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Suggested Adhesives for Direct Glue Down Installations

Many factors can contribute to the success (or failure) of a direct-glue down installation, such as site conditions (temperature, humidity, surface alkalinity subfloor moisture, porosity, cleanliness, trowel size) as well as, adhesive open time, adhesive spread rate and adhesive transfer. All of these concerns can affect the outcome of direct glue down installations. Adhesive spread rate along with adhesive transfer to the carpets backing are two of the most common issues associated with direct glue down failure. Another cause of direct glue down failure is the improper choice of adhesive. Adhesive selection is as relevant as carpet selection. Carpet adhesive should be selected according to the type of carpet backing that is used, the installation environment, and then applied in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Not all carpet adhesives are created equally, there are specialized grades of carpet adhesives that provide the necessary grab and hold properties required by the various backing systems now available in our industry. The most common carpet adhesive, multi-purpose, comes in a wide range of make ups and prices. The most common adhesives are latex based and have one thing in common an ingredient called the "Carrier" this ingredient is water. The determining factor between a standard multi-purpose and a premium multi-purpose is the solids content of the adhesive. The solids content is the meat of any adhesive's strength. Considering this, the choice of adhesive to be used in any direct-glue down installation should be selected only after careful consideration has been given to the carpet backing system used and the intended end-use application.

There are many adhesive manufacturers who make a wide range of adhesives and other installation sundries for specific needs. Listed below are some examples of various grades of carpet adhesives suitable for the most common backings. It is important to provide necessary considerations regarding site conditions, and to be certain both carpet and adhesive are properly acclimated prior to installation. Adhesive should be applied by trowel and then allow the adhesive to tack up until the adhesive has reached a tacked state (strings will appear when a finger tip is placed into the adhesive then pulled away). Use adhesive manufacturers recommended notched trowel size and spread rates that apply to the carpet backing system being installed. Beaulieu recommends the use of carpet adhesives that have obtained The Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label certification for indoor air quality or those adhesives that are identified by the manufacturer as a low-level VOC indoor air emission contributor.

Currently Beaulieu offers adhesives for our Omni Loc™ Modular Tile and dry back Luxury Vinyl Flooring. Beaulieu requires the use of Bolyu Pressure Sensitive adhesive when installing the Omni Loc™ Modular Tile, and the use of Beaulieu's Luxury Vinyl Flooring adhesive (TPS) when installing our dry back LVF products.

WOVEN POLYPROPYLENE

The use of premium grade latex or a multi-purpose latex adhesive is recommended.

OMNI LOC™ UNITARY & OMNI LOC™ GRAPHIC BACKING SYSTEM (UNITARY WITH WOVEN POLYPROPYLENE

The use of a premium grade latex adhesive is recommended.

Note: Omni Loc™ Unitary should not be placed into a wet set adhesive.

OMNI LOC™ LAMINATE & OMNI LOC™ ATTACHED CUSHION

The use of high premium grade latex is recommended.

HANDY BACK, KANGA BACK, NON SKID BACK
The use of high premium grade latex is recommended.

MARINE BACK, OUTDOOR UNITARY & OUTDOOR WOVEN POLYPROPYLENE
The use of a moisture resistant adhesive is required for all products installed outdoors or that are exposed to the outdoor elements. Premium grade latex is recommended indoors.

OMNI LOC™ MODULAR TILE
The use of Bolyu's Pressure Sensitive adhesive is required when installing the Omni Loc™ Modular Tile. See Omni Loc™ installation instructions for application techniques.

WET SET ADHESIVES
Used for commercial carpet when pattern adjustment is needed. **Not for use with Unitary backed carpets.**

SEAM SEALERS
Seam Sealer is required on all cut edges to be seamed and any exposed edges not protected by transitions. Either latex based or solvent based can be used.

LUXURY VINYL FLOORING (dry back products)
The use of Beaulieu's Luxury Vinyl Flooring Adhesive (TPS) is required when installing the dry back products. See product specific installation instructions for application techniques.

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