



## Installation Guidelines For Interlocking Indoor Rubber Flooring



Reg #SCS-FS-07409

This product has been certified by SCS to meet the rigorous indoor air quality requirements of the FloorScore® certification program.

**The following pages are guidelines, if not followed, warranty will be voided. Please read this manual thoroughly before installing Rubber King Commercial products.**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b><u>SECTION</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
General Information	3
<b>MATERIAL STORAGE &amp; HANDLING</b>	
General Packaging Info	3
Receipt of Merchandise	3
Storage	3
<b>TOOLS &amp; ACCESSORIES</b>	
Tools and Safety Equipment	4
<b>SUB-SURFACE</b>	
Preparation of sub-surface	4
Concrete	4
Wood	4
<b>PREINSTALLATION</b>	
General Information	4-5
Chalk Lines	5
Mat Layout	5
Acclimation – Dry Lay Process	6
Cutting	6
<b>INSTALLATION</b>	
Installation Information	6
<b>CLEANING</b>	
POST INSTALLATION CLEANING	7
<b>FLOOR TREATMENT</b>	
RECYCLED RUBBER TREATMENT	7

## **SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Product Information:
  - Thickness tolerance of  $\pm 0.5\text{mm}$
  - Dimensions:  $24'' \times 24'' = 4 \text{ ft}^2$  (60.96cm x 60.96cm) Dimension tolerance of  $1/8''$  (3.2mm)

## **SECTION II – MATERIAL STORAGE & HANDLING**

### **General Information:**

- All Rubber King Commercial products are packaged on wooden pallets, covered with a plastic cozy, and secured by metal strapping.



### **Receipt of Merchandise:**

- It is recommended you double-check your order is correct.
- Inspect for any damage that may have occurred during transportation.
- Identify any other possible shortcomings.
- For your own protection, ensure that defective product is identified prior to the start of the installation.
  - Notify your sales rep regarding any defective product immediately.
- Rubber King Commercial is not responsible for any installation costs that occur because of defective product being installed.

### **Storage**

- Store product in a dry and clean area.
- Before placing any Rubber King Commercial product in storage remove the pallet strapping.
- Leave plastic cozy on during storage.

## **SECTION III – TOOLS & ACCESSORIES**

### **Tools and Safety Equipment**

- Rubber King Commercial Installation Guidelines
- Safety glasses
- Rubber gloves and boots
- Heavy duty utility knife
- Measuring tape
- Transit level and straight edge
- Chalk snap-line
- Carpenter's square
- Putty knife
- Masonite board, plywood or kraft paper

## **SECTION IV –SUB-SURFACE**

### **Preparation of the Sub-surface**

- The sub-surface must be flat/smooth, clean, and dry, structurally sound and all debris including old adhesive must be removed.
  - Scraping may be required to remove debris.
- Particleboard, chipboard, Masonite, and Lauan Plywood are not considered suitable underlayment.
- If installing on an incline surface, start at the bottom and move up the surface to avoid sliding of the mats.
- Debris left under mats will cause height variations, telegraphing and undulations.

### **Concrete Sub-Surface**

- New concrete sub-floors must be thoroughly cured and free from hydrostatic pressure (a minimum of 30 days after pour).
- Concrete substrates should not exceed 90% RH and/or 5lbs x 24-hours x 1000 sq. ft.
- It is essential that pH tests be taken on all concrete floors. This must range between 7 and 9. If it does not, the sub-floor must be neutralized prior to the beginning of the installation. **These tests must be documented.**
- Moisture vapor emissions test in accordance with ASTM F1869 and relative humidity in concrete test in accordance to ASTM F2170 must be completed.
- Sub-surface must be smooth and level to a tolerance not exceeding 1/8" in 10 lineal feet.
  - The Concrete Surface Profile (CSP) must achieve a requirement of CSP2.
- If existing concrete is too rough, or does not meet the above criteria, apply a Portland cement based leveling compound to smooth and level the surface. Follow all leveling compound manufacturer's instructions.
- Warranty is not applicable if specified moisture ranges are not adhered to.

### **Wood Sub-Surface**

- Wood sub-surface must be sealed for installation to be completed.
- Wood sub-surface must be a minimum of 1" thickness, and free from any flex movement. (5/8" on joists with a 3/8" overlay is acceptable).
- New plywood should be acclimatized for a 48-hour period prior to installation of the rubber flooring.
- CDX exterior smooth one side is suggested for new wood substrates.
- Secure all nails and screws to prevent future protrusion.
- Any cracks, holes, rough or uneven areas should be patched with a polymer-modified cement leveling compound and/or sanded to achieve a smooth surface.
- It is vital that a moisture test be completed prior to installation with records kept. No less than 20 spot checks per 1000 sq. ft. should be observed. Any readings higher than 13% are not acceptable and installation must wait until levels are at or under 13%.
- Warranty is not applicable if specified moisture ranges are not adhered to.

## **SECTION V – PRE-INSTALLATION**

### **General Information**

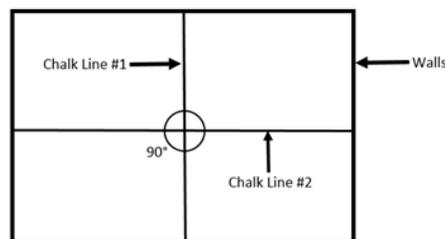
- Prior to installing Rubber King Commercial products, ensure all other trades have completed their work schedules.
- The use of Masonite board, plywood or kraft paper should be used to protect the rubber flooring from damage and debris.

