

# GREATMATS

## Leather PVC Floor Tiles Installation Instructions

All vinyl flooring expands with heat and contracts in the cold. Vinyl tile should be installed between 68 and 98 degrees F. Any colder and the tile could be 1/16-inch smaller than when it was produced. Consequently, when the temperature changes from 45 to 105 degrees F, a floating vinyl floor installed within a garage with 10 tiles across by 20 tiles long will expand 5/8 inch on one side and 1-1/4 inch on the other. On the other hand, if you install the tile at 20 or 110 degrees and it never changes more than 20 degrees one way or the other, the project will not expand or contract enough that anyone would notice. If a floor buckles or shows gaps there is only one reason, it could not expand or contract as one interlocked floor.

### Installation Methods

There are three methods used to install vinyl flooring:

- Floating: flooring is not bonded to the substrate by any adhesive.
- Full Spread: means the adhesive is troweled over the entire substrate.
- Perimeter Adhered: means the adhesive is only applied to the outside edge of the flooring and at the seams. We never recommend this type of installation.

### Substrate

The surface on which the vinyl flooring will be laid is called the substrate. You can install over wood, concrete, old vinyl or any solid surface. It is important that the subfloor be clean and level. This helps to ensure your new vinyl flooring will be beautiful and well supported.

If you have cracks or gaps larger than 1/4 inch, we recommend you fill them with plastic cement or concrete and wood filler on plywood floors. Tile will conform to the substrate whatever that looks like. Any bumps or dips you left under the tile will be mirrored in the finished project.

### Preparation

Subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation.

- Leave a 1/4-inch gap around all edges, poles, cabinets, garage doors, railings, or anything that will stop the flooring from expanding or contracting.
- When installing baseboard, keep above the 1/4-inch gap.
- Do NOT lay over any type of carpet.
- Seal or remove paint before installation.
- Scrape or sand off old glue.

## Leather PVC Floor Tiles Installation Instructions - continued

- Plywood floors will need a sealer: use two coats of silicone before installation.
- Radiant Heat Floors: turn on the heat while installing.
- Wet areas with plywood floors or rough surfaces: lay down a plastic liner before installing tiles, we recommend 7 mm garden plastic.

### When you should glue the floor tiles:

Question: I thought this was a floating floor?

Answer: It is in most cases but there are exceptions.

Question: What glue should I use?

Answer: Any VCT floor tile adhesive. Follow the directions on the label and remember thinner is best, you do not want the glue coming up through the seams.

- South facing garage windows
- Owner keeps the garage door open a lot and for long periods during the day.
- Garages where heavy material or weight will sit on the tile for an extended period, for example cars that do not move.
- Anywhere you want a waterproof installation.
- Warehouse where fork lifts or heavy loads on small wheels will be used.
- Anywhere you want to control expansion or contractions.

### Before you start:

- Check the batch codes, the smaller sticker on the front edge of the box. Are they the same? If not, do not install. It is impossible to make exactly the same thing twice. We can normally get so close that the eye can't detect a difference, but not always.
- Remeasure, make sure you have purchased enough for the same reason stated above. If you have to order more it may not be exactly the same.
- Existing baseboards and/or moldings have to be removed prior to wall-to-wall installation.

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