



INSTALLATION / MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES  
INDOOR RUBBER FLOORING INTERLOCKING

*SPORTS MAT FLOORING  
THE EVOLUTION OF RUBBER TILE*



**Four-Side Interlock Loose Lay Installation**



Reg # SCS-FS-02144

**This product has been certified by SCS to meet the rigorous indoor air quality requirements of the FloorScore® certification program.**

The following pages are guidelines only... please read this manual thoroughly before installing FLEXCOURT Recycled Rubber Surfacing products.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section I.....	3
Material Storage & Handling.....	3
General Packaging Information .....	3
On Receipt of merchandise:.....	3
Section II .....	4
Tools & Accessories .....	4
Tools and safety equipment required.....	4
Outside interlocking edges .....	4
Reducer strips .....	4
Section III.....	5
Before Starting the Installation .....	5
Section IV.....	6
Preparation of the Sub-Surface.....	6
Concrete sub-surfaces .....	6
Wooden sub-surfaces.....	6
Section V.....	7
Installation of Interlocking Tiles .....	7
Loose Lay, No Glue Installation.....	7
Section VI.....	9
Cleaning & Maintenance .....	9
1. Daily/Weekly cleaning.....	9
2. Periodic Cleaning .....	9
SECTION VII.....	10
LOGO INFORMATION.....	10
Logo Installation .....	10
SECTION VIII .....	11
WEIGHTS & MEASURES.....	11
GENERAL PACKAGING INFORMATION.....	11
Product Information - Rubber Flooring Tiles:.....	11

# SECTION I

## MATERIAL STORAGE & HANDLING

### *GENERAL PACKAGING INFORMATION*

All FLEXCOURT products are packaged on wooden pallets, covered with a plastic hood, and secured by steel strapping.

### *ON RECEIPT OF MERCHANDISE:*

- A. The product in front of you has gone through several quality assurance checks. However, we recommend that you double check that your order is correct, that no damage occurred during transport, and for any other possible shortcomings. For your own protection, ensure that defective product is identified prior to the start of the installation. Please note that we are not responsible for any installation costs that occur as a result of defective product being installed.
- B. **Storage:** Store tiles in a dry and clean area. Temperature and humidity changes will cause the rubber to expand or contract.
- C. **Installation after short term storage:** At least 24 hours before starting the installation lay out all tiles on the sub-surface to allow them to acclimate. A tile laid in the morning hours at 32°F (0°C) would be a different size than a tile laid at 68°F (20°C) later in the day. Acclimation is complete when the products have reached their specified dimensions. Refer to the Weights and Measures chart at the back of these guidelines. Short term storage should be considered as two weeks or less.
- D. **Installation after prolonged storage:** During prolonged storage, the tiles in the lower portion of the stack will compress to a greater degree than those in the upper portion. This will show as thickness variations in the products taken from the top of the pallet as compared to those on the bottom. Product dimensions (length and width) may also be affected. A longer acclimation time will be required for product that has had a longer storage time. Exactly how long is very difficult to predict but can take upwards of 48 – 72 hours. The product should be taken off the pallet and

distributed throughout the installation area in small piles consisting of three or less tiles. Acclimation is complete when the products have reached their specified dimensions; check length, width, and thickness periodically until the right dimensions have been reached (see the Weights & Measures chart at the back of these guidelines).

- E. It is important to keep a clean working surface at all times. Protect tiles from dust and dirt.
- F. Keep FLEXCOURT rubber surfacing dry. Moisture will cause adhesion problems.
- G. Petroleum distillants (e.g. solvents) as well as liquid animal fats may cause the surface bonding to fail. Test results for other harmful chemicals and compounds are available on request.
- H. Install rubber tile flooring same side up as received. Reversing tiles may result in visible shade differences in finished surface.

