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Storage, Handling, Preparation, Installation and Post Installation Protection Instructions and Guidelines

The purpose of this manual is to provide general installation recommendations based on certain installation environments. If there are other questions about a specific issue not covered in this manual, please contact Parterre Technical Support by phone 888.338.1029 or email techsupport@parterreflooring.com.

INTRODUCTION

Parterre Flooring Systems offers a variety of sheet vinyl flooring designs with a full spectrum of patterns and colors. Parterre Flooring Systems resilient sheet flooring has been engineered and designed to provide high performance and durability for environments ranging from heavy trafficked pedestrian zones to healthcare facilities.

Considerations suitable for Parterre Flooring Systems use include (and is not limited to): corporate/office, hospitality, retail, healthcare, educational, multi-family.

As with all flooring, the long-term performance and ease of maintenance is dependent on compulsory items necessary to extend the floor's life and keep it looking good. Walk off mats at entry ways, proper floor protectors on all furniture, tables and chairs and furniture moving aids utilized during the moving of heavy items are all key components for peak and long term performance of Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring.

MATERIAL RECEIVING

Upon receipt of material, immediately remove any wrapping and inspect for damage and verify that the correct product and color was received. Do not drop cartons as this may cause damage.

STORAGE, HANDLING AND TRANSPORTING OF MATERIALS

Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring requires care during storage and handling as do all floor covering products, their adhesives and all the ancillary items for floor preparation and finishing.

It is critical to store the Remedy sheet vinyl in a dry, temperature-controlled interior environment. The temperature range should be no lower than 65° F and no greater than 80°F and the relative humidity should be controlled and maintained between 30-70% rH.

Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring is packaged in rolls which must be stored on ends with steps taken to protect and secure the rolls from falling. Stored rolls must be protected from forklift and other traffic that can damage the rolls.

Handling rolls of Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper material handling equipment when moving these products. When handling rolls, always use proper lifting techniques and never lift more than you can safely handle. Ensure that the rolls and pallets are fully supported during transportation. Even distribution of the secured material is compulsory in your truck or van to avoid load shifting or movement. Rough handling can damage Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring before installation. Avoid delays during the installation by simply exercising care when handling and transporting the packaged rolls.

PRE-INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS AND CHECKLIST

Before starting the project, take a few moments and check the flooring materials to ensure that you have the correct pattern, style and color. In addition to checking the flooring materials, make sure the correct adhesive and amount of adhesive required to complete the installation has been ordered. Also, any ancillary items that may be required to successfully complete the installation should be on hand as well, for example, transition moldings, cove base, shoe moldings, patching compounds, vapor reduction systems etc. Care should be taken in understanding the limits of all ancillary materials to ensure their compatibility with Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring, their adhesives and warranties. All complimentary materials required to complete the installation will be warranted by the respective manufacturer.

Most critical prior to commencement of the installation, confirm the correct amount of material with sequential production or run numbers to avoid any deviation in gloss, color, design or pattern. Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring **will not pay labor charges on**

claims filed for materials installed with obvious visible defects. If during the course of installation you discover visible defects, stop the installation immediately and contact your sales representative for instructions as how to proceed.

Every job is unique in its expectations and requirements. Prior to commencement of work, be certain of job specific requirements for layout, sequence, seam location/orientation, jobsite limitations, etc. and expectations for completion before starting the job.

JOBSITE CONDITIONS

The environment and the condition of the substrate play a key role in assuring a successful flooring product installation. If the environment is not climate-controlled or the substrate is not structurally sound, the chances for a successful flooring installation are radically reduced or compromised.

Temperature and humidity play a vital role in a successful installation. Do not install Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring in any environment that does not or cannot be climate controlled. Ideally the permanent HVAC should be operational and should be running continuously three weeks prior to the Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring installation to not only climatize the environment but sufficiently acclimate the substrate so that it will be similar to the conditions when the space is occupied. The jobsite should be maintained at a minimum temperature of 65°F and should not exceed 80°F for a minimum of 72 hours prior to installation, during installation and 72 hours after installation, along with the material, adhesives, patch and other temperature/humidity ancillary items or materials. The range for relative humidity should be between 25% and 65% relative humidity during this time as well. After the flooring is installed, make sure the temperature does not fall below 55°F or exceeds a 100°F and the interior environment continues to be a climate-controlled space. Failure to control the interior environment can adversely affect the performance of the flooring along with its adhesives.