- Product and sub-floor must be of the same temperature. This should be checked using an infrared digital thermometer.
- Rubber King Commercial is not responsible for any product failure if proper floor preparation and/or installation procedures are not followed.
- Check ambient temperature:
- All HVAC systems must be fully operational 24-hours prior to beginning the acclimation process.
- Rubber flooring may be installed between temperatures of 14°C (57°F) and 23°C (72°F).
  - Room temperature must be consistent during the entire installation.
  - Large fluctuations in temperature or humidity will cause expansion or contraction.
- In-floor radiant heat should be shut off for 24-hours prior to acclimation (72-hours prior to installation), be shut off throughout installation and remain off for 72-hours after installation is complete.
  - It is recommended that surface temperature does not exceed 25°C (77°F)

### Chalk Lines

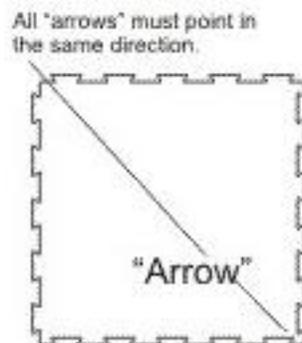
- Locate the midpoint of the room, chalk a start line down the center. Chalk another similar start line 90° to the first one. (Figure 1)

Figure 1



### Mat Layout

- Each mat is marked on the bottom with ink stating, “This Side Down” and the date.
  - Install mats same side up as received.
- Each mat is designed with an arrow in the interlocking pattern. Be sure to install mats with the arrow facing in the same direction.
- The installer should have all relevant information about the mat arrangement from the owner.
- Begin mat layout from the point where the two chalk lines intersect.
  - Ensure all mats are installed with the directional arrow pointing in the same direction.
- Work outwards in both directions.
- Start second row on either side of the center line towards the chalk line.



## Acclimation and Dry Lay

- ***Acclimation/Dry Lay Checklist is required to be completed or warranty will be void.***
- A minimum of 48 – 72 hours before starting the installation.
  - Storage longer than 2 weeks will require a longer acclimation period.
  - Mats in the lower portion of the stack will compress to a greater degree than those in the upper portion.
  - A mat laid down in the morning hours at 0°C (32°F) would be a different size than a mat laid at 20°C (68°F) later in the day.
  - Acclimation should only begin once the sub-surface has reached a temperature between 14°C (57°F) and 23°C (72°F).
- Lay out all mats on the sub-surface in piles of 2 or less:
  - Be sure to mix mats from several different pallets to blend minor shade variations.
  - Allow them to acclimate until they have reached a consistent size.
    - Some products under certain conditions have shown expansion and contraction in size of up to 1/8" (3.2mm).
  - Check for any shading or uneven color distribution.
    - This is **not** considered to be a product defect.
    - Rotating the mat 90° or installing it in a less visible area may help improve the effect.
  - Inspect all mats for visible defects.
    - Ensure the defective product is identified prior to the start of the installation, notify supplier immediately.
      - Labor will not be covered if any defective product is installed.
    - Scythe marks are inherent in the manufacturing of recycled rubber flooring products and are considered normal.
    - Certain lighting conditions can accentuate these marks and as such is not considered a product defect.

## Cutting

- Lay mat on a flat surface, hold the metal straight edge on the cut line, and cut with sharp utility knife.
- Keep scoring the cut until separated.
- Change or snap off blades frequently to ensure clean cuts.
- For odd angles, circular patterns, etc. a cardboard template is suggested.
- Join factory edges together. Hand cut edges should be used against the perimeter walls only.

## SECTION VI-INSTALLATION

### Installation Information

- **Do not install** mats if the appropriate thickness and dimensions have not been reached.
- Intended for indoor use only and should not be installed in areas where the temperature is inconsistent.
- For a multistage install on larger projects, any unretained edges will need to be anchored with double sided tape until the installation resumes.
  - Failing to secure the open edges will result in shifting of the surface and gaps between the tiles.
- Any perimeter tile will need to be cut to fit against the wall, allow a ¼" inch around the perimeter for expansion and contraction.
  - Create a finish straight edge by removing all interlocking tabs along the outside edge. (See Cutting section for directions)
  - Make sure all tiles must be laid with the arrow pointing in the same direction.

## **VII – CLEANING**

### **Post Installation Cleaning**

- When installation is complete:
  - Sweep floor to remove any debris, then dust mop thoroughly to remove all surface dust and dirt using a dust mop or microfiber mop.
  - Use a neutral PH cleaner. (see dilution rates on label).
  - Do not use any oil base cleaners as they will deteriorate the mats.
  - Damp mop with a neutral PH cleaner diluted with a warm water; use a microfiber mop.
    - Use a two-bucket system and change the water frequently.
  - If floor has an excessive amount of dirt or dust present, additional cleaning with a lightweight auto scrubber may be required.
    - An RPM of 185 and brush pressure between 35 and 85lbs are recommended.
    - If disc type equipment is used, be sure to use a soft nylon brush, not a pad.
  - Do not flood floor.
  - Allow to dry thoroughly.
  - Apply a treatment of an acyclic polymer floor coating according to instructions on the label if desired.

## **VIII – FLOOR TREATMENT**

### **Recycled Rubber Treatment**

- For most installation, it is not necessary to seal or coat Rubber King Commercial Products.
  - Contact your Rubber King Commercial supplier for the correct choice in your application.
- An acrylic polymer floor coating is recommended to improve the visual effects of shade variation and uneven distribution of color granules.
  - See label for installation instructions.