

BestGym Rubber Tile Interlocking Installation

Approved Adhesives:

BestGym Excelsior MS-700 Modified Silane Adhesive
BestGym Excelsior EW-710 Epoxy Wet-Set Adhesive

Approved Floor Finishes:

BestGym PF-960 Finisher

The manufacturer requires that a finish be installed following installation.

1. PRE-INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

- Consult all associated product literature concerning adhesive installation, maintenance and warranty prior to installation of flooring.
- Allow all trades to complete work prior to installation.
- Deliver all materials to the installation location in its original packaging with labels intact.
- Do not stack pallets to avoid damage.
- Remove any plastic and strapping from product after delivery.
- Inspect all material for proper type, color and matching lot numbers if appropriate.
- Ensure that all adhesives intended for installation are approved for use with flooring material.
- Ensure installation area and material storage temperatures are between 65° F (19° C) and 85° F (30° C) for at least 48 hours before, during and after installation.
- Ensure HVAC system is operational and fully functioning at normal operating conditions.
- Turn off radiant-heated flooring systems 48 hours prior to installation. 48 hours after installation, gradually increase the temperature over the course of 24 hours to a maximum temperature of 85°F (29.5°C).
- Protect installation area from extreme temperature changes, such as heat and freezing, as well as direct sunlight for at least 48 hours before, during and after installation.
- Ensure all substrate preparation and moisture testing requirements have been performed, read and/or understood by all interested parties.
- Do not proceed with installation until all conditions have been met.

2. PRODUCT LIMITATIONS

Do not install materials over LVT, cushioned vinyl, hardwood flooring, cork, rubber, or asphaltic materials. Do not install in areas that may be subjected to sharp, pointed objects, such as pointed metal spikes. When installing in areas that may be exposed to ice skates, ensure skate guards are worn. Product is not intended for use in areas that may be subjected to deliberate abuse and damage. Do not allow product to be directly exposed to extreme heat sources, such as radiators, ovens or other high-heat equipment. May be susceptible to staining from rubber tires, casters or rubber-backed walk-off mats, as well as harsh disinfectants, cleaning agents, dyes or other harsh chemicals – ensure all chemicals and materials that may come in contact with flooring surface will not stain, mar or otherwise damage the flooring material prior to use. Flooring material must receive a floor finish prior to final usage.

3. SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

All substrates must be prepared according to ASTM F710, as well as applicable ACI and RFI guidelines. Substrates must be clean, smooth, permanently dry, flat and structurally sound. Substrates must be free of visible water or moisture, dust, sealers, paint, sweeping compounds, curing compounds, residual adhesives and adhesive removers, concrete hardeners or densifiers, solvents, wax, oil, grease, asphalt, visible alkaline salts or excessive efflorescence, mold, mildew and any other extraneous coating, film, material or foreign matter. All substrates must be vacuumed with a flat vacuum attachment or damp mopped with clean, potable water to remove all surface dust. Sweeping without vacuuming or damp mopping will not be acceptable.

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It is recommended that all substrates have a floor flatness of FF32 and/or a flatness tolerance of 1/8" in 6' or 3/16" in 10'.

All porous substrates must be tested per ASTM F3191 to confirm porosity. Use a pipette or equivalent to conduct three tests by placing a .05 mL (1/4" wide) droplet of clean, potable water onto the surface. If the substrate absorbs water within 60 seconds, the substrate is considered porous. Conduct 3 tests for the first 3000 sq. ft. and one for each additional 2000 sq. ft., at least one per room. All other substrates that do not meet this requirement are considered non-porous. Ensure that all non-porous substrates are not contaminated with any aforementioned contaminants.

When conducting renovations or remodeling, remove all existing adhesive residue so that 90% of the original subfloor/substrate is exposed by mechanical means, such as shotblasting, grinding or buffing with a 100 grit Diamabrush Prep Plus attachment. Do not use solvent/citrus based adhesive removers prior to installation. Follow The Resilient Floor Covering Institute's (RFCI) "Recommended Work Practice for Removal of Existing Floor Covering and Adhesive", and all applicable local, state, federal and industry regulations and guidelines. When removing asbestos and asbestos containing materials, follow all applicable OSHA standards.

CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

All concrete must have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 PSI and be prepared in accordance with ASTM F710. When flooring is being installed directly over concrete, concrete surfaces that have an ICRI Concrete Surface Profile (CSP) over 4 should be smoothed with a self-leveling underlayment (such as the Excelsior SU-310) or a cementitious patch (such as the Excelsior CP-300) to prevent imperfections from telegraphing through flooring materials. On or below grade concrete must have a permanent, effective moisture vapor retarder installed below the slab. New or existing concrete substrates on all grade levels must be tested in accordance with ASTM F2170, using in situ Probes (such as Wagner Rapid RH), to quantitatively determine the amount of relative humidity no more than one week prior to the installation.

Adhesive RH Limits

MS-700 Modified Silane: 95% RH
EW-710 Epoxy Wet-Set: 85% RH

In addition to ASTM F2170 Relative Humidity Testing, existing concrete that has previously had floor covering installed on all grade levels must be tested in accordance with ASTM F1869, using Calcium Chloride test kits, to quantitatively determine the Moisture Vapor Emissions Rate (MVER) of the concrete.

Adhesive MVER Limits

MS-700 Modified Silane: 10 lbs.
EW-710 Epoxy Wet-Set: 6 lbs.

If ASTM F2170 or ASTM F1869 test results exceed the prescribed limits, a moisture mitigation product, such as Excelsior MM-100 Moisture Mitigation, must be installed prior to proceeding with installation. Do not install flooring until moisture testing has been conducted per the appropriate standard and/or moisture mitigation has been installed and is dry to the touch. Do not install flooring in below grade areas when hydrostatic pressure is visible or suspected.

If ASTM F2170 and ASTM F1869 test results are below recommended limits, concrete substrates must be tested for elevated pH and alkalinity in accordance with ASTM F710.

Adhesive pH Limits

MS-700 Modified Silane: 7-10
EW-710 Epoxy Wet-Set: 7-10

If pH testing per ASTM F710 exceeds the prescribed limits, the concrete must be sealed with the Excelsior MM-100 Moisture Mitigation prior to proceeding with installation. Install The MM-100 per technical data sheet at a minimum of 1 coat. Do not install flooring until material is dry to the touch.

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RESINOUS SUBSTRATES

When installing directly over a resinous products, such as the Excelsior MM-100 or an epoxy coating, ensure that coating is dry to the touch and has cured for the prescribed length of time. Substrate must be clean, dry, sound and free of contaminates. Ensure to follow installation procedures and trowel sizes for non-porous substrates.

GYPSUM BASED SUBSTRATES

Gypsum-based substrates must have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 PSI. Gypsum substrates that do not meet this requirement must have one coat of the Excelsior MM-100 or equivalent installed to improve the tensile/pull-off strength of the substrate. Substrate must be structurally sound and firmly bonded to subfloor. Any cracked or fractured areas must be removed and repaired with a compatible patch or repair product. Follow instructions for installation over a gypsum substrate. New or existing gypsum substrates may require a sealant or primer. Follow all manufacturers' recommendations regarding preparation for resilient flooring installation.

WOOD SUBSTRATES

Wood substrates must be prepared in accordance with ASTM F1482. Wood subfloors should be of double layer construction with a minimum thickness of 1". Crawl spaces beneath wood subfloors shall be in compliance with local building ventilation codes and have at least 18" of cross-ventilated space between the ground and the joists. Wood joists should be spaced on not more than 16" centers. Prior to installation, moisture retardant sheathing with a maximum rating of 1.0 perm must be installed beneath the wood subfloor, overlapped at least 8". For standard installations, use Underlayment Grade plywood with a minimum thickness of 1/4" thick and a fully sanded surface. When floors may be subjected to moisture, use an APA approved exterior grade plywood.

Other wood subfloor materials, such as OSB, lauan, particleboard, chipboard or cementitious tile backer boards, are not acceptable substrates. Avoid preservative-treated and fire-retardant plywood, as some may be manufactured with resins or adhesives that may cause discoloration or staining of the flooring. Do not install flooring directly over solid or engineered hardwood flooring without first installing plywood or a suitable cementitious repair product at a minimum thickness of 1/4" over the hardwood flooring.

Wood subfloor deflection, movement, or instability will cause the flooring installations to release, buckle or become distorted. As such, do not use plastic or resin filler to patch cracks. Do not use cement or rosin coated nails and staples or solvent-based construction adhesives to adhere the plywood. Do not install on a sleeper system (wood subfloor system over concrete) or directly over Sturd-I- Floor panels.