The structural integrity of the job site's substrate is a critical component of the long-term performance of the Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring. The type and method of substrate construction, grade level, substrate system and its composition can impact the installation of the Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring. Often, local building codes establish minimum requirements and may result in insufficient rigidity, flatness or smoothness as it pertains to the minimum requirements for successful installation.

Structural substrate systems are comprised of either concrete (or cement-like materials) or wood. The substrate systems described in these installation guidelines are provided to give flooring installers accurate information to make solid decisions regarding an substrate system they may encounter on various jobsites. For comprehensive, detailed information regarding each of these systems, contact The American Concrete Institute or The American Plywood Association.

Other critical details captured when visiting the job site, allows for field measurements, making sure all the other trades have completed their work and are no longer occupying the space and finally making sure that lighting is operating so that both the preparation of the substrate and flooring installation can both be done in a well-lit area.

IMPORTANT: Commencement of the flooring installation means acceptance of the existing underfloor and site conditions on behalf of the flooring contractor.

SUBFLOOR/UNDERFLOOR RECOMMENDATIONS & PREPARATION

Concrete Underfloors

Concrete underfloors must be constructed in accordance with the American Concrete Institute (ACI) 302, 1R-95 Guide for Concrete and Slab Construction. The concrete underfloors must have minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi, a minimum dry density of 115 lb./ cubic foot, minimum concrete mix water/cement ratio of less than 0.45 and must be finished and cured according to ACI Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring must be installed over concrete underfloors conforming to ASTM F710 for concrete and other monolithic floors.

Concrete underfloors **MUST** be dry, clean, smooth, flat (must not deviate more than 3/16" in 10' or must not exceed 1/32" in span of 12") and structurally sound and free of contaminates such as grease, oils, paint and/or old adhesive. Surface contaminates should be considered any substance that would prohibit or interfere with the bond of the Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring to the concrete underfloor, such as paints, solvents, oils, existing adhesives and/or curing or parting compounds. Surface contaminates must be mechanically removed, **NEVER** use chemicals or solvents to remove concrete underfloor surface contaminates. In addition, surface defects or deficiencies must be corrected before installing flooring product. Low spots, cracks, holes and other irregularities can be patched using a high quality Portland cement patching compound engineered and warranted by the manufacturer for this purpose by following their written instructions for mixing and application. Any sanding or grinding that generates dust must be removed using a HEPA vacuum to insure a dust free

underfloor before patching or leveling and installing the Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring.

Do not install Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring over expansion joints. Cut the Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring neatly and uniformly to each side of the joint and carefully fill with elastomeric polyurethane joint filler or cover the joint with an expansion joint plate cover. Other types of concrete joints such as construction control and/or saw cuts can be filled, smoothed and leveled using an appropriate Portland cement patching compound.

Moisture Vapor and pH Testing

Vapor emissions from concrete substrates must not exceed 5 lb. per 1000 s/f using the Calcium Chloride Test Method (ASTM F 1869) and not exceed 80% internal concrete relative humidity as tested in accordance with ASTM F 2170. A pH test should be conducted on all concrete substrates, regardless of age of the concrete or grade level. The acceptable pH level of the substrate surface should range between 7-9.9. If any one of the limits of the aforementioned tests is exceeded, **DO NOT INSTALL** Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring. In cases with alkalinity above 9.9, neutralize the substrate surface until the pH readings are below 9.9.

Vapor Reduction Systems can be a viable option when encountering concrete underfloors that have documented excessive vapor emissions, especially when the concrete is 3-6 months old or older. Final determination of a Vapor Reduction Systems' suitability and its warranties in regards to its performance and and/or any damage that may be caused to the Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring and their adhesives due to deficiencies in the Vapor Reduction System are the responsibility of the Vapor Reduction System manufacturer and the flooring installer.

Radiant Heated Floors

Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring may be installed on radiant heated slabs providing the heating system will be controlled to never exceed a temperature of 85°F, measured directly over the heating pipes. Contact Parterre Technical Support for specific recommendations.

