

# Ground Control® Surfaces

## Rhythms Recycled Rubber Installation Guidelines

Rev. 5.2021

The purpose of this manual is to provide general installations recommendations based on certain installation types and environments. Read entire installation instruction sheet prior to beginning installation. Improper installation of the flooring or deficiencies related to site conditions may result in failure of the installation. Owner/installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection and acceptance of product prior to installation. Always refer to manufacturer's current installation recommendations which may be found at [www.groundcontrolsurfaces.com](http://www.groundcontrolsurfaces.com).

### Material Receiving & Storage

Roll material should always be stored laying down. Storing rubber on end may curl the edges resulting in permanent damage to the material. Any material with curled edges must be straight edge cut prior to installation. Do not store material more than 4 rolls high or longer than six months. Material should only be stored on a clean, dry, smooth surface.

Verify the material delivered is the correct quantity, style, color and free of any defects. Material should be delivered to the job site in its original, unopened packaging with all labels intact. All rolls are marked with lot and roll numbers on the label. Verify lot and roll number sequence are in consecutive order for all material to be installed. Do not mix lot and roll number sequence. Any discrepancies must be reported immediately to supplier before beginning installation. Commencement of the installation by the flooring contractor will constitute the flooring contractor's acceptance of the materials and job site conditions. No labor claim will be honored on material installed with visual defects.

The material and adhesive must be acclimated at room temperature for a minimum of 24 hours before beginning installation.

### Jobsite Conditions

The environment where flooring is to be installed should be clean, fully enclosed and have a permanent heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system in continuous operation. Temperature must be maintained between 65 - 85°F, with relative humidity range between 35-55% for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. HVAC must remain operational during and post installation. It should be determined that work by other trades will be completed prior to installation, or arrangements made for adequate and continuous protection of installed flooring if other trades will be working at same time or after.

### Acceptable Subfloors

Ground Control Surfaces Rhythms recycled rubber flooring may be installed over concrete, approved Portland cement-based patching and leveling materials, and wood.

**Note:** Gypsum-based patching and leveling compounds are not acceptable.

### Subfloor Requirements and Preparation

Ground Control Surfaces Rhythms recycled rubber flooring may be installed over properly prepared concrete, approved Portland cement-based patching and leveling compounds and wood. Flooring contractor should evaluate the suitability of subfloor to receive new flooring. Timely and thorough inspection and preparation of subfloor are required to assure a satisfactory installation.

Subfloor may be conditionally acceptable with requirement for additional preparation to make the surface suitable to receive flooring to include patching, leveling, removal of surface paint, adhesive, or other contaminants, moisture, and alkali concerns.

All subfloors should be level to within 3/16" over a 10-foot radius, smooth, clean, dry, structurally sound and free of dust, dirt, oil or any other contaminant that would inhibit a proper adhesive bond. Use of a quality Portland cement-based patching compound to fill or smooth any irregularities in the subfloor is recommended.

Commencement of installation by the flooring contractor will constitute flooring contractor's acceptance of subfloor and site conditions. Ground Control Surfaces accepts no responsibility for failure of underlayment or subfloor.

Subfloor must be fully cured, level, structurally sound, clean, free of dirt, dust, oil, or any other contaminant that would inhibit a proper adhesive bond.

## Concrete

New and existing concrete subfloors must meet the requirements of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) Publication 302.1 R-96 Guide for Concrete Floor Slab Construction, and the current version of ASTM F710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring.

Concrete should be dry, clean and level to within 3/16" over a 10-foot radius. Level low spots with a Portland cement-based leveling compound and grind high spots to ensure subfloor is level.

Concrete shall have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi. New concrete slabs must be at least 45 days old and fully cured, free of moisture and must be pH neutral prior to installation.

Moisture levels in concrete should be tested according to the most current version of ASTM F2170 (standard test method for determining relative humidity in concrete floor slabs using in situ probes) with a moisture content not exceeding 5 pounds per 1000 sf; or ASTM F1869 (standard test method for measuring moisture vapor emission rate of concrete subfloor using anhydrous calcium chloride – CM method) with a maximum permissible moisture content of 2.0%. Alkalinity should not exceed a pH level of 9.

NOTE: Subfloor tests cannot predict long-term moisture and alkali conditions of concrete slabs. They are only indicators of conditions at the time the tests are conducted. Ground Control Surfaces does not warrant or guarantee unsatisfactory installations due to the presence of excessive alkali, moisture, or hydrostatic pressure in subfloors.

## Expansion Joints

Expansion joints, isolation joints or other moving joints are incorporated into concrete floor slabs in order to permit movement without causing cracks in the concrete. These joints must not be filled with patch, underlayment products or other materials. Floor coverings must not be laid over expansion joints. Expansion joint covering systems should be selected based upon intended use and aesthetic considerations.

