



Technical Information #4

Installing VCT, LVT, Sheet Vinyl over Damp Sub Floors

Products such as VCT, LVT and Sheet Vinyl may be installed over damp sub floors so long as sub floors are properly sealed and prepared for the flooring.

First determine if the floor must be leveled (because of the condition of the sub floor and/or the type of flooring to be installed). Then follow the appropriate instructions below.

Installation Recommendations:

A) In areas where leveling is NOT required to lay the flooring:

- 1) Spread ERP-270 Perma-Seal with a foam roller. Do not exceed the coverage of 140 SF/gal or 350 SF/pail. Let sealer dry overnight (at least 12 hours).
- 2) Spread D737 Flooring Adhesive with the flooring manufacturer's recommended trowel.
 - i) if an open pore flooring (e.g. carpet with jute backing) is to be installed, let the adhesive flash for 5 to 25 minutes (using wet lay installation method), then place flooring into the adhesive and roll down with a 75# -100# roller to ensure contact.
 - ii) if a closed cell flooring (e.g. vinyl, rubber, VCT, carpet with foam backing) is to be installed, spread adhesive with the appropriate notched trowel and let the adhesive flash for at least 1 hour (dry lay or pressure sensitive installation). Adhesive should no longer transfer to your hand when placed on adhesive. Then install flooring and roll with a 75# -100# roller to ensure contact.

B) In areas where the leveling IS required to lay the flooring:

- 1) Spread ERP-270 Perma-Seal with a foam roller. Do not exceed the coverage of 140 SF/gal or 350 SF/pail. Let the Perma-Seal dry overnight (at least 12 hours).
- 2) Next spread ACS-210 True-Seal with a foam roller. Coverage should be around 500 SF/gal. or 1250 SF/pail. Let this primer dry for about 1-2 hours or until it changes its color from milky white to clear. The ACS-210 will provide a bonding surface for the leveling compound.
- 3) Spread Leveling Compound (FLC-500 or FLC-540) onto the ACS-210 and let it dry for at least 24 hours (for 1/8" thickness or less) or up to 48 hours for up to 3/8" thickness. Coverage is approximately 60 SF/bag @ 1/8" thickness.
- 4) Spread D737 Flooring Adhesive with the appropriate notched trowel, let the adhesive flash for 5 to 25 minutes, then place the flooring into the adhesive and roll it with a 75# -100# roller to ensure contact. In this example, all flooring types can be installed using the wet lay method since the leveling compound will absorb the moisture from the adhesive.



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Trowel Selection:

The correct trowel for each flooring type is determined by the flooring manufacturer. A leveling compound or a ground concrete is considered to be a porous sub floor; ERP-270 or a speed troweled/burnished concrete is a non-porous sub floor. In the absence of the manufacturer's recommendations, these are Stauf's minimum requirements for various types of flooring:

General installation:

Follow instructions for wet lay or pressure sensitive adhesion
Stauf Trowel #1 (1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" Flat V-Notch) up to 170 SF/gal

Exceptions are:

- a) Carpets with rough backings (felt, fibers, jute, synthetic or action-backed) on porous sub floors:
Follow instructions for wet lay installation
Stauf Trowel #2 (1/8" x 1/8" x 1/16" Flat V-Notch) up to 90 SF/gal.
- b) thin sheet goods (vinyl or PVC) with smooth back or rubber tiles on non-porous sub floors:
Follow instructions for pressure sensitive adhesion
Stauf Trowel #9 (1/32" x 1/16" x 1/32" Flat V-Notch) up to 250 SF/gal
- c) Thick, heavy and/or large flooring tiles as well as heavy sports flooring or thick flooring with heavy traffic on porous sub floors:
Follow instructions for wet lay installation
Stauf Trowel #15 (3/32" x 3/32" x 3/32" Flat V-Notch) up to 130 SF/gal.

Using non-Stauf adhesives or leveling compounds over Stauf Sealers:

If using a non-Stauf leveling compound, make certain it will bond to the Stauf Sealer or Primer by checking with the manufacturer for their requirements to use their product over acrylic or epoxy sealers and primers and by testing. Stauf does not warrant the use of another manufacturer's product.

If no leveling is required, a pressure sensitive or contact adhesive can be spread directly over the Stauf Sealer. Again, if not a Stauf product, make certain that the adhesive being used is approved over either an acrylic or epoxy-based sealer or primer by checking first with the adhesive manufacturer and testing the product in an inconspicuous area. Stauf does not warrant the use of another manufacturer's product.

When installing non-porous flooring directly over a sealer, it is absolutely necessary to let the adhesive flash off and become tacky (check with adhesive manufacturer for flash time) before placing the flooring into the adhesive since it will be sealed from both sides once the flooring is laid and it will not be able to dry any further.

Visit the Stauf web site for more information or call Stauf Technical Services at 901.820.0007.

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