### **DO NOT FLIP TILES DURING INSTALLATION.**

## SECTION II

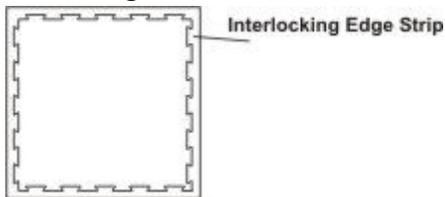
### TOOLS & ACCESSORIES

#### *TOOLS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:*

- FLEXCOURT Installation Guidelines
- Safety glasses
- Heavy duty utility knife – Suggested product: CH Hanson Speed Rocker SS, 3 position, fixed blade knife ([www.chhanson.com](http://www.chhanson.com))
- Measuring tape
- Transit level and Straight edge
- Chalk snap-line
- Carpenter's square

#### *OUTSIDE INTERLOCKING EDGES*

- Regarding interlocking rubber floor tiles, FLEXCOURT includes approximately 10% of the outside edging with every order, unless otherwise requested. For example, edging can be used along walls.



#### *REDUCER STRIPS*

##### Sizes:

- 5/16" – 3/8" (8 mm – 10 mm)
- 1/2" (12 mm)
- All are available in black solid core and 12ft lengths. Attach reducer strip to mats with compatible, non-solvent based adhesive or caulking, e.g. Bull Dog Adhesive PL400.

## SECTION III

### BEFORE STARTING THE INSTALLATION

During storage, rubber tiles must be kept dry, and protected from dust and dirt.

# SECTION IV

## PREPARATION OF THE SUB-SURFACE

Interlocking rubber tiles should not be installed on top of carpet as the tiles will shift apart. The sub-surface must be level, clean, and dry.

### *CONCRETE SUB-SURFACES*

- New concrete sub-floors must be thoroughly cured and free from hydrostatic pressure before rubber tiles are installed (a minimum of 28 days after pour). If existing concrete is too rough, it can be leveled by sanding or applying a cement based leveling compound (patch), allowing a curing time as recommended by the patch manufacturer. Follow manufacturer's installation guidelines.

### *WOODEN SUB-SURFACES*

- New plywood should be acclimatized for a 48-hour period prior to installation of the rubber flooring.
- CDX exterior smooth one side suggested for new wood substrates.
- Secure all nails to prevent future protrusion.
- All wood sub floors must be clean and dry of all dust, dirt, and other materials.
- Any cracks, holes, and rough or uneven areas should be patched with good quality cement based leveling compound.

## SECTION V

### INSTALLATION OF INTERLOCKING TILES

**Important: See Section I, (D) and (E) regarding acclimation of tiles.**

Visually inspect all mats for visible defects. Ensure that defective product is identified prior to the start of the installation, set these aside and notify dealer immediately with information if any defects found.

#### *LOOSE LAY, NO GLUE INSTALLATION*

THIS INSTALLATION METHOD IS FOR INDOOR, COMPLETELY DRY AREAS ONLY.

#### ARRANGING THE TILES

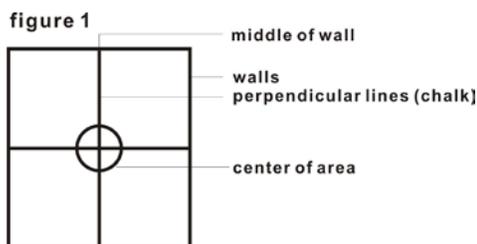
The installer should have all relevant information about the tile arrangement from the owner.

**Note: If installing a logo, see Section VII now.**

Occasionally, uneven distribution of color granules may appear in a tile. This can be rectified by installing it in a less visible area. Install tiles same side up as received, do not flip over.