At any time the radiant heated floor has been allowed to cool after installation, there is a

possibility of moisture will be absorbed into the concrete subfloor. Accordingly, it is recommended that when temperature is increased, it be gradual to prevent moisture from adversely affecting the adhesive bond.

Hot water pipes are usually embedded beneath concrete or gypsum toppings. ASTM F710 has minimum requirements for commercial use as follows:

- Surface cracks, grooves, depressions, control joints or other non-moving joints, and other irregularities shall be filled or smoothed with latex patching or underlayment compound recommended by Parterre (the flooring manufacturer) for filling or smoothing, or both.
- Patching or underlayment compound shall be moisture-, mildew-, and alkali-resistant, and, for commercial installations, shall provide a minimum of 3000 psi compressive strength after 28 days.
- At the time of installing the flooring material, the temperature of the floor and the room shall be 65°-75°F.

Wood Underfloors

All wood underfloor systems should be suspended at least 18" above the ground with adequate cross-ventilation. Always cover the ground surface of the crawl space with a suitable vapor barrier. All wood underfloors must be structurally sound, dry and must comply with local building codes. Wood underfloors should be double-layer construction with a minimum total thickness of 1" and must be solidly fastened to appropriately space floor joists. This underfloor should be covered with a minimum ¼" thick APA Underlayment Grade Plywood or other underlayment panel approved and warranted beneath resilient flooring. Follow the panel manufacturer's instructions for panel layout, fastener type, fastener length, fastener spacing and approved panel patching protocol. Be aware that many double-layered plywood underfloors may have panels that carry the American Plywood Association (APA) performance rating of Sturd-I-Floor, a panel that was designed as a combination subfloor/underlayment panel, but due to construction traffic and weather exposure becomes damaged, therefore, in this situation Parterre Flooring Systems recommends simply installing an approved APA minimum ¼" underlayment panel or TECPLY® brand 5-ply arctic birch plywood over the Sturd-I-Floor.

Existing Resilient Floor Coverings

Occasionally existing resilient floor coverings may be present and it is important to know that installation over these existing resilient floors with Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring can compromise the performance properties of the Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring dramatically if several key factors are NOT considered before installation. The performance of Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring directly is completely dependent on the condition and ongoing/continued bond of the existing resilient floor covering.

The key factors critical to the installation Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring over existing resilient floor covering are as follows. The existing resilient floor covering must meet the subsequent conditions:

- Be fully adhered (full spread installation only) and must be well bonded to a suitable substrate as described aforementioned section titled **SUBFLOOR/UNDERFLOOR RECOMMENDATIONS & PREPARATION**
- Consist of a single layer of existing resilient flooring only
- Must be free of any evidence of alkaline salts, hydrostatic pressure, or excessive moisture from the underfloor that it is installed
- Cannot be heavy cushioned or a foamed backed existing resilient floor
- Cannot be a perimeter-fastened or loose-laid existing resilient floor
- Cannot be self-stick tile, rubber tile, asphalt tile, or surface containing any residual asphalt-based adhesives

IMPORTANT: The floor covering retailer or flooring installer must determine if the existing resilient floor covering is a suitable underfloor for the installation of Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring. If there is any doubt regarding existing resilient floor covering's suitability, remove it or cover it with the appropriate underlayment.

Removal of Existing Resilient Floor Coverings

WARNING: Do not sand, dry-sweep, dry-scrape, drill, saw, beadblast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, felt lining or asphaltic “cutback” adhesives. These products may contain either asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust containing respirable fibers or crystalline silica may cause cancer and respiratory tract diseases. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must assume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content.

A brochure from the Resilient Floor Covering Institute titled *Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings* provides a defined set of instructions for removing all resilient floor covering types.

IMPORTANT: Various federal, state and local government agencies have regulations governing the removal of in-place asbestos-containing material. If you contemplate the removal of a resilient floor covering material that contains, or is presumed to contain asbestos, you must review and comply with all applicable regulations.

