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## 1. Introduction

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**SportFLOOR™ DécorTile** is manufactured in a dual layer format. The top layer consists of a coloured virgin blend rubber with a 10% accent colour marbled pattern, calendered and vulcanized to a bottom layer of SBR recycled rubber. The slip-resistant, textured finish, top wear layer is very durable and provides a non-porous, safe, resilient floor finish.

- Available in a standard square tile which ideally is glued down, or can be loose laid or installed in an interlocked format.
- Designed to be used in gyms, hotels, arenas, schools, ski resorts, military bases, fitness centers, community centres or residential buildings.
- Manufactured of high quality materials and carefully inspected before shipment, however, a quality installation is the responsibility of the installer. The installer needs to verify the accuracy of the order, and materials need to be inspected for damage, defects and satisfactory colour match prior to installation.

An authorized **SportFLOOR™** distributor shall be notified of any nonconformance before installation and final adhesive application.

***DécorTile is designed for interior installations only and is not recommended for environments where the product will be exposed to oils or petroleum based materials.***

## 2. Handling & Storage of Materials

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Receive tiles in a careful manner to avoid any damage. Adhesives or surface preparation product containers shall be unbroken and labels intact until time of use. Prevent damage or contamination to materials by water, moisture, freezing, excessive heat, foreign matter or other causes.

**SportFLOOR™ DécorTile** should be stored on site with adhesives, etc., for at least 48 hours prior to installation (extreme cold or hot conditions may require additional time). Tiles should be removed from pallets and any loading/shipping constraint pressures be removed in order to acclimatize to room conditions.

Work from all other trades must be complete, especially overhead trades, before installation can begin.

Caution is required on site, as under no circumstances should the tiles be left bent, folded, stepped on or crushed, as this may destroy the material.

***Rubber tiles are susceptible to dimensional changes due to temperature and climate conditions. It is vital that site conditions remain constant within the acceptable working range.***

**Avoid exposure to direct sunlight as UV rays can alter appearance of coloured rubber.**

## 3. Installation Materials

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- a) **SportFLOOR™ DécorTile**
- b) Adhesive – recommended **SportFLOOR™ Solvent-Free Adhesive (one or two component urethane)** or other approved solvent free adhesive.
- c) Tools.
  - sharp utility knife & spare blades
  - carpenter square & straight edge
  - measuring tape
  - chalk line (for layout)
  - markers (to indicate cut lines)
  - rubber gloves
  - safety glasses
  - 3/32" square notch trowel
  - 75 lbs (min) sectional roller
  - 2" masking tape (to secure seams)
  - concrete blocks (for weighting irregular areas)
  - Kraft paper (to protect flooring from blocks)

## 4. Sub-Floor Preparation

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The installation of any resilient rubber flooring is only as good as the sub floor it is laid upon. This is especially true when the flooring is glued down. Rough and uneven sub floors can diminish the appearance, cause uneven top surfaces and shorten the life span of such flooring. We therefore recommend proper preparation of such sub floors as follows:

### Wood Floors

- New wood sub floors should be CDX exterior plywood installed smooth side up.
- All nails, staples or screw fasteners must be caulked and surface sealed with epoxy sealant.
- Plywood should be acclimatized for a 48-hour period prior to installation of flooring tile.
- All wood sub floors must be clean and dry of all dust, dirt, and previous floor finishes.
- Patch cracks, holes, and rough or uneven areas with an appropriate cement based leveling compound (such as Mapei Planipatch, etc) to manufacturers' standards.

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## Concrete Floors

- Ensure sub floor is smooth and level to a tolerance of 3.2mm (1/8 in) in 1.8m (6 ft).
- Ensure concrete floors have cured for minimum 6 weeks.

**It is vital that a moisture test be completed prior to floor installation. Moisture is the single most significant factor that causes bonding failure to the sub-floor. Moisture tests must be taken on all concrete floors regardless of age and grade level.**

1. Test shall be in accordance with ASTM F-1869 Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Sub-floor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride.
  2. One test should be conducted for every 1000 sqft of flooring and the results not exceed 3 lbs per 1000 sqft in 24 hours.
  3. If test results exceed limitations or hydrostatic pressure exists, the installation must not proceed until the problem has been corrected or an approved vapor barrier underlayment is installed.
- Ensure existing concrete floors are clean, dry and smooth.
  - Remove any wax, paint, varnish, adhesive or any other material that would prevent proper bonding of adhesive.
  - Repair any low spots with a cementitious based latex patch mix.
  - Fill and smooth any rough or porous concrete sub-base prior to installing flooring.
  - If concrete sealers (not recommended) have been applied, two-part solvent-free floor adhesive must be used.

## Concrete Floors with Radiant Heating System

- Floor surface temperature must not exceed 24°C (75°F) during normal operation.

## 5. Cutting SportFLOOR™ DécorTile

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**SportFLOOR™ DécorTile** can be cut with an utility knife using a straight edge or square as a guide. Round holes can be cut using a hole saw or fine tooth jigsaw.

## 6. Installing SportFLOOR™ DécorTile

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Before work commences, examine the areas to be covered and report any flaws or adverse conditions to the general contractor and/or architect. Do not proceed with installation of **SportFLOOR™ DécorTile** until substrates and conditions comply with the requirements indicated in manufacturer's instructions.

**Room temperatures for installation must be maintained at a minimum 15°C (60°F) to a maximum 24°C (75°F) and a relative humidity 65% or less for at least 48 hours before installation. These conditions must be**

**maintained 24 hours per day for the duration of the installation and for a minimum of 72 hours after installation is complete.**

Dry lay the floor, then view the floor under normal, occupied lighting conditions.

