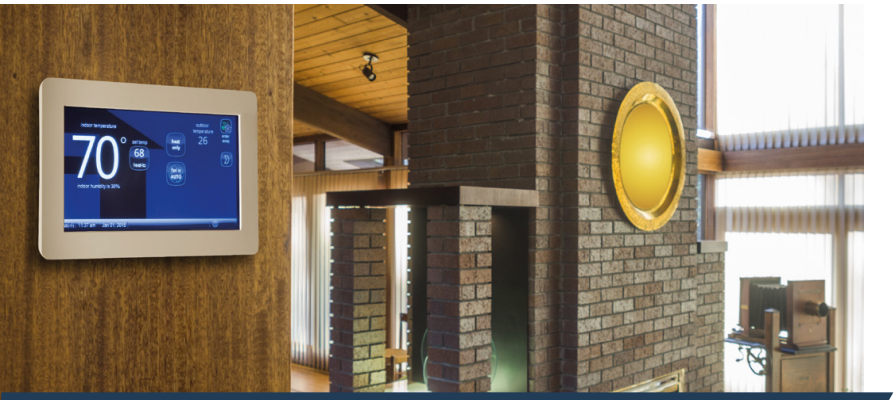
# GLUE DOWN FLOORS

Key Installation Guidelines for Performance & Longevity



## Installation Environment

### Controlled Climate Conditions

Modern flooring is intended for indoor use under controlled climate conditions. Maintaining normal room conditions is essential.

**Remedy:** Ensure windows and doors are installed before starting. An **HVAC system** must be fully operational before, during, and after installation. If climate control is limited, select flooring less affected by environmental changes.

### Acclimation

Acclimation is the process of adjusting flooring materials to the installation environment's temperature. Sudden changes from hot to cold (or vice versa) often cause product failures. Recommended: **65–80˚F** temperature, **35–55% RH**, surface temp **65–80˚F**.

**Remedy:** Maintain stable jobsite climate and store materials in those conditions until acclimated. Opt for flooring more resistant to temperature fluctuations.

### Moisture

Many floorcovering products are affected by subfloor moisture. From loss of adhesive bond to edges curling up. Excessive moisture must be reduced. This can include moisture from the substrate and topical moisture. **Common:** 80% RH, 10lbs CA.

**Remedy:** Test by checking the crawl space for plastic sheeting, use a 6mil poly sheet under the flooring, choose a floorcovering less suceptible. Moisture testing equipment can be used to measure before installation.

### Mix Products & Visually Inspect

It is important to work out of several cartons at a time. This helps avoid excessive pattern repeat. Visually inspect installed material from different angles in suitable lighting.

**Remedy:** Work out of several cartons, mix product and inspect in suitable lighting.

***READ & FOLLOW THE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS***

Read all the instructions prior to starting your proyect.
Planning ahead can avoid flooring failures.
The producct manufacturer knows their products tolerances better than the installer. Products can vary wildly.
When products change and evolve, an installer needs to change also.

# Installation Procedures

## Floor Flatness

Most flooring products require specific flatness tolerances. Use a straight edge to detect depressions and humps—these can cause seam movement, gapping, and uneven surfaces.

**Common tolerance:** 3/16" in 10', 1/8" in 6'.

**Remedy:** Check floor flatness using a straight edge, string, or laser. Grind high spots and fill low areas with approved substrate.

## Porosity

Porosity is important to determine. Some adhesives will not bond to a non-porous substrate. The trowel's notch and adhesive coverage will depend on porosity.
A highly porous substrate will require more adhesive and often requires sealing to reduce porosity.

**Remedy:** A porosity test takes only a few seconds and is free. Drop several dime sized drops of water on the substrate. If they bead up and do not penetrate within a couple minutes, the surface is non-porous.

**Note:** Many people assume all concrete is porous. It is not. Often the finishing or applied sealers will create a non-porous surface.