METAL SUBSTRATES

Metal substrates must be thoroughly sanded/ground and cleaned of any residue, oil, rust and/or oxidation. Substrate must be smooth, flat and sound prior to installation. When installing in areas that may be subject to topical water or moisture and/or high humidity, an anti-corrosive coating must be applied to protect metal substrate. Contact a local paint or coating supplier for coating recommendations. Install flooring material within 12 hours after sanding/ grinding to prevent re-oxidation. Any deflection in the metal floor can cause a bond failure between the adhesive and the metal substrate. Ensure to follow installation procedures and trowel sizes for non-porous substrates.

EXISTING FLOORING SUBSTRATES

The suitability of existing flooring as a substrate depends on the specific requirements of the adhesive being used to install the material. As such, refer to the adhesive requirements for existing flooring substrates and ensure all adhesive requirements and guidelines are followed.

RADIANT HEATING SUBSTRATES

Recycled rubber flooring products are not recommended for use over radiant heating systems.

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4. CRACKS, JOINTS & VOIDS

All cracks, joints and voids, as well as the areas surrounding them, must be clean and free of dust, dirt, debris and contaminants. All minor cracks and voids 3/64" wide or less may be repaired with a suitable cementitious patch.

Due to the dynamic nature of concrete slabs, manufacturer cannot warranty installations to cover expansion joints, cracks or other voids (such as control cuts, saw joints and moving cracks or voids) wider than 3/64". Do not install flooring directly over any expansion joints or cracks wider than 3/64".

All expansion joints should have a suitable expansion joint covering system installed to allow expansion joint to freely move. To treat expansions joints where an expansion joint covering system can't be installed or to treat through cracks (depth at least 75% of the thickness of the concrete), chase joint or crack with a suitable saw or grinder and open to a minimum width of 1/4". Be sure to clean all dust, dirt and debris from crack. Joints and cracks should then be sealed with a suitable, elastomeric caulk (such as Ardex Ardiseal Rapid Plus, Mapei P1 SL or equivalent) designed for use in expansion joints. Install a closed- cell backer rod at prescribed depth and follow caulk manufacturer's instructions for installation. Ensure surface is troweled flush with surface of concrete.

To treat other cracks and voids (such as control cuts, saw-cut joints and surface cracks) over 3/64", chase joint or void with a suitable saw or grinder and clean all dust, dirt and debris from crack. Fill entire crack with a rigid crack filler (such as Ardex Ardifix, CMP CM10 or equivalent) designed for use in control or saw-cut cuts. Follow material manufacturer's instructions for installation. Ensure surface is troweled flush with surface of concrete.

Consult a structural engineer prior to treating any crack or joint, especially those that may affect structural integrity (such as expansion joints). Review all manufacturer installation instructions and/or consult manufacturer technical staff for all crack or joint filling products prior to treating joints and cracks.

5. INTERLOCKING INSTALLATION

Ensure substrate is suitably prepared prior to installation, as manufacturer is not responsible for substrates that have not been properly prepared and tested for moisture. Indoor installations of interlocking tile are recommended to be loose-lay without adhesive. All outdoor installations of interlocking tile require a full spread of the approved adhesives above; use square edge tile installation instructions for these installations.

Ensure substrate is clean, dry and sound prior to installation. Square installation area using the 3-4-5 squaring rule or similar method to ensure acceptable installation and establish initial installation starting line. Some flooring products, colors and textures have latent and acceptable color and shade variations. Dry-lay material prior to installation to verify that there are no visible defects, damages or excessive shading variations. For larger installations, material should be blended between cartons and pallets to ensure a uniform appearance. If there are concerns regarding shade or color variation, do not install material and consult sales agent and manufacturer's technical staff.

Whenever possible, avoid installing flooring seams directly over seams in the substrate. Borders and perimeter pieces should be no less than 1/2" the width of the tile and should be no less than 1/8" from the wall, depending on depth of wall base or trim, to allow for expansion. Borders and other specialty cut tiles should be undercut to fit snugly, not tightly, against thresholds, transition strip, fixtures, door jambs or other obstacles; forcing incorrectly sized tiles into smaller areas will cause the tile to buckle.