Mold and Mildew

Prior to removing an existing resilient floor following the RFCI Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings (unless state or local law requires other measures) or installing a new floor, if there are visible indications of mold or mildew or the presence of a strong musty odor in the area where resilient flooring is to be removed or installed, the source of the problem should be identified and corrected before proceeding with the flooring work. In virtually all situations, if there is a mold issue, there is or has been an excessive moisture issue. Visible signs of mold or mildew (such as discoloration) can indicate the presence of mold or mildew on the subfloor, on the underlayment, on the back of the flooring, and sometimes even on the floor surface. If mold or mildew is discovered during the removal or installation of resilient flooring, all flooring work should stop until the mold/mildew problem (and any related moisture problem) has been addressed. Before installing the new resilient flooring, make sure the underlayment and/or subfloor is allowed to thoroughly dry and that any residual effect of excessive moisture, mold, or structural damage has been corrected. To deal with mold and mildew issues, you should refer to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines that address mold and mildew. Depending on the mold or mildew condition present, those remediation options range from cleanup measures using gloves and biocide to hiring a

professional mold and mildew remediation contractor to address the condition. Remediation measures may require structural repairs such as replacing the underlayment and/or subfloor contaminated with mold and mildew as a result of prolonged exposure to moisture. The EPA mold guidelines are contained in two publications "A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home" (EPA 402-K-02-003) and "Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings" (EPA 402-K-01-001). Appendix B of the "Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings" publication describes potential health effects from exposure to mold, such as allergic and asthma reactions and irritation to eyes, skin, nose and throat. These publications can be located on EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/iaq/molds

Specialty Underfloors

Specialty underfloors that may be suitable for the installation of Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring include properly prepared ceramic/porcelain tiles, cement based Terrazzo, poured (seamless) floors and metal floors. Always follow your patch/leveling compound manufacturer for guidelines on preparing these substrates to accept Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring **with no guarantee or assurance from Parterre Flooring Systems for successful and/or satisfactory results and with no liability to Parterre Flooring Systems for unsuccessful and/or unsatisfactory results.**

ADHESIVES

Determining Slab Porosity

The flooring contractor must determine slab porosity to choose the preferred adhesives and procedures.

Ensure surface is dust free prior to performing the following test. Permit surface to dry completely before performing additional activities.

To determine if a subfloor is porous, place two droplets of water in various areas. If the subfloor is porous, the water will be absorbed within 45-60 seconds.

#539P Acrylic Adhesive

Parterre #539P is a premium, non-staining, acrylic adhesive to permanently install resilient

flooring on porous and non-porous subfloors. Parterre #539P is for all grade levels of concrete, on, above, and below grade, in the absence of moisture, and for suspended double sheeted, structurally sound wood floors (APA). This adhesive is non-flammable, water and alkali resistant and freeze-thaw stable as determined by ASTM Test Method D 7149. Parterre #539P has excellent resistance to plasticizer migration and sets to a tough, hard, permanent bond.

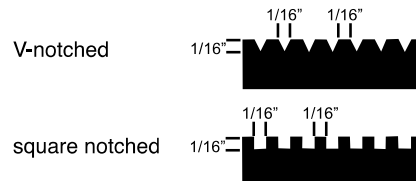
SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

All subfloors shall be clean, dry, free of dust, dirt, wax, paint, grease, and all other extraneous materials that might interfere with the adhesive bond. Cracks and uneven surfaces must be filled with an approved cement based patching compound. It is essential that moisture testing shall be performed on all concrete subfloors regardless of grade level or whether the concrete is freshly poured or is classified as an older slab. Moisture testing shall be performed as per ASTM F 1869 Calcium Chloride Test with moisture levels not to exceed six (6) pounds per twenty-four (24) hours per one thousand (1000) square feet, or as per ASTM F 2170 In Situ Relative Humidity Test, with relative humidity (Rh) moisture levels not to exceed seventy-five (75) percent. If the test results exceed the limitations, installation shall not proceed until the moisture level lowers to an acceptable level, or the moisture is properly mitigated. Additional information with regard to subfloor installation and requirements can be found in ASTM F 710.

