Installation and Maintenance Manual

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General Information

Acrylx is a fully waterproof Uniclic floating floor with excellent acoustic and thermal properties, made lightweight and rigid core to assist installation over uneven subfloor surfaces. However,

It is essential that these installation instructions are followed to ensure a quality fit.

The click profile is extremely stable and strong when installed. Product must be handled with extra care when transporting and must be packed properly to avoid the click profile from getting damaged. If shipping to job sites product should be palletized and shrink wrapped. Warranty will not cover shipping damages.

Tools

For a successful installation, the following tools will be necessary: pencil, utility knife, ruler/straight edge, carpenter's square, cutting saw, hand roller and pull bar. A rubber mallet is optional. A tapping block can be used but is not recommended for 3.2mm Acrylx unless extreme care is used.

Acrylx is an indoor product and is **not** suitable for exterior environments or wet room installations.

Expansion Gap

A minimum ¼" (6.35mm) expansion zone is required around the perimeter of the room as well as against any fixed objects. ½" (12.7) expansion zone around the perimeter for rooms over 100' in either direction. The zone accounts for the normal movement of the floor system.
A T-Molding must be used for commercial spaces measuring greater than 100' in either direction. If Acrylx is installed in an area falling outside the normal room temperature range, a T-Molding is required every 25'. T-Molding is not required in residential installations.

General

One of the benefits of Acrylx is that it does not need to be acclimated in residential installations but the room temperature, in the area of installation should be between 50°F and 100°F for 48 hours before and during installation. Commercial installations require an acclimation period of a minimum 24hours in temperatures between 50°F and 100°F. Acrylx is an indoor product that can be installed in three season facilities and in unheated cabins.

It is always recommended that when exposed to extreme temperatures for extended periods, Acrylx be allowed to adjust to room temperature for 24 hours prior to extremely heavy traffic loads. Acrylx is suitable for installation in direct sunlight and due to its structural integrity, it is not affected in the way other products may be.

- *However, direct sunlight has a uniform fading effect on virtually all materials over an extended period so, window treatments ranging from blinds to UV inhibitors on glass are recommended.
- *Please note the 3.2mm Acrylx is a thinner gauge than our 4.0mm and 4.5mm constructions so heat resistance due to direct sunlight is reduced so window treatments ranging from blinds to UV inhibitors on glass are required for 3.2mm.

When installing, be sure to use Acrylx tiles/planks of the same color lot for best color matching unless specified design is required. Mix tile from several different cartons to blend minor shade variations. The installation of Acrylx flooring under cabinetry is **NOT** approved. Acrylx flooring should be cut to fit around cabinetry leaving a minimum ¼" gap so, as to allow for expansion as needed.

Note: All Warranties and guarantees regarding the suitability and performance of any products, if not supplied by Acrylx, rests with the material manufacturer or the installation contractor and **NOT** with Raskin Industries. Install following standard methods of measuring and laying out and cutting resilient tile/plank flooring. Stagger Tiles/Planks do not align end Joints next to each other and work out of 3 cartons and mix tile or planks.

If you have any questions regarding any part of these instructions or the Acrylx product prior to or during installation, please call 855-3Raskin.

1. Install the first plank with the tongue side facing the wall, fit 5mm spacers between the plank and wall (Fig. 1).
2. Lay the first row, ensuring the short edges are clicked together (Fig. 2).
3. Using a knife and straight edge, cut the last piece of the row to size, making sure that there is a ¼" gap between the end of the row and the wall.
4. Start the second row by clicking the tongue into the groove holding the plank at an angle (approximately 30°), then push the tile or plank firmly into the groove of the first row (Fig. 3).
5. Install the next plank by clicking the tongue and groove together along the short edge. Ease the tongue and groove together on the long side by angling the tiles/planks together. Continue to install tiles/planks across the room until the row is complete. Use a rubber mallet and Tapping block to securely fix the planks together (Fig. 4 & 5). A pull bar can be used to pull the product together around the edges of the room (Fig. 6).
6. Repeat sections 4 and 5 until the installation is complete.
7. When installing convex corners, round corners or complex profiles, mark the shape on the plank and cut using a cutting saw.