Roll material with a 3 section, 100 lb. to ensure all tiles are properly interlocked, crossing in a perpendicular direction after initial roll. Use a hand roller in areas that cannot be reached with larger roller. Visually inspect installation to ensure that material has not shifted and all seams are tight and flat. To finish open edges of interlocking tile or areas intended to but to another flooring material, use a straight edge to remove male ends of tile and install appropriate finishing accessory.

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6. ICE RINK INSTRUCTION

BestGym may be installed in and around ice rinks; however, certain precautions must be followed to ensure successful installation. Ensure substrate is clean, dry, flat and sound prior to installation – give standing water or condensation time to dry prior to installation. Ensure substrate temperature is above 40° F (4° C) to allow adhesive to properly cure. Do not fill voids between the concrete slab and the ice slab, as this void is necessary for expansion and contraction. When butting directly to ice rink walls or boards, the BestGym may be used to bridge these voids. Due to the oval shape of most ice rinks and arenas, there may be several small cut tiles around the perimeter – ensure all small cut tiles are well adhered. In areas where skate traffic is expected, ensure skate guards are worn to prevent damaging tile.

7. INITIAL MAINTENANCE

Ensure that adhesive has cured for recommended period of time prior to conducting initial maintenance. Remove any protective coverings prior to cleaning. Sweep, dust mop and/or vacuum flooring to remove any dirt, dust or debris.

Mix 2-4 ounces of BestGym NC-900 Cleaner per gallon of clean, potable water. Use a clean mop to apply cleaning solution to floor and let stand for 5-10 minutes. Using a low-speed floor buffer (180 – 360 RPM), buff floor while wet using a 3M 5300 Blue Cleaning Pad. If flooring is heavily soiled, an additional cleaning may be required.

Use an auto-scrubber, wet vacuum or clean mop to remove any and all excess cleaning solution. Rinse area with clean, cool water and allow floor to dry entirely.

Do not use detergents, abrasive cleaners or “mop and shine” type products, as they will dull the finish and sheen of the flooring material. Do not use vacuums that have a beater bar or electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms or no padding, as this may cause discoloration, scratching and loss of sheen.

For further information regarding daily or routine maintenance, please consult the product care & maintenance document or the associated product technical data sheet.

Adhesive Traffic Limits

MS-700 Modified Silane

Foot Traffic: 8-12 Hours

Heavy / Rolling Traffic: 24-48 Hours

Maintenance: 48 Hours

EW-710 Epoxy Wet-Set

Foot Traffic: 8-12 Hours

Heavy / Rolling Traffic: 24-48 Hours

Maintenance: 48 Hours

8. FINISH APPLICATION

Prior to final usage, BestGym must have a protective floor finish installed to ease maintenance. Ensure that initial maintenance has been conducted prior to applying floor finish. Flooring area must be free of dust, dirt, debris, adhesive or cleaning residues, mold release agents and any potential contaminants.

Apply BestGym PF-960 Finisher per the installation instructions in 3-4 coats. Allow each coat to dry completely before apply additional coats. Allow finish to cure for 12 hours prior to allowing foot traffic. For further information regarding finish application, please consult the product care & maintenance document or the associated product technical data sheet.

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9. FLOORING PROTECTION

Protect newly installed flooring with construction grade paper or protective boards, such as Masonite or Ram Board, to prevent flooring damage, especially by other trades. Limit usage and foot traffic according to the adhesive's requirements (see chart below). When moving appliances or heavy furniture, protect flooring from scuffing and tearing using temporary floor protection.

All furniture casters must be made of a soft material and must have a contact point of at least 1" in width to limit indentation and flooring damage. All rolling chairs or seating must have a resilient flooring chair pad installed over the finished floor to protect floor covering. All fixed furniture legs must have permanent felt or soft rubber floor protectors installed on all contact points to reduce indentation. Floor protectors must have a flat contact point of at least 1" in width and must cover the entire bottom surface of the furniture leg.

Ensure all furniture castors and chair legs are clean and free of any and all dirt and debris. Routinely clean chair castors and furniture legs to ensure that dirt or debris has not built up or become embedded in castors or floor protectors. Replace chair castors and floor protectors at regular intervals, especially if they become damaged or heavily soiled.

Place walk-off mats at outside entrances. Ensure mats are manufactured with non-staining backs to prevent discoloration.

10. WARRANTY

The manufacturer provides a 5 Year Limited Warranty. For additional information, contact Greatmats

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