INSTALLATION INFORMATION

1. Flooring materials and adhesive shall be acclimated to the installation area for a minimum of 24-48 hours prior to commencing installation.
2. The area to receive flooring shall be fully enclosed, weather tight, with the permanent HVAC system set and maintained at a minimum temperature of 65° for a minimum of 48 hours prior to, during and after installation.
3. Parterre #539P is recommended for porous and non-porous applications. Note: It is the responsibility of the installing party to determine the porosity of the subfloor being covered. To determine if a subfloor is porous, place two droplets of water in various areas. If the subfloor is porous, the water will be absorbed within 45-60 seconds.
4. Use a 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" V notch trowel for materials equal to or less than 0.080 inches or 2mm.

5. Use a 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square notch trowel for materials thicker than 0.080 inches or 2mm.
6. Replace worn trowels to ensure proper spread rate. **DO NOT RE-NOTCH.**



7. For porous applications, once troweled, the adhesive shall remain open (flash-off) for approximately 5-10 minutes before placement of the flooring.
8. After placing the flooring into the adhesive, it shall be rolled immediately utilizing a 100 lb., three section roller.
9. For non-porous applications, the adhesive shall be allowed to dry to the touch with little or no transfer of adhesive to the finger.
10. When the adhesive is dry to the touch, it is ready to accept flooring material.
11. Roll immediately after the flooring has been placed into the adhesive with a 100 lb. roller.
12. From the time the adhesive is allowed to dry to the touch, to the time it must be covered, there is 45-60 minutes of working time, depending on temperature and humidity. The adhesive must be pliable in order for the installation to proceed.
13. If the adhesive remains uncovered after it initially dries to the touch, for periods longer than the recommended time, a loss in adhesion strength will result. Care shall be taken by the installer not to spread more adhesive than can be worked within the recommended time frame. Chatter will be heard if fingernail is run across the beads of adhesive. NOTE: If any questions exist by the installer or floor-covering dealer as to whether or not this product is appropriate, contact Parterre Technical Service.
14. Follow Parterre's installation instructions, and recommendations.

15. Prevent all traffic for a minimum of 24 hours and heavy traffic and rolling loads for 72 hours.
16. Do not wash or clean the floor for a minimum of 3-5 days after installation is completed to allow adhesive to achieve proper adhesion.

Additional Details:

- Shelf life is one year at 70°F in un-opened container.
- Coverage is approximately 125-175 sq. ft. per gallon or 13-20 sq. yd. per gallon.
- For cleanup, use soapy water followed by mineral spirits. **DO NOT APPLY SOLVENT DIRECTLY TO FLOORING MATERIAL.**

LIMITED WARRANTY

The Parterre #539P Acrylic Adhesive is manufactured to exacting standards. User shall determine suitability for this product for a particular use. Manufacturer's and seller's obligation is limited to replace such quantity of the product proved to be defective. Neither the manufacturer nor the seller shall be liable for any damage, injury, or loss, direct or consequential arising out of the use, misuse or inability to use this product.

Placing and Fitting Sheet Vinyl Flooring

There are three general methods for fitting resilient sheet flooring: freehand knifing, direct or straight scribing and pattern scribing. Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring is flexible and can be handled easily when cutting and fitting at temperatures of 68°F and above. These characteristics enable Parterre sheets to be fitted with free-hand knifing. If layout is complex and requires precise fitting, traditional pattern scribing and/or direct scribing techniques should be used.

At least 3 hours before the fitting will begin, unroll material to lie flat and allow roll curl to relax.

For long flooring lengths, use a chalk line to help sheet not bow during layout.

For Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring, DO NOT reverse direction of cut pieces. Assure all cut pieces are placed and installed in same direction as they are cut from the roll.

For Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring designs other than Remedy, consult Parterre Flooring Systems before cutting and placing.

Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring cut pieces should be positioned with ends of planks to be offset 3” to 6”.

Layout of seams should be planned with minimum 6” from subfloor and underlayment joints and to not fall over expansion joints. Seams on new flooring should not coincide with seams or joints on existing flooring.

Choice of seam cutting method should be in accordance with choice of specific hand routing tool to be utilized or plan for use of electric router and plan for seam sealing method – heat welding or liquid chemical bonding.

Plan seams to always be in least conspicuous and lowest traffic areas.

Placing Sheet Vinyl Flooring

After sheet flooring has been cut according to plan layout, marked for sequential installation and allowed to lay flat to acclimate for minimum 4 hours, it can then be positioned according to plan layout with material overlapping at seams.