Fig. 1

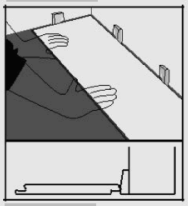


Fig. 2

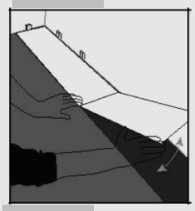


Fig. 3

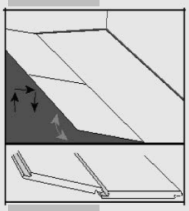


Fig. 4

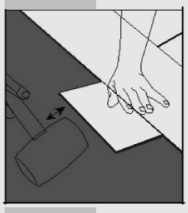


Fig. 5

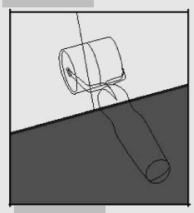


Fig. 6

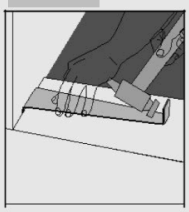


Fig. 7

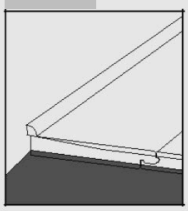
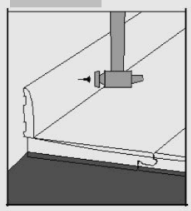


Fig. 8



Once the floor is fitted, remove the spacers; sweep the floor with a soft brush. Fix the skirting boards or suitable edge trim to cover the expansion gaps. These should be fixed to the wall and not the floor (Fig. 7 & 8).

INSTALLATION, SUBFLOOR AND UNDERLAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

Subfloors: In general, all subfloors need to be Structurally Sound (Study, Flat within limits, within moisture limits, free or debris and with no Flex.)
Concrete: For Acrylx products under 4.0mm thick, the subfloor needs to be flat with no low or high spots exceeding 3/16" in 10' radius and cracks or seams no greater than ½" in width. Any areas, cracks or seams exceeding the 3/16" in 10' or ½" width limit should be sanded and/or patched using a Portland cement based patching or leveling compound. **For Acrylx products over 4.0mm thick,** the subfloor needs to be flat with no low or high spots exceeding ¼" in 10' radius and cracks or seams no greater than 3/4" in width. Any areas, cracks or seams exceeding the ¼" in 10' or ¾" width should be sanded and or patched using a Portland cement based patching or leveling compound. All concrete (new and old) must be tested for moisture. The installer is responsible for moisture testing. Concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed **8lbs** ASTM F1869 or **90%RH** (ASTM F2170) with a **pH limit of 9. Subfloor moisture vapor emission limits are in place to prevent the potential growth or harmful mold and bacteria below the Acrylx flooring.**

Lightweight concretes: Concretes in the lower end of this range are generally used for thermal and sound insulation fills for roofs, walls, and floors. The higher densities are used in cast-in-place walls, floors, roofs, and for pre-cast elements. The minimum density of the concrete should be greater than 90lbs per cubic foot. The minimum compressive strength of recommended concrete should be 3,500 psi. Gypsum based underlayment products are approved with or without the G-Core backing or a separate acoustical underlayment. Strength and integrity are the most important factors of any subfloor or underlayment. Older Gypsum based subfloors have a chalk like consistency and can breakdown over time creating granular debris. Damaged or degraded materials under any floating or rigid system can create an acoustic issue. Acrylx has very good acoustic properties however, the breakdown of supporting or subfloor material is always something to be aware of. **Installing Acrylx flooring using adhesive to bond to substrate will prevent the materials ability to adjust to climactic conditions thus preventing expansion and contraction. You must contact Raskin Industries Technical Services department for application evaluation and approval prior to any substrate mechanical bonding installation.**

Wood subfloors: Plywood: Minimum ½" or greater, exterior grade. Other wood subfloors should be standard double layer construction, with a finished thickness of at least 1" and should have 18" of well-ventilated air space underneath. Crawl spaces should be insulated and protected by a vapor barer. Do not install vinyl flooring over a sleeper type subfloor, or over plywood that is directly over a concrete slab.

Radiant Heat: Heating components/elements must have minimum of 1/2" separation from the Acrylx flooring for approval of installation. Heated subfloors should be operational for at least 3 weeks prior to installation to drive out existing moisture and calibrate temperature settings which, will avoid any subfloor condensation issue from excessive temp and humidity swings during installation. Maximum operating subfloor radiant heating temperature should never exceed 105°F for reasons of potential subfloor breakdown or structural damage.

