

General Information

A unique aspect of our leather tiles is the ease of maintenance and the availability of a recycled leather backing material. Most leather tiles require several applications of wax immediately after installation and regular applications of wax throughout their use for adequate protection. Spinneybeck leather tiles never require waxing or regular buffing to maintain their natural beauty and durability. In addition, the recycled leather backing offers dimensional stability for specific types of floor and wall installations that require added reinforcement and a uniform thickness. Our tiles can easily be maintained with regular dusting and spot cleaning with cool water and a soft cloth or the use of approved Spinneybeck leather maintenance products.

Installation Instructions

Leather Tiles need to acclimate on site for a minimum of one to two weeks. In order to provide adequate conditioning, tiles should be removed from the packaging and fanned out against the wall vertically. Since the leather tiles are a natural product, there will be expansion and contraction related to environmental changes in temperature and humidity. As a result, it is best for the tiles to acclimate in an area with low humidity. A moisture content of 8–9% will lessen the amount of spaces that can occur between the tiles after installation. The moisture content can be measured with a moisture meter to determine if the tiles are ready for installation. Expansion and contraction is considered normal and acceptable for this type of natural product. Care should be taken in opening the packaging to prevent damage to the tiles by sharp knives or industrial razor blades. All other construction on the site should be completed before installing the tiles so that the installation area is as clean and free of dust as possible.

Leather tiles are a natural product. When installing, pull tiles from separate boxes so that the tile color variations are more random.

Adhesives

We recommend a water based contact adhesive available through Spinneybeck at \$50 per gallon. Another option is Weldwood Water Based Contact Adhesive. This brand of adhesive is available at Home Depot or Lowes.

Floor Applications

- Tiles can be applied to either finished grade plywood or concrete. Plywood is the recommended choice as it provides a consistent, level surface and reduces moisture issues common with concrete.
- Leather tiles should not be installed on floors with under-floor radiant heating because the rapid temperature changes may cause the tiles to contract and expand at a different rate than the floor surface.
- Plywood needs to be at least 1/2 inch thick if installed over concrete.
- Plywood needs to be 3/4 inch thick if it's the only sub-flooring

- Counter sink the screws to attach plywood. Fill screw holes, voids and joints with Ardex Feather Finish, or an industrial grade plastic wood compound and sand the surface so that it is completely smooth and even.
- To ensure adequate adhesion, thoroughly mix the adhesive to an even consistency and apply the first coat to the entire surface of the backside of the tiles with a paint brush. A roller can be used to apply the adhesive to the floor. Once again, make sure the entire surfaces of both materials are covered.
- The first coat of adhesive acts as a primer for the floor and for the tile. Allow the adhesive to completely soak into the back of the tiles and the sub-flooring. The adhesive will turn from milky white to clear when it is cured. The first coat must cure completely before the second coat is applied. Cure time is usually thirty minutes or less.
- Apply a second coat of adhesive in the same manner as above. Again, use a paint brush to apply the second coat of adhesive to the back of the tiles. Apply the second coat to the plywood or concrete using a roller as directed above. Both applications must cover the entire surface of the tile and the floor as previously outlined. Allow the second coat of adhesive to cure thoroughly. **The second application of adhesive is mandatory in order for the tiles to adhere properly to the substrate. If this step is omitted the tiles will become loose and potentially lift up from the substrate.**
- The adhesive should be applied to the perimeter of the room (twice). Fill in the floor working in six foot sections.
- Using rollers from Everhard (or other similar product), roll over the entire surface of each tile to ensure proper adhesion. Apply additional pressure to corners, points and seams. Use 1-1/2" or 2" wide rollers.
- Leather tiles measuring 6" