intended service environment, such as wet-set acrylics or urethanes for areas that will have temperature variations or excessive windows and/or sunlight exposure from walls or ceilings such as sunrooms, window walls, skylights, etc. In these type areas a wet-set adhesive that sets hard shall be used such as AW-510 or U-705.

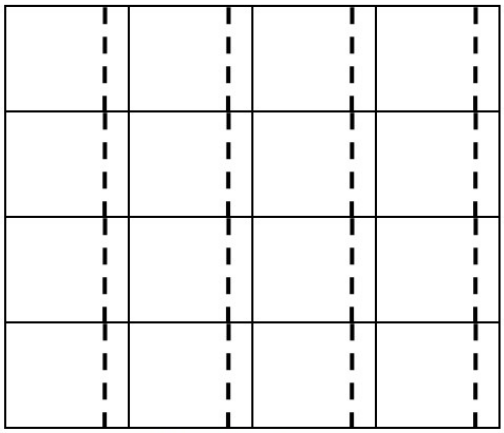
NOTE: Pressure sensitive adhesives are soft setting adhesives and do not prevent effects or issues that temperature changes and direct sunlight creates in vinyl products due to thermodynamics.

Ensure substrate is clean, dry, flat, and sound prior to installation. Ensure the room is square using the 3-4-5 squaring rule or similar method to ensure acceptable installation. Determine lay out for the area if not provided by dry laying the material with the area. Cut borders and other specialty pieces to fit snugly against or around walls, thresholds, transition strips, fixtures and other protrusions or accessories. Ensure material around perimeter is 1/4" from wall or less, depending on depth of wall base or trim.

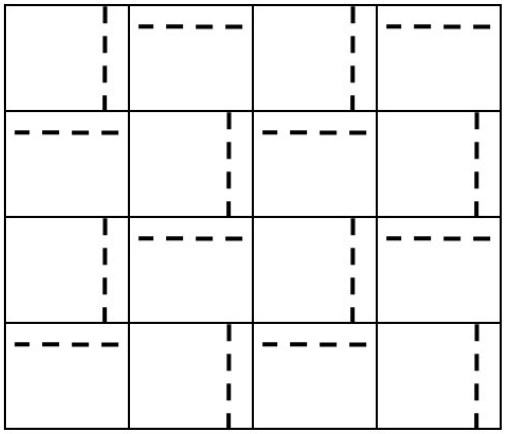
5.1 U.S. COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

Caution: Material is directionally sensitive; shading will occur if directional markings are not followed.

Install material into adhesive and observe directional markings on back of tile to ensure markings are installed in the same direction ***and*** on the same side of the tile (see installation patterns below), even if installing in a specific and pre-determined design, such as a quarter-turn design. The monolithic pattern is the recommended installation method. Installing in a quarter-turn pattern, there could be some sheen variation and this is considered normal. Wipe the back and sides of tiles as necessary to remove any dust.



Monolithic Pattern



Quarter-Turn Pattern

5.2 EUROPEAN COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

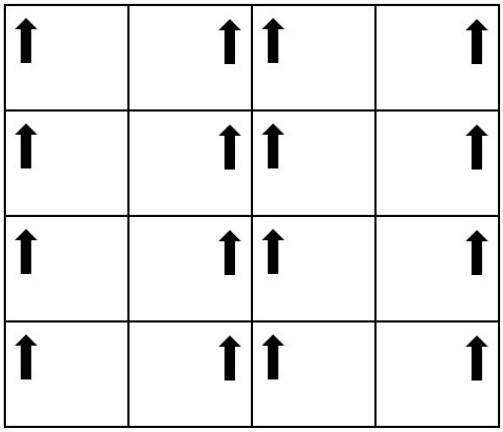
Caution: Material is directional and batch sequence sensitive; shading will occur if directional markings or improper batch sequencing are not followed.

Install material into adhesive and observe directional markings on back of tile to ensure markings are installed in the same direction ***and*** on the same side of the tile (see installation patterns below), even if installing in a specific and pre-determined design, such as a quarter-turn design. The monolithic pattern is the recommended installation method for all color collections including the classic. When installing in a quarter-turn pattern, there could be some sheen variation and this is considered normal.

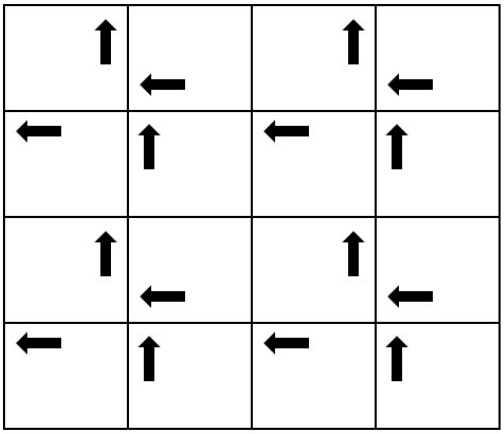
Tiles must be installed in sequence using the batch numbers on the carton labels. Batch numbers will consist of the date of manufacturing and a number of batches throughout the day indicated by a letter such as A, B or C. An example of a batch number for August 18, 2020 would be 20200818A. If a second or multiple batches were manufactured they would be identified as 20200818B and 20200818C and so on. The next day would start at 20200819A and continue with this sequence until the manufacturing run is complete.

As an example for installation you would install all of 20200818A, then 20200818B, then 20200818C prior to moving to 20200819A, then 20200819B, etc. If you have multiple batches from multiple days, you would not install

out of sequence such as 20200818B then 20200819B, and then 20200818A as this will result in an undesirable installation.



Monolithic Preferred Pattern



Quarter-Turn Pattern

5.3 INSTALLATION INFORMATION

Use a nail-down guide or equivalent along the starting row to expedite wet-set installation. Apply adhesive according to instructions for specific product in use and observe adhesive flash times, if applicable. Ensure all adhesive working times are observed and followed. Be sure to follow instructions based on substrate porosity (porous or non-porous).

Install material into adhesive and observe directional arrows on back of tile to ensure arrows are installed in the same direction.

When installing into adhesive using a wet-set method, avoid walking or working on material until adhesive has cured for light foot traffic. Working on material that is installed into wet adhesive could cause adhesive to displace. When working off of material is not possible, use a kneeling board or equivalent to disperse weight evenly and prevent adhesive displacement. Pay close attention to working time to avoid adhesion issues. This may require installing material in smaller sections. Replace trowels at recommended intervals to maintain proper trowel ridge and spread rate.

Periodically lift material to ensure proper adhesive transfer and ensure adhesive has not surpassed the open time – adhesive shall cover 90% of tile. Roll material with a 3 section, 100 lb. roller within 30 minutes of installation, crossing in a perpendicular direction after initial roll. Use a hand roller in areas that cannot be reached with a larger roller.

Visually inspect installation to ensure that material has not shifted and that adhesive has not been squeezed out of joints or compressed onto surface. Clean excessive adhesive or adhesive residue from the surface of the material per adhesive recommendations. ***Do not apply abrasive or solvent based cleaners directly to flooring material.***

6. FLOORING PROTECTION AFTER INSTALL

Protect newly installed flooring and accessories with construction grade paper or protective boards, such as Ram Board, ThermoPLY, Masonite or other materials to prevent damage by other trades. Do not slide or drag pallets or heavy equipment across the new flooring and accessories. Limit usage and foot traffic according to the adhesive's requirements. When moving appliances or heavy furniture, it is a good idea to protect flooring and accessories from scuffing or tearing using temporary floor protection.