

ROBUS LEATHER

Robus Leather Floor Tiles Installation & Maintenance Instructions

Thank you for choosing Robus leather floor tiles, a natural product, for your décor needs. The nature of this product adds to its beauty, authenticity, and uniqueness. The natural aspect of these tiles may vary in grain, texture, and color adding to the appeal of the floor. Bonded leather floor tiles are a natural product and can absorb moisture. This absorption is called “wicking” in the flooring industry and is prevalent in all natural products such as cork, bamboo, and wood. Please carefully read and follow these instructions. A professional installer with experience working with natural products or sheet vinyl is recommended to install the flooring. The installation instructions are intended for Robus Leather bonded leather floor tile using the direct bond installation method. Installation instructions are solely intended for flooring applications. Always follow the recommended instructions and check www.robust.com for the latest updates. Robus Leather is not responsible for improper installation. Failure to follow installation instructions will void warranty on any Robus floor tile produced including:



Robus Leather Floor Tile Storage

- Robus Leather tiles should be stored in a clean, dry, and well-ventilated area. Temperature of storage area should be 65° - 90°F with a relative humidity of 25 - 50%.
- Robus Leather tiles are packed in cardboard cartons in either 40 square feet (10 tiles) or 100 square feet (25 tiles) All tiles in the carton are protected with a thin PVC shrink-wrap. If product arrives on a skid, please keep all cartons on skid until needed.
- Never store Robus Leather tiles outside, including extended periods of time inside truck trailers.
- Robus Leather is not responsible for damage caused by improper storage.

Pre-Installation Preparation and Acclimation

- Temperature of the job site should be 65° - 90°F with a relative humidity of 25 - 50%. Installation area should be clean and dry.
- Remove tiles from carton and shrink-wrap and allow tiles to acclimate for at least 72-hours in the installation area. Stack tiles with the finish side facing up. Do not stack over 15 tiles high.
- **Check all tiles thoroughly before installation.** Inspect tiles in a well-lighted area to ensure consistency in grain, shade, and color. Robus Leather tiles are a natural product containing fine leather fibers and natural latex. Tiles may shrink slightly or expand with changes in the temperature and humidity. It is imperative to check the size of each tile. Tiles that are slightly smaller or larger (1/16 inch or less) can be used for cuts around the wall, door, or other protrusions. **Do not install tiles if there is an extreme variation.**

Tip (optional) - Due the natural properties of bonded leather, some small burring can develop on the unfinished edge of the tile before installation. To remove the burs, take a 1-inch sanding block to smooth down the unfinished back edge of the tile. A smooth edge will create the best seam. Do not use the sanding block on the finished side of the tile.

- Check the dye lot number on the carton. It is not recommended to mix tiles from different dye lots.
- When installing leather tiles, you should work from multiple cartons.