#### *Method 1) Center room start*

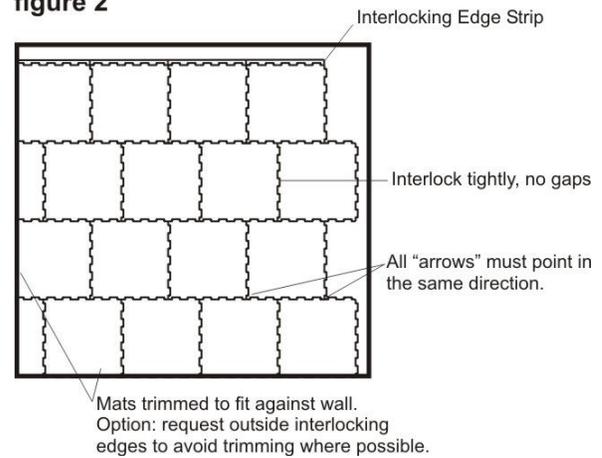
Locate the mid-point of the room, and chalk a start line down the center. Chalk another similar start line 90 degrees and square to the first one. Begin mat installation from the point where the two chalk lines intersect. Work outwards in both directions. (see figure 1).



It is not necessary to stagger the interlocking tiles. However, the staggered method is recommended to avoid four corners from meeting in the same spot. Assure a tight fit by tapping tiles as they are being

installed (see figure 2).

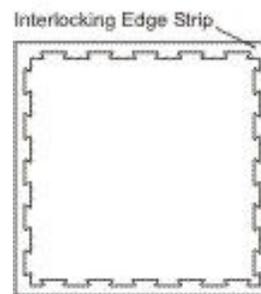
**figure 2**



The interlocking tiles are delivered with outside interlocking edge pieces. The strips can be used to create a finished straight edge (see figure 2a). The other option is to trim off the interlocking tabs.

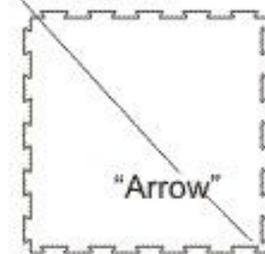
Make sure that all tiles are laid down with the "arrow" pointing in the same direction (see figure 2b).

**figure 2A**



**figure 2B**

All "arrows" must point in the same direction.



#### *Method 2) Corner of room start*

This method may be used for smaller projects. Start in one corner with a full mat, keeping interlocking edge piece on the two adjoining sides that will be against the corner walls. Continue laying one row of full mats across the room, leaving the interlocking edges on the side along the wall. Trim the last mat to fit. Using the trimmed piece, go back to the starting point and start the next row. This will minimize cutting waste. If the final row of mats needs to be cut to fit, the trim pieces will be waste.

**NOTE: Trimmed pieces can only be used in their original orientation, they cannot be flipped to fit in another direction.**

## 2. MEASURING & CUTTING

Lay tile on a flat surface, hold the metal straight edge on the cut line, and cut with sharp utility knife. Keep scoring the cut until separated. Change or snap off blades frequently to ensure clean cuts. For odd angles, circular patterns, etc. a cardboard template is suggested. Join water cut edges together. Hand cut edges should be used against walls wherever possible. Make sure that you measure carefully so that the tile will fit properly and does not leave gaps, resulting in the installation being out of alignment.

### **3. SEALER**

Sealer is not required for all applications, and may not be suitable for use with interlocking tiles. Please contact your sales representative for details.

# SECTION VI

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Typically, FLEXCOURT Rubber Flooring requires less maintenance than other types of flooring. Vacuuming then damp mopping is the preferred method; very little or no detergent is necessary. Change water frequently. Use a mild detergent. Products containing solvents and acids will attack the composite structure of the rubber flooring and cause deterioration. Sealants, waxes, etc. can alter the surface characteristics and appearance. INOFLEX does not assume any responsibility for damages caused by chemical additives.

### 1. DAILY/WEEKLY CLEANING

- Dry vacuum floor thoroughly.
- Damp mop with mild detergent.
- When cleaning equipment/furnishings with disinfectant or other strong cleaners, be careful that overspray or excess cleaner does not drip onto the rubber flooring. Strong

chemicals may cause the surface to deteriorate.