## Wood Subfloors

Wood subfloors should be smooth, clean, dry, structurally sound, free of vertical deflection, and free of dust, dirt, oil, or any other contaminant that would inhibit a proper adhesive bond. Use of a quality Portland cement-based patching compound to fill or smooth any irregularities in the subfloor is recommended.

Wood subfloors shall have at least 18" of well-ventilated space below. The ground under crawl spaces must be covered with 6-mil poly film to reduce moisture vapor transmission. Wood subfloors must be double construction or equivalent, with a minimum thickness of 1". Wood subfloors must be APA exterior underlayment grade plywood (or equivalent) with a fully sanded face that is free of voids.

NOTE: Wood subfloors such as particle board, OSB or construction grade plywood are not suitable subfloors.

## Underlayment

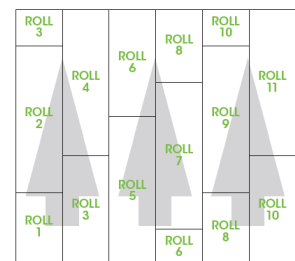
Although not required, use of an underlayment such as Ground Control Surfaces Sound Check is acceptable. Ground Control Surfaces Sound Check underlayment should be firmly adhered to the substrate according to manufacturer's installation instructions using Ground Control Surfaces GCS4500 adhesive (or equal). Installation of Ground Control Surfaces Rhythms over approved underlayment should be perpendicular to the direction of the underlayment. Use only manufacturer recommended adhesives and installation instructions for use in double-stick installation of underlayment and flooring.

After the Ground Control Surfaces Sound Check underlayment is firmly installed on the substrate you may begin the installation of the flooring.

## Flooring Layout and Installation

Ground Control Surfaces Rhythms rolls must be unrolled and installed in the same direction. Installing rolls in the opposite direction will cause pattern and shade variations in the installed flooring. To ensure rolls are installed in the same direction, the packing cores are marked on one end with red color. Before unrolling, check to ensure that all colored core ends are located on the left side of the rolls. Begin unrolling all the rolls from one side of the room. Any drops or cuts off the rolls must continue roll direction sequence to avoid shading differences.

All rolls are marked with lot and roll sequence numbers on the shipping label. Layout and installation of the rolls must be done in consecutive roll number order. Do not mix lot and roll numbers or install out of sequence as shade variation may occur.



Using a chalk line, make a starting straight starting point for the edge of the flooring to follow.

Lay the flooring in a way that will use cuts efficiently. Cut all rolls at the required length allowing for enough overage to run up the wall.

Roll material is stretched slightly during the manufacturing process. Shaking the material once it is unrolled can help it to relax. Allow cuts to relax in position for a minimum of two or as long as 24 hours.

Once flooring is relaxed, place the edge of the first roll along the chalk line. Position the second roll with no more than a 1/6" overlap over the first roll at the seam. Work the material back to eliminate the overlap. This procedure will leave tight seams and eliminate any gaps. Repeat this process for each consecutive roll until the area is complete for all rolls that will be installed in one day.

Fold over the first drop along the wall (half the width of the roll) and apply Ground Control Surfaces GCS 4500 or ST100 adhesive to the substrate using a 1/16" square notch trowel. Allow adhesive to set for 20 minutes before installation of flooring. Working time is approximately 20-30 minutes under acceptable temperature and humidity conditions.

Lay the flooring into adhesive. Do not allow the material to "flop" into place; this may cause air entrapment and bubbles beneath the flooring.

Immediately roll the floor with a 75-100 lb. roller to ensure proper adhesive transfer. Overlap each pass of the roller by 50% of the previous pass to ensure the floor is properly rolled. Roll the width first and then the length.

Fold over the second half of the first roll and half of the second roll. Spread the adhesive at right angles to the seam to prevent the adhesive from oozing up through the seam.

Continue the same process for each consecutive drop. Work at a pace so that you are always folding material back into wet adhesive.

If some seams are gapping, temporarily hold them together with masking tape. Do not use duct tape as it may leave an adhesive residue on the floor. Remove the tape after the adhesive develops a firm set.

Keep traffic off of the floor for a minimum of 24 hours. Foot traffic and rolling loads can cause permanent indentations or allow the material to shift from its intended position.

## **Disclaimer**

Users should determine the suitability of product for their own particular purpose or application. Ground Control Surfaces assumes no liability for misuse or improper installation of this product.

Ground Control Surfaces is a division of Swiff-Train, LLC, 10850 Train Court, Houston, Texas 77041

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