Surface Preparation

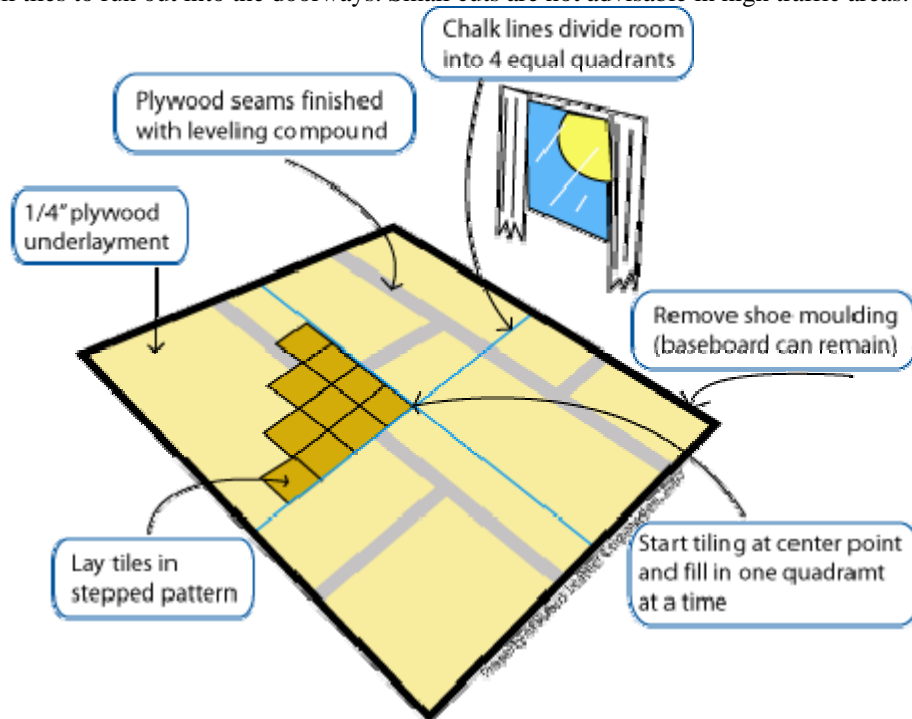
- Tiles may be installed on a wood sub-floor (plywood or approved APA wood underlayment) or cured concrete slab. For wood sub-floor installations, make sure that all joints are sturdy, flat, and remove or nail down any loose boards.
- On concrete slabs, testing for vapor emissions in accordance with the anhydrous calcium chloride ASTM test method 1869-98 is advisable. Also, test alkalinity; pH levels higher than 9 need corrective measures. Moisture emissions over three pounds per 1000 S. F. in 24 hours need corrected. Do not install tiles until corrective actions are complete.
- New concrete slabs should be fully cured (90 days minimum) and should be above 65°, but should not be over 90°F. Remove any foreign matter, dust, oil, paint, glue, grease, paint, and efflorescence from the surface. All holes and crevices must be filled and joints sanded to ensure a smooth substrate. Level, sand, and clean the floor. Sweep or vacuum all dust from the floor before installation.
- Installation over radiant heat systems may cause problems and is not recommended without special presentation.

Tile Installation & Adhesive Application

Recommended Tools and Supplies: Utility knife, straightedge, 1/16"x1/16"x1/16" notched trowel, tape measure, damp cloth, 100-150 lb. floor roller, and a 24" Vinyl Composition Tile cutter (optional).

- Use only Robus Brand Adhesive for installation. Robus Brand Adhesive is packaged in one-gallon pail and four-gallon pails (150sf/ gallon spread rate). Robus will not be responsible for improper installation with other adhesives.
- Temperature for the adhesive must be 65° - 90°F with a relative humidity of 25 - 50%.
- Divide the room into sections so that the tiles can be laid starting from the center of the room. (Figure 1) Be sure to allow for full tiles to run out into the doorways. Small cuts are not advisable in high traffic areas.

Figure 1



- Robus leather tile graining is not designed to match; therefore, a one-quarter-turn tile installation is recommended to add character and appeal to each room.

- Use a 1/16”x1/16”x1/16” notched trowel to apply a thin coat of Robus Brand Adhesive onto the substrate. Spread the adhesive at a perpendicular angle and use the notched edge to form setting ridges. Allow enough open time for the adhesive to develop tack. (The open time may range from 15 to 50 minutes depending upon room temperature, humidity, and airflow). During this open time, the moisture will “wick” or evaporate from the adhesive. The “tacky” feeling occurs when the ridges of the adhesive are sticky to the finger (Figure 2), but your finger does **not** dent or disturb the ridge marks (Figure 3) made by the notched trowel. **The adhesive should not be totally dry.**



Figure 2



Figure 3

- Tiles need to be placed by reflecting or angling the tiles backwards as they are laid. This will help push the air out from under the tiles as they lay down.
- Lay tile next to the adjacent tile to make a snug seam. **Do not jam or force seams together.** After tile is in place, use your hand to smooth, especially along the edges.
- To fit partial tiles, lay the tile to be cut exactly over the last full tile, place another full tile against the wall and make the cutting line where they overlap (Figure 4). Make the cut using a utility knife or 24” Vinyl Composition Tile Cutter. Make sure the cut edge of the tile is against the wall to ensure the factory finished edges are next to each other. To fit tile around door jambs, pipes or other protrusions, cut a paper pattern to fit, and trace it on the face of a tile.
- Avoid getting adhesive on top of the tile. If adhesive is on the tile, immediately wipe off with a damp cloth. **Do not scrub the tile.** If the adhesive is not wiped off immediately, then wait for the adhesive to dry completely. Use your thumb to gently roll the adhesive off the surface of the tile. Do not use any harsh detergents or cleaners to remove adhesive from the uncoated tile.
- Approximately 20-30 minutes after the tiles are set thoroughly roll the floor with a 100lb to 150lb floor roller. (Figure 5)

