

## **Nexterra Modular Tile Installation**

Commercial carpet installation will be different each and every time a job is started. In all cases, carpet floor coverings should be the last phase of a construction project to be completed before the office furniture is moved in. As we all know it is not a perfect world, sometimes you get lucky and the carpet gets glued down and rolled before the movers start that process. Beaulieu's Hollytex Commercial Nexterra Modular tile is the answer to those situations. The Nexterra backing is made from 85% post consumer, recycled material, 50% crushed recycled glass (obtained from recycled vehicle windshields) and 35% recycled plastic drink bottles or PET. The Nexterra modular backing is unsurpassed in its dimensional stability, making the installation process easier, with the ability of the installer to pressure fit the edges without fear of the tiles shrinking by the pressure. The Nexterra carpet tile can be easily replaced if un-repairable damage occurs to the face fibers. This can extend the esthetic life of an installation.

When installing the Nexterra modular tile, floor preparation is key, a properly prepared substrate will make the installation faster and easier not to mention the fact the install will last longer. If the installation is over concrete, moisture test should be performed by a qualified professional, following ASTM F 1869, Calcium Chloride test should emit no more than 5 pounds and the Relative Humidity test should be no higher than 75%. The floor should be level and free of old adhesives. If the floor is not level, the use of cement based-self leveler is recommended. The use of a polymer-fortified patching compound is recommended to skim coat over any minor imperfections such as cracks, joints, or residual hardened adhesive. A PH test should be performed using ASTM F-170 and any readings over 9 will require corrective measures such as priming the floor or mopping the floor with a solution of vinegar and water, then followed by a rinse, mopping with plain water. This can be repeated till a proper PH is obtained. Site conditions must be met using the CRI-104 guidelines, HVAC system should be operational or the ambient temperature must be between 65 & 85 degrees, with a relative humidity between 40 & 60 %. The tile and adhesive should remain within these ranges for 48 hours prior and 72 hours after installation.

Small room installations can be installed using a single grid system, but lengths over 24 feet should be installed using a multiple grid mark out to ensure a completely true and square installation. Layout should allow for the cut tiles around the perimeters to be at least 12 inches or a half of a tile wide.

Adhesive spread rate should be determined by the smoothness of the substrate. If the substrate is completely smooth, the roll on application will be sufficient. Using a 1 inch roller, apply the adhesive in all four directions completely covering the area to be installed. If the substrate is not completely smooth the use of a 1/16x1/16x1/16 trowel is strongly recommended. The Nexterra adhesive is a pressure sensitive (releasable) adhesive, when this product is applied it will have a yellow tint, when the adhesive clears up, meaning there will be no visible color left, and the installation can begin.

When the installation begins, start by placing one tile on opposing grid lines, one side on a vertical grid line and the side closest to you on the lower or horizontal grid line. Continue the tile placement following the grid system, placing the corner of the next tile into the quadrant of laid tiles, laying one side into the adhesive making sure that the two adjoining edges are tightly abutted. The next side to be placed into the adhesive can be rolled slightly then laid into the adhesive; making sure not to trap any yarn between the tile joints. If you do trap a yarn between two tiles, this can be easily fixed by using needle nose pliers to grasp a loop near the edge (about ½ inch from the edge) on the tile that is flush to the floor. Using light pressure, pull upwards to separate the tile from the adhesive, this will release the trapped yarn and the tile can easily be placed back into the adhesive.

When it becomes necessary to cut or trim the Nexterra tile, care should be taken because the backing is stiff and a little hard to cut. Knife blades should be frequently replaced to assure a quality cut. This backing will score and snap from the backside, and then the yarns can be cut with little effort, cut sides should be placed towards walls or other areas that will be covered by trim or base. Care should be taken when cuts are made next to walls or other appendages. Cuts should fit close, but not too tight to cause a back pressure that may make it difficult to fully set the cut tile into the adhesive. This will cause the tile to later buckle. The use of a 75 pound maximum roller should be used to obtain adhesive to tile contact. A smaller hand roller can be used around the perimeter.

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