- Periodically moving interlocking tiles from high traffic areas to lower use areas extends the life of the floor.

### 2. PERIODIC CLEANING

The ideal machine to use is one that combines vacuuming, washing, rinsing, and drying, e.g. Rotowash/Taski Combi Plus. If a one step machine is used, these steps should be taken:

- Mix mild detergent with water.
- Use string mop to dampen floor.
- Let solution act for approximately 10 minutes.
- Use scrubber machine with soft brush.
- Use clear water to rinse; change rinse water frequently.

Remove excess water for quicker drying.

# SECTION VII

## LOGO INFORMATION

All logos are assembled at the factory prior to being shipped to insure a precise fit has been achieved. Use care when handling logo pieces to protect from damage or loss.

- Custom logos are packaged depending on logo size.
  - a) One mat logos are usually packaged in a separate box
  - b) Larger logos are packaged on top of the pallet
  - c) Smaller pieces are always packaged separately in either a plastic bag or small box
- Use care when opening the packaging of small logo pieces as they may fall out.
- Refer to Section I, Material Storage & Handling.

### *LOGO INSTALLATION*

1. Confirm required logo location from site drawings or by confirming with building owner.
2. Note location of “arrow” on interlocking pattern to ensure correct orientation of logo in finished floor.

There are two (2) suggested methods for installation after location and orientation have been confirmed.

#### **Method A:**

1. If logo contains many small pieces, we suggest taping them in place on the BACK of the logo

mat.

2. Designate mats(s) from floor area as a “stand-in” for the logo. Place in desired logo location
3. Install surrounding floor as much as possible.
4. When installation is complete, remove “stand-in” and replace with actual logo mats(s). This will ensure a good fit and also protect your logo from dirt and damage during installation.

#### **Method B:**

1. Place logo tile(s) in desired location. Small pieces may be inserted later to prevent loss.
2. Proceed with balance of installation, working outwards from logo tile. Slight adjustments in logo location may be required to minimize cutting waste in other tiles.

**In order to secure logo and prevent vandalism, the following additional step may be followed:**

Remove logo tile(s) from floor carefully and place thin double stick tape in space. Carefully replace logo, complete with all pieces. Press firmly to ensure good contact with tape.



Two Mat Logo



One Mat Logo

# SECTION VIII

## WEIGHTS & MEASURES

### GENERAL PACKAGING INFORMATION

All FLEXCOURT products are packaged on wooden pallets, covered with a plastic hood, and secured by steel strapping.

### PRODUCT INFORMATION - RUBBER FLOORING TILES:

Thickness tolerance of  $\pm 0.5$  mm

Dimensions: 37" x 37" = 9.5 ft<sup>2</sup> (94 cm x 94 cm = 0.88 m<sup>2</sup>)

Thickness	0-29% Color		30-70% Color		51-70% Color		71-100% Color	
	lbs (kg) each	# per pallet						
1/4" (6mm)	16 (7.3)	150	16.5 (7.5)	150	17 (7.7)	140	18 (8.2)	130
5/16" (8mm)	20 (9)	120	21 (9.5)	110	22 (10)	110	24 (10.9)	100
3/8" (10mm)	23 (10.5)	100	25 (11.3)	100	27 (12)	90	30 (13.6)	80
1/2" (12mm)	27 (12)	80	29 (13.2)	80	32 (14.5)	75	36 (16.3)	65

**Pallet** (net weight)

**65 lbs** (29.5 kg)

**Weights and measures may change without notice. All measurements are nominal and subject to variation.**

### DISCLAIMER

The installation guidelines in this manual represent typical installation work procedures. Every site is different and FLEXCOURT does not claim to have covered all possible circumstances.

FLEXCOURT Canada does not warrant installation work and specifically disclaims liability for any direct or indirect personal injury, property damage, and other costs or losses resulting from installations or applications by third parties. Please, see the FLEXCOURT Limited Warranty for the particulars of warranty coverage relating to FLEXCOURT's products.