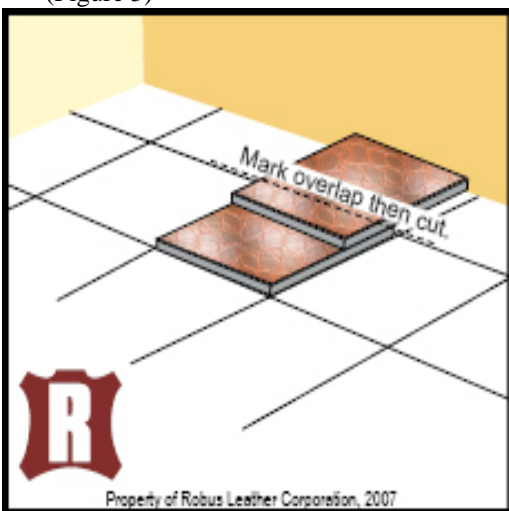


Figure 4

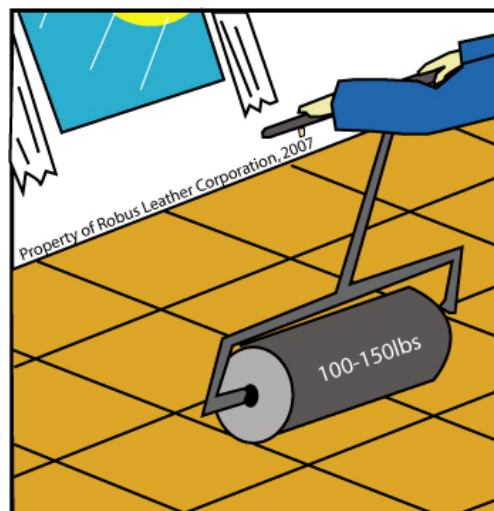


Figure 5

Protective Coating & Sealant Application

Recommended Tools and Supplies: Clean unused short nap roller, metal tray, and eight (8) oz seam adhesive applicator (optional).

- Use only Robus Brand Coating and Sealant for installation. Robus will not be responsible for improper installation with other sealants.
- Before applying sealant, remove any dust, adhesive, or debris from the unfinished tiles. You may use a damp soft cloth to wipe the uncoated tiles.
- The first coat of the protective sealant should be applied 24-72 hours after the tiles are set.
- The normal coverage rate for the product is 125 S.F. per quart depending upon thickness of application.
- Open the sealant and place contents of hardener bottle proportionally into sealant container. Replace cap tightly. Shake vigorously for 60 seconds. Allow product to stand for 5-10 minutes before applying.
- The protective sealant/hardener mixture must be used within six (6) hours after mixed. Product properties are diminished after six (6) hours. The finish and hardener can only be mixed one time.
- Start at an outside wall and apply sealer evenly using a short nap roller. Do not allow the wet edge of the application to dry. **To prevent lapping and dry marks, use the recommended coverage. Do not spread the sealant too thin.**
- Allow sealant to dry to touch (about 2 - 3 hours). Make sure the floor can be walked on without tracking.

Tip (optional) - Between the first and second coating application, check all seams. If there are any open seams, take an eight (8) oz seam adhesive applicator and fill with sealant/hardener mixture. Fill any open seams with the sealant so that they will bond and seal together. Use a clean soft cloth to wipe up excessive sealant. Allow the sealant to dry before applying the second coat

- Apply a second coat of sealant within 48 hours of the first coat. Allow floor to cure for 48 hours. A third coat may be applied for extra protection.
- Curing time may vary due to temperature and humidity. Complete curing time is seven days. Most applications can be walked on after 24 hours, and furniture can be replaced after 48 hours. The longer the surface is traffic free, the harder it will get.

Maintenance

- Maintain and clean tiles by using a damp cloth or a damp mop. Never use harsh detergents. Mild detergents can be used gently to get up sticky spills. Ammonia, wax, cleaners, and polishes are strictly forbidden.
- Clean tiles and reapply sealer annually or as needed.
- Repair to edges or seams can be made using contact cement.

For questions please visit www.robust.com or call (317) 704-7022 (Monday-Friday 8am-5pm EST)

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