Roll sheets face in after cutting to assure easiest unrolling and positioning at time of installation and to additionally assist in flat lay of material and protection from damage while being positioned.

IMPORTANT: End and side edges of rolls, as they come from factory production, are not acceptable to be part of a finished seam. Each end and side edge must be trimmed.

Cross seams (end seams) are usually more visually prominent on Parterre sheet than length seams (side seams) that are parallel with wood plank length of Parterre Remedy sheet vinyl flooring design.

Adhering Sheet Vinyl Flooring

Ensure all required conditions and substrate parameters are satisfied before commencing to installation. Refer to “Subfloor Preparation” on page 1 to ensure compliance with Parterre Flooring Systems requirements.

After vinyl sheet is in place, install per the following steps:

- Fold back length of sheet (one nearest the wall) to just over half its length and apply Parterre Adhesive #539P or Parterre Royal Epoxy per specification.
- Gently place sheet into adhesive with care to avoid trapping air and creating bubbles or blisters. Roll placed flooring as directed in the respective adhesive section. Roll new flooring only up to, and not over, seam area.
- Repeat above activities to adhere remaining sheets. Ensure the untrimmed edge of the seam line is below the trimmed edge of the adjacent piece.

Flash Coving

Flash coving is a procedure for flooring to be continued up the wall, normally 4” to 6”. Parterre sheet can either be placed flat (straight) to meet the wall or be integrally self-coved.

When flash coving is in plans and specifications, it is necessary to prepare floor and wall junction by installing cove former molding (cove stick) at junction of floor and wall, and to firmly attach cove cap molding to wall at designated height, either mechanically or with non-staining contact adhesive.

Fully spread adhesive on wall surface with flooring trowel of notch size 1/32” x 1/32” x 1/32”, or spread with a stiff brush.

Adhesive must become almost fully dry for pressure sensitive adhesives or per manufacturer’s instructions when using a contact cement.

When adhesive is dry, place flooring and roll with steel hand roller to ensure complete bond between flooring and wall surface.

Seams on inside and outside corners of flash coved material should be sealed by heat welding.

Fitting by “butterflying” and “wrapping” corners is recommended to eliminate corner joints.

When chemically sealing them, outside corners can be made with a side fill piece (boot) or butterfly piece, fit “net” without gaps.

Groove the back of material at corner positions to ensure wrapped material fits tightly to prevent bubbles or blisters.

Do not groove inside corners that are flash covered for intended heat welded seams. Allow minimum gap and fill with weld thread (rod) that will be skived off after it cools.

Inside corners should be “net” with no fullness or gaps.

Making Seams

Adherence to industry-established principles and techniques by fully trained, knowledgeable, able and experienced flooring contractors should result in satisfactorily finished seams regardless of methods to be used for seam creation.

Allow approximately 2” overlap for cross seams (end seams) and 1” for length seams (side seams).

Seams must be made so the Remedy plank design will “match” to flow evenly from sheet to sheet at all seams of the finished flooring installation. Pattern match in the length is not a concern.

Place vinyl sheet and mark planned location of seams in accordance with project plans and seam diagram. If not included in project plans and seam diagram, the locations of the seams are at discretion of flooring contractor.

The layout plan should include the least practical number of seams taking into account the practical length in areas of the least amount of traffic and the least visually prominent. Ideally, seams should not be placed across entryways, in passageways, where foot traffic will be relatively continuous or where there will be heavy wheel traffic and rolling loads.

Prior to moving forward from this point, flooring contractor should present the plan for sheet layout and seam location for “sign-off” approval by general contractor, project architect and/or owner.

Seam Cutting Options

- Cut seams “net.” Use the “double-cut” or “recess scribe” method.
- When project plans and specs require seam closure by heat welding, seams may be recess scribed slightly open – 1/64” – to assist in guiding the electric router more easily.

Seam Treatment - Chemical Sealing

Remove excess adhesive, debris, etc., from seams. Immediately roll flooring at seams with hand roller.

Although an approved installation method, Parterre Flooring Systems does not sell chemical seam sealer. Refer to chemical weld manufacturer for a recommended chemical seam sealer and installation instructions.

Seam Treatment - Heat Welding

For each individual Parterre sheet design and color, there is one matching welding rod color. The use of other weld rod colors is at the discretion of the specifier.

Heat welding may be performed a minimum of 3 hours after flooring will be placed into dry (hard set or epoxy) adhesive. (Use of the Armstrong S-65 Heat Welding Nozzle on a manual electric heat gun will reduce scorching and shiny appearance at seams.)

Heat Welding- Grooving

Maximum heat welding results will be achieved with thorough knowledge of, and experience in, proper heat welding principles and techniques.

Heat welding requires grooving and removing grooved material to make space for the vinyl welding rod.

Grooving can be accomplished with hand-held and automatic grooving tools. Use of a hand-grooving tool requires exact centering on seam line to ensure both sides are grooved equally.

Groove depth should be two-thirds depth of flooring thickness. At this depth, groove width will be almost 1/8" (3mm). **DO NOT groove full thickness of material as this will impede or prevent a satisfactory weld.**

For manual grooving, place center of grooving tool over center of seam line. Use straight edge to touch side of cutting tool and align the straight edge. Hold cutting tool at 90° angle to surface. Pull tool toward you. Move straight edge as required and continue for seam's full distance. Discard groove material. Sweep and vacuum to completely remove all dust and shavings. Groove must be totally clean for heat welding to achieve maximum strength.

For power grooving, align automatic electric powered grooving machine guides with cut line. Press cutter to full depth of cut line, and push machine forward in seam line. At the point where abutment blocks machine movement, use hand grooving tool to complete distance to abutment and for flash coving. Discard groove scrap material. Sweep and vacuum to completely remove all dust and shavings. Groove must be totally clean for heat welding to achieve maximum strength.

Heat Welding Notes

Heat welding is the act of fusing edges of vinyl flooring sheets or pieces together with use of flexible welding rod (also called weld rope and weld thread). Many principles are involved with this process, including:

Smooth and steady movement at constant rate to produce smooth even seams. Performing at different speeds – as a slow/fast activity – will result in rough and uneven seams, with less than optimum appearance.

Temperature at heat gun nozzle and speed at which heat gun is moved should work in combination with each other. A heat setting may be too high if gun is moved too slowly or too low if the gun is moved too rapidly. Either way, less than optimum weld will result.

Heat welding should only be performed when flooring adhesive is completely dry. Adhesive that is not fully dry can bubble/blister from exposure to high heat and can, in turn, adversely affect flooring adhesive bond and seam strength.

If flooring will be placed into dry (pressure sensitive) adhesive, heat welding can commence three hours after flooring placement.

Welding with an Automatic Welding Machine

Automatic, electric powered welding will produce a consistent, uniform weld, invariably superior in test results to a manual, electric welding gun and should be used on virtually any project with a seam over 5 ft. long. Operating speed is approximately 12"- 20" per minute. Complete operating instructions are supplied with each model from each manufacturer.

Units have a variety of enhancing features including:

- Automatic shut-off
- Automatic turn-away of welding head to one side upon completion
- Automatically stops drive unit and removes heat source from flooring material when unit comes in contact with construction wall or abutment

Heat welding must be performed only by floor covering contractors experienced in this activity and must be according to principles and techniques established and accepted by the floor covering installation industry for this activity.

Heat Welding with a Manual Electric Heat Gun

Scrap flooring should be used to practice heat welding at various gun temperatures and various gun movement speeds to determine best combination of two variables to achieve optimum (strongest, neatest) weld. Adjust variables as required.

Welding can commence when there is satisfaction with testing activity and adhesive is confirmed to be completely dry.

Speed weld (welding nozzle) attachment should be cleaned with a wire brush to assure complete absence of debris that would impede smooth movement of welding rod through its orifice.

Pre-heat welding gun and ensure nozzle is pointing up during this activity to avoid possible damage due to hot air emitting from the gun.

Confirm all required tools and equipment are at hand and in place and groove has been broom swept and/or vacuumed, to be debris free and hygienically clean. Additionally, ensure heat gun

has been pre-heated to proper temperature for planned rate of movement. Finally, position weld rod spool to assure smooth peel-out.

CAUTION: Exercise care when inserting weld rod into speed welding nozzle, because nozzle is extremely hot and can cause severe injury upon skin contact.