**DécorTile** can be installed in either a loose-laid or glued down application. Loose-laid installations are by owner's choice over hard surface sub-floors only, and gaps between tiles may develop as tiles can shift with use. Shifting of tiles can be minimized with the use of "double-sided" tape strips applied under the tiles around the perimeter of the installation, and under several tiles within the installation.

- Lay flooring in a running bond (staggered) pattern installation with colour accent marbling oriented in the same direction. Lay out to produce a minimum number of seams. Border widths minimum 1/3 width of full material.
- Adjoin factory edge to factory edge of **DécorTile**. Where possible, cut edges should adjoin walls or other vertical surfaces.
- The floor area should be squared by locating the mid-point of the room and chalking a start line down the center of the room. Chalk another similar start line 90 degrees and square to the first one. Begin tile installation from the point where the two chalk lines intersect.

**It is the installer's responsibility to inspect the dry laid installation and notify the appropriate authority of any imperfections or irregularities prior to final adhesive installation.**

- For glued down applications, begin spreading adhesive from the intersection of the chalk lines, and continue down the line in one direction, spreading enough adhesive to install one starting row of tiles. Apply adhesive uniformly using recommended trowel and application rate. Ensure a minimum 85% transfer from the floor to backing of flooring.
- Do not spread more adhesive than can be covered by flooring before initial set takes place (check adhesive for set times).
- Ensure joints are tight. All joints should be secured to prevent gaps, by applying masking tape across joints onto adjoining tiles until adhesive has cured. 300 mm (12 in) long at typical 400 mm (16 in) centres.
- Continue to spread adhesive and install tiles in each direction from the first row of tiles, and make any cuts required to fit up to and around walls and protrusions.
- Lay tiles into fresh adhesive in small sections and roll with a 75 lb (min) sectional roller within 15 minutes of laying to ensure proper adhesive transfer.
- Any excess adhesive appearing on the top surface of the **DécorTile** should be immediately wiped clean with a soft rag soaked in denatured alcohol. Note: Excess adhesive which is allowed to harden on the top surface is nearly impossible to remove without marring the **DécorTile** finish.
- Cut tiles neatly around fixed objects, and to fit irregular and fill-in spaces using a sharp utility knife. Make repeated passes when cutting to ensure straight cuts.

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- Flooring installed around any irregular or sloped surface (i.e., around drains), should be weighted with bricks to ensure proper bonding of flooring to adhesive.
- Continue flooring through areas to receive movable type partitions without interrupting floor pattern.
- Terminate flooring at centerline of door openings where adjacent floor finish or colour is dissimilar.
- Install edge strips at unprotected or exposed edges where flooring terminates.
- Promptly clean adhesive from top surface of tiles using a soft cloth soaked in denatured alcohol.



- Use caution to not damage floor.
- Prevent traffic on flooring for minimum 24 hours after installation.

## 7. Cleaning and Maintenance

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***SportFLOOR™ DécorTile must not be cleaned with any petroleum based cleaners. If any petroleum fuels are spilled on the matting, it should be removed immediately to avoid damage to the matting and voiding of warranty.***

### Initial Cleaning after installation

- For glued down tiles, wait 48 hours (min) after installation before proceeding with floor maintenance.
- For interlocking tiles, initial cleaning can be performed immediately after installation.
- Sweep and vacuum tiles to remove all loose dirt and debris.
- Apply approved floor cleaner diluted with clean water, as per manufacturer's instruction, using a mop. While still wet, scrub floor using a rotary buffing machine equipped with a medium Scotch Brite® pad.
- Work in small areas of floor at a time.
- After scrubbing, remove wet residue using a wet-dry vacuum.
- Damp mop floor with clean water to rinse and repeat wet-dry vacuum.
- Repeat cleaning as required to remove any remaining mold release or sediment.
- Prohibit foot traffic on flooring until area is dry.

### Floor Cleaning and Floor Finish

- Recommended cleaner is TASKI™ Profi® or a similar product.
- **SportFLOOR™ DécorTile** does not require an applied finish, however, if a finish is desired we suggest TASKI™ Wiwax® or a similar product.
- An applied finish may alter the surface characteristic of the floor.

### Regular Maintenance

- **SportFLOOR™ DécorTile** may be cleaned at any time using a damp mop with a PH neutral cleaner diluted with water, and follow immediately to extract any moisture.

### Precautions:

- **SportFLOOR™ DécorTile** must not be cleaned with any petroleum based cleaners. If any petroleum product is spilled on the matting, it should be removed immediately to avoid damage to the matting and voiding of warranty.

## 8. Disclaimer

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- This manual has been prepared to assist purchasers of **SportFLOOR™ DécorTile** Recreational Flooring in the recommended installation procedure. It is a guideline which may be used to produce an effective finished installation and should be reviewed in the context of the installation site(s).
- **North West Rubber Mats Ltd.**, does not warrant any installation work not directly performed by **North West Rubber Mats Ltd.**, and specifically disclaims liability for any direct or indirect personal injury, property damage or other costs or losses resulting from installations or applications by third parties. Please see the **North West Rubber Mats Ltd.**, Limited Warranty for the particulars of warranty coverage relating to **North West Rubber Mats Ltd.**, products.
- **SportFLOOR™ DécorTile** is not to be used for any purpose other than resilient recreational flooring.
- **SportFLOOR™ DécorTile** must only be used in accordance with the manufacturer's published specifications.

### NORTH WEST RUBBER MATS LTD.

33850 Industrial Ave  
Abbotsford, BC V2S 7T9  
Canada

1-800-663-8724

[www.sportfloor.ca](http://www.sportfloor.ca)

[sales@sportfloor.ca](mailto:sales@sportfloor.ca)