# Adhesive & Trowel

## Correct Adhesive

The right adhesive is critical. Using the wrong adhesive can result in catastrophic failure. In some cases the wrong adhesive will not simply "not bond" but will ruin the flooring. In some cases the adhesive needs to be strong enough to hold the product in place.

**Remedy:** Check the installation instructions every time to make sure you choose the correct adhesive.

## Open Time

Most adhesives have a manufacturer recommended open time; in other words, how long the adhesive can remain open and still work.

**Remedy:** Follow the manufacturers recommendations.

## Flash Time

Flash time is the time it takes for the moisture to dissipate from the adhesive.

**Remedy:** Follow the manufacturers recommendations.
Place your finger lightly into the adhesive to see if it transfers to your finger or there is no transfer. Different adhesives have a different requirements for bonding.

## Correct Trowel

A trowel is a metering device for applying adhesive. The notches are designed by the adhesive manufacturer to privde the correct amount and correct displacement of the adhesive. Trowel notches can be square, V-Shape or rounded.

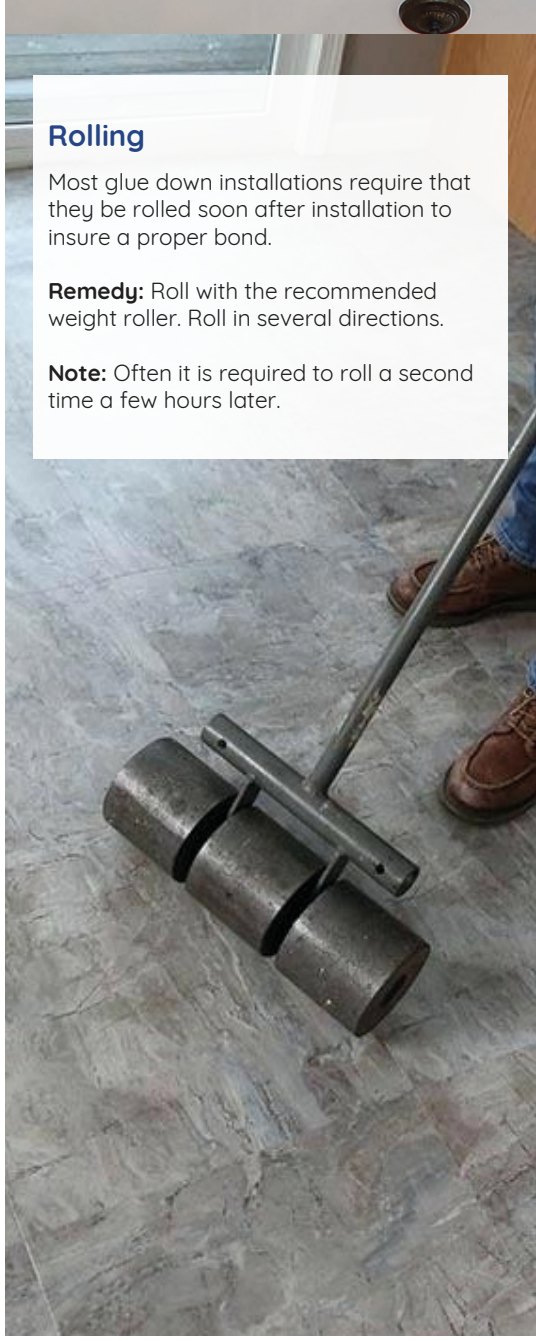
**Remedy:** Follow the manufacturers adhesive manufacturers recommendation, pay attention to spacing, depth and width of notch.

## Rolling

Most glue down installations require that they be rolled soon after installation to insure a proper bond.

**Remedy:** Roll with the recommended weight roller. Roll in several directions.

**Note:** Often it is required to roll a second time a few hours later.



## Notch Definition

Since trowels are drug across the substrate, the notches can become worn down. When worn down they are no longer metering on the correct amount of adhesive.

**Remedy:** Check trowel nothces often, replace or re-notch worn down trowels.