Position gun so nozzle is directly over and above seam groove. Insert weld rod into nozzle to extend out 3" to 4". Position gun directly on seam groove. Maintain downward pressure and pull gun along seam groove toward you as weld rod passes through nozzle into groove. Maintain constant speed.

When further backward movement is physically blocked, stop and change welding direction. Lift gun out of groove and cut weld rod at that point.

Allow weld rod to cool where it was reversed and lumped. Use hand grooving tool to groove cooled and lumped weld rod. Result will be groove suited to accept new weld rod. When welding activity commences in opposite direction, it will be into a groove suited to accept weld rod placing. Final result will be a complete and satisfactory welded seam.

Change welding direction 180°. Begin welding from wall and continue back. Stop welding in same manner as earlier – at point where welding rod was previously installed, lumped and grooved. The result should be a smooth and continuous filling with welding rod over entire groove length.

Heat gun temperature control should be turned down gradually to “zero” (off) setting.

Allow a minimum of 30 minutes for welding rod to cool, during which time it will shrink. Use a 2-step process for trimming weld rod above floor surface.

Use spatula trim knife with trim plate attachment to remove virtually all welding rod and leave about 1/32" above flooring surface.

Use spatula trim knife again, this time without trim plate attachment, with blade at absolute maximum sharpness and maximum 10° angle to flooring with sharpened side facing down, against welding rod. Exercise care to avoid cutting or gouging flooring.

Even after second spatula use, high spots may remain. Inspection should make them apparent for removal with careful use of spatula knife without trim plate attachment. If trimming will cause some portion of seam to be lower than adjacent surface, repeating welding and trimming activities may be needed to correct affected area.

Finishing activities should then be performed.

Remove speed-welding nozzle from welding gun. Hold the air output orifice close to welded seam and pass gun over full length of seam. This “glazing” process will increase smoothness of completed weld and slightly darken its color for maximum blending with surrounding flooring.

POST - INSTALLATION PROTECTION

- Protect the newly installed Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring from foot traffic for 24 hours.
- Prohibit heavy traffic and rolling loads on the floor tile/plank for a minimum of 72 hours after installation.
- Confirm or equip all furniture, appliances, carts and any other moveable equipment with soft, wide, non-staining casters or floor protectors with a minimum diameter of 1” engineered to protect hard surface flooring from indentation from static loads.
- Always use runways made from at least ¼” plywood or ¼” Masonite™ to protect flooring from damage that may occur when moving heavy objects across the flooring. You may also use furniture moving aids or specialty equipment designed specifically for the use of moving large objects without damage to the floor. AIRSLED® would be an example of that type of equipment.
- If the project is still under construction the floor should be protected from other trades during construction. Be cautious with protective coverings over installed floors that might stain, yellow or stick to the flooring. To avoid large chards, stones, construction debris or heavy soil, tape the paper’s edges with a releasable, non-staining, non-yellowing tape. Also, if large plywood formats are to be used on the paper, again tape its edges to the paper to avoid an accumulation of dirt or debris under the plywood’s edge. Heavy traffic could embed the debris into the flooring’s surface causing permanent damage.
- Avoid flooding or washing the newly Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring until the adhesive has fully cured-approximately 5-7 days, or longer depending on room temperature and the temperature of the underfloor. Stripping is not required nor is it recommended for initial cleaning.

- Please note that the initial cleaning of an installed Parterre Flooring Systems Remedy sheet vinyl flooring is essential before occupancy. Failure to clean thoroughly and properly at this time will make routine maintenance more difficult.
- Sweep or vacuum thoroughly to remove all dust, dirt, loose grit, soil and debris.
- Spots of adhesive can be removed with a clean, white cotton cloth and dampened with paint thinner or mineral spirits. Always use caution when handling flammable solvents.
- If the flooring was subjected to excess dirt, soil and heavy traffic before the initial maintenance, use Hilway Direct Neutral Cleaner mixed according to label instructions with clean potable water. **DO NOT USE ABRASIVE CLEANERS.**
- Use a standard scrubbing machine or an automatic scrubber equipped with the proper color of pad for the soiling to be cleaned. Test to make sure the pad selected does not damage the flooring tile's surface.