

Installation Guidelines for *Sound Solution* in Tile Applications

Sound Solution is not intended for use as a crack suppression membrane

Adhesive choice:

Sound Solution H.P.A., High Performance Underlayment Adhesive is designed to adhere Sound Solution Premium Acoustical Underlayment to the sub-floor. This specially formulated adhesive is easy to spread, easy to clean-up, and has low VOC content. It can be used on most commonly found sub-floors. The excellent re-bond characteristic helps to minimize call backs from “popping” or “hollow spots”. *Sound Solution H.P.A.* ensures a strong, water resistant bond. The formula is freeze-thaw stable and non-hazardous.

Alternatively, many major flooring adhesive manufacturers can recommend adhesives from their line that they have tested with Sound Solution underlayment. Prior to the start of the installation the installer must determine that the chosen adhesive(s) as well as job-site conditions meet or exceed all applicable standards of the wood flooring manufacturer and Healthier Choice. Installation of hardwood flooring should be one of the last jobs of any construction project.

Site Conditions:

The building should be completely enclosed. All outside doors and windows should be properly installed with latching mechanisms in place.

Landscaping should be sufficiently completed to direct water away from the building. Gutters and downspouts should be in place.

All concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall and other wet work should be completed and thoroughly dry prior to beginning the installation. Texturing and paint primer coats should be completed. Where possible the installation of the base molding should not take place until after the flooring has been installed.

Adequate ventilation should be available. The HVAC system for the building should be operational. The flooring should not be exposed to extremes of temperature, humidity or moisture. The installation site should have a consistent temperature of at least 65 F (air and sub-floor and humidity levels should be between 35-55% for a minimum of 72 hours prior to and following the installation.

Basements and crawl spaces should be dry and adequately ventilated. Sub-floors must be checked for moisture content and emissions using industry accepted methods. Crawl spaces should meet local building codes regarding minimum heights, cross ventilation and the use of vapor retarders.

Sub-floors must be free from dust, dirt, grease, wax, curing agents, sealers, oil and any other bond inhibiting substances. The sub-floor should be level within 3/16” in 10’ or 1/8” in 6’.

Concrete must be dry with moisture emission rates that do not exceed 3 lbs/1000 sq ft/24 hrs as measured by the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test (ASTM-F-1869-98). Concrete surface pH must not exceed 9. Before moisture testing begins, the slab must be cured for a minimum of 30 days. Fill low areas with a cementitious leveling compound or latex milk additive latex patch with a minimum 3,000 psi compressive strength. Leveling compounds must be tested to ensure they are properly cured and within the manufacturer’s specified requirements before proceeding with the installation. Mechanical surface profiling is the preferred sub-floor preparation method. Mechanically profile the sub-floor to medium-grit sandpaper texture. Sanding or scouring with open paper or a titanium disk is preferred. Remove curing and parting compounds and other surface hardeners and floor coatings according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Lightweight or acoustical concrete, less than 3,000 psi, must be primed with a compatible primer.

For Wood Joist Systems the sub-flooring should be structurally sound, free of loose panels or boards, and free of protruding fasteners. Moisture content should be within normal industry standards. Underlayment panels should be fastened according to the manufacturer’s specifications. All panel seams should be sanded level and prepared according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Minimum sub-flooring should conform with industry standards applicable to the particular tile flooring being installed.

SOUND SOLUTION INSTALLATION:

1. Roll out the *Sound Solution* cushion and trim to fit the floor leaving no gaps around the perimeter of the room. *Sound Solution* should be laid at right angles to the wood flooring’s direction. **For installation under Tile, Sound Solution should be installed with the fabric side up and the foam side down. This may require flipping over the underlayment from the way it unrolls.**
2. Pull back one half of the “cut-in” piece(s).
3. If using *Sound Solution High Performance Underlayment Adhesive*, apply with the recommended trowel. (See below) Allow 10-20 minutes open time before placing *Sound Solution* into the adhesive. If sub-floor is non-porous a longer open time will be required.* NOTE: *Sound Solution* is a non-porous, waterproof membrane. Consideration must be given to the initial “open time” of the adhesive to avoid trapping water under the *Sound Solution*. Temperature and relative humidity will determine the actual amount of open time needed and the adhesive’s working time. A 100% adhesive transfer rate to *Sound Solution* is required. If proper transfer is not achieved, remove dried adhesive and reapply the adhesive with the recommended trowel allowing the appropriate open time before proceeding. Floor fans or blowers can be used to reduce the necessary open time of the adhesive.
4. If using an alternative adhesive to adhere *Sound Solution* to the sub-floor, modify step 3 as necessary to conform to the

adhesive manufacturer's recommendations. . Consideration must be given to the initial "open time" of the adhesive to avoid trapping water under the *Sound Solution*. Temperature and relative humidity will determine the actual amount of open time needed and the adhesive's working time. A 100% adhesive transfer rate to *Sound Solution* is required. If proper transfer is not achieved, remove dried adhesive and reapply the adhesive with the recommended trowel allowing the appropriate open time before proceeding. Floor fans or blowers can be used to reduce the necessary open time of the adhesive.

5. Roll completed installation with a 35lb. three-section roller in a north-south direction and then in an east-west direction to ensure adequate seating into the adhesive. Do not use a roller heavier than 35 lbs.
6. Seams should be butted together leaving no gaps or overlaps. If installing the underlayment on concrete, or below grade sub-floors, be sure to tape the seams together with two inch packing tape (for added moisture protection).
7. *Sound Solution High Performance Underlayment Adhesive* achieves a firm set in 8-10 hours. Light traffic can be allowed after this time. Heavy traffic should be restricted for a minimum of 12 hours. If wood flooring is not to be installed on the same day, take care to protect the cushion from damage by using plywood panels or other means until the wood flooring can be installed.

MATERIALS:

Sound Solution acoustical underlayment

Sound Solution H.P.A. High Performance Adhesive for underlayment or equivalent (to bond Sound Solution underlayment to the sub-floor).

TILE INSTALLATION:

1. Contact Thin set manufacturer for specific recommendation of thin set to be used for the application.
2. Follow tile flooring manufacturer's instructions for layout, installation and any special installation precautions.

NOTE: *Sound Solution* is a relatively non-porous, waterproof membrane, which must be considered relative to adhesive drying time. Temperature and relative humidity will also impact the actual amount of open time needed and the adhesive's working time.

TROWEL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Sound Solution to sub-floor: 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square or 'U' notch (150-180 sq. ft./gal)

*Determining whether the sub-floor is porous is the responsibility of the user. You can check the sub-floor is porous if the water is absorbed within a few seconds. If the water beads and is not absorbed within a few seconds the sub-floor is non-porous.