

## Installing VCT, LVT, Sheet Vinyl, and Rubber Over Damp Subfloors

Flooring such as VCT, LVT, LVP, SVP, sheet vinyl, rubber, or carpet with vinyl backing can be installed over damp subfloors as long as subfloors are adequately sealed and prepared for the flooring. The subfloor condition and the type of flooring will determine if the floor needs to be leveled.

### Installation Recommendations:

In areas where leveling is NOT REQUIRED to lay the flooring:

1. Spread ERP-270 Perma-Seal with an approved applicator. Do not exceed recommended coverage for the intended application. Let sealer dry overnight (approx. 12-18 hours).
2. Spread D737 Flooring Adhesive with the flooring manufacturer's recommended trowel.
  - i. If open pore flooring (e.g., carpet with jute backing) is to be installed, let the adhesive flash (using wet lay installation method). The adhesive should still transfer to your hand. Then place flooring into the adhesive and roll down with a 75-100# roller to ensure contact.
  - ii. If closed cell flooring (e.g., VCT, LVT, LVP, SVP, Sheet Vinyl, rubber, or carpet with vinyl backing) is to be installed, spread adhesive with the appropriate notched trowel and let the adhesive flash (dry lay or pressure sensitive installation). The adhesive should no longer transfer to your hand when placed on adhesive. Then install flooring and roll with a 75-100# roller to ensure contact.

In areas where leveling is REQUIRED to lay the flooring:

1. Spread ERP-270 Perma-Seal with an approved applicator. Do not exceed recommended coverage for the intended application. Let sealer dry overnight (approx. 12-18 hours).
2. Next, spread ACS-210 True-Seal with foam or short nap roller. Coverage should be around 500 SF/gal. or 1250 SF/pail. Let the primer dry for approx. 1-2 hours until it changes color from milky white to clear. The ACS-210 will provide a bonding surface for the leveling compound.
3. Spread a leveling compound such as STAUF SLC-540, QFF-560 onto ACS-210 and allow to dry.
4. Spread a flooring adhesive such as STAUF D737 with the appropriate trowel.
  - i. If open pore flooring is installed or a closed cell flooring (e.g., VCT, LVT, LVP, SVP, sheet vinyl, rubber, or carpet with vinyl backing) is to be installed over leveling compound >1/8" thick. Let the adhesive flash using wet lay installation method. The adhesive should still transfer to your hand. Then place flooring into the adhesive and roll down with a 75-100# roller to ensure contact.
  - ii. If closed cell flooring is installed over leveling compound <1/8" thick. Spread adhesive with the appropriate notched trowel and let the adhesive flash (dry lay or pressure-sensitive installation). The adhesive should no longer transfer to your hand when placed on adhesive. Then install flooring and roll with a 75-100# roller to ensure contact.

**Note:** As an alternative to Step 1-3, ULC-500 LevelSeal can be spread onto the properly prepared concrete floor after priming with EHS-265 Hyrdo-Seal. Then install floors as described in Step 4.

## **Trowel Selection:**

The flooring manufacturer determines the correct trowel for each flooring type. For example, a leveling compound or abraded concrete is considered a porous subfloor; ERP-270 or a speed troweled/burnished concrete is a non-porous subfloor. In the absence of the manufacturer's recommendations, below are STAUF's minimum requirements for various types of flooring.

### *General Installation:*

- Follow instructions for wet lay or pressure-sensitive application
- STAUF Trowel #1 (1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" Flat V-Notch) up to 170 SF/gal.

### *Exceptions:*

- Carpets with rough backings (felt, fibers, jute, synthetic or action-backed):
  - Follow instructions for wet lay or pressure-sensitive application
  - STAUF Trowel #2 (1/8" x 1/8" x 1/16" Flat V-Notch) up to 90 SF/gal.
- Thin and flexible flooring where trowel ridge pattern might telegraph through the flooring (LVT, LVP, SVP, Sheet Vinyl, or thin rubber flooring) on non-porous subfloors:
  - Follow instructions for pressure-sensitive application
  - STAUF Trowel #9 (1/32" x 1/16" x 1/32" Flat V-Notch) up to 250 SF/gal.
- Thick, heavy, and/or large flooring tiles as well as heavy sports flooring or thick flooring with heavy traffic:
  - Follow instructions for wet lay or pressure-sensitive application
  - STAUF Trowel #15 (3/32" x 3/32" x 3/32" Flat V-Notch) up to 130 SF/gal.

## **Using non-STAUf adhesives or leveling compounds over STAUF sealers:**

If using a non-STAUf leveling compound, make sure it will bond to the STAUF sealer or primer by checking with the manufacturer for their requirements to use their product over acrylic or epoxy sealers and primers. Testing in an inconspicuous area before installation is recommended. STAUF cannot warrant the performance of other manufacturers' products nor their compatibility with STAUF's sealers and primers.

If no leveling is required, a pressure-sensitive or contact adhesive can be spread directly over the STAUF sealer. If not a STAUF product, ensure that the adhesive being used is approved over an acrylic or epoxy-based sealer or primer by checking first with the adhesive manufacturer.

When installing non-porous flooring directly over a sealer, it is essential to let the adhesive flash and become tacky (check with the adhesive manufacturer for flash time) before placing the flooring into the adhesive since it will seal from both sides once the flooring is laid.

Visit [www.staufusa.com](http://www.staufusa.com) for more information, or call Technical Services at (901) 820-0007.