Quarry tile, terrazzo, and ceramic tile: Fill and level low spots, grout lines, holes, chips and seams with a Portland cement based patching or leveling compound for strength and integrity. This helps prevent any unnecessary acoustic issues created by voids under the new flooring if not using G-Core or an acoustic underlayment.

Existing Resilient Floors: The preference is to always to start with a clean new surface, Acrylx can be installed over existing resilient flooring material as long as it is structurally sound, bonded tightly with no loose or cracked tiles, planks or sheeting. The exception is any tile, plank or sheet that is of a cushion construction. The cushioned flooring material must be removed or covered. **NOTE: This does not apply to acoustical underlayment.**
***Do not** install over more than one layer of existing flooring.
Acoustical Pad: Acrylx is also available with G-Core closed cell foam backing system. Acrylx without the G-Core system can be installed over approved acoustical padding.

- When installing non-G-Core backed Acrylx over acoustical padding, follow all acoustic padding manufacturer's installation guidelines for installation of their product.
- If adhesive is required for the installation of the acoustical padding, follow the adhesive manufactures installation guidelines for their product.
  Note: When installing Acrylx over any approved acoustic padding, install Acrylx perpendicular to the acoustical padding product seams.

Material Handling and Storage

Store Acrylx in a consistent temperature environment. Excessive temperature swings immediately prior to installation have the potential of causing condensation between the subfloor and Acrylx which, could promote the growth of harmful mold or bacteria. A consistent temperature during storage is always recommended for any product.

- Acrylx must be stored lying flat and cartons never on edge. Check to make sure color and lot numbers are the same on jobs requiring more than one box on tile.
- Mix tile from several different cartons to blend minor shade variations.
- Moisture: Never install Acrylx in standing subfloor moisture. New concrete slabs must cure for a minimum of 90 days for full cure strength and integrity. Even existing concrete slabs can have moisture problems so conducting proper moisture test will also help assess other materials capabilities on site. To be sure, conduct a moisture test several days before installation. The installer is responsible for moisture testing. See subfloor section above for guidelines. MOISTURE GUIDELINES FOR THE FLOOR COVERING INDUSTRY available from the World Floor Covering Association, at 1-800-624-6880.

HVAC

Acrylx does not need to be acclimated. However, the room in which the material will be installed needs to be at standard room temperature setting of 50°F and 110°F for a minimum of 48hours prior to and during installation. This is to avoid any potential condensation between the subfloor and Acrylx due to large and fast temperature swings immediately after installation.

Removing Old Adhesives
Old asphaltic “cut-back” adhesives can stain Acrylx flooring. These must be completely removed, encapsulated or covered with plywood underlayment. Be sure to remove adhesive in dips, joints, etc. Some previously manufactured cutback adhesives contained asbestos fibers, which are not readily identifiable. Do not use power removal devices, which can create dust. The use of solvent-based adhesive removers is not recommended. NOTE: If d-limonene (citrus-based) cleaners/removers are used (Orange All), subfloor must be thoroughly rinsed. If complete removal of old adhesives or covering them with plywood is not possible, the use of a Portland Based Leveling or Patching Compound is acceptable. Please follow manufacturer’s instructions carefully. For “Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” write to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute, 966 Hungerford Dr., Suite12-B, Rockville, MD 20850.

Patching & Leveling
For best results, It is always our recommendation to use Portland cement based patching and leveling compounds. However, acrylic skim coat products are approved if warranted by that manufacturer over the substrate to which it's being applied. Self-leveling patching and leveling compounds can have very high moisture content and require longer curing time: up to 10 days. Check with a moisture meter before starting installation. Note: Adding latex to levelers will normally make the floors NON-POROUS. If using adhesive, test for porosity and use the non-porous adhesive instructions if necessary. Follow all the manufacturer's requirements for moisture limits. Sand underlayment smooth after it is cured. The installer is responsible for cure times, moisture content, adhesive bonding, if being used and the structural integrity of a leveling or patch compound to meet the acceptable limits for surface deviation. Acrylx is very resistant to telegraphing but proper steps and attention to limitations with regard to subfloor preparation need to be taken.

Contact Raskin, Ind. with any questions regarding product or installation at 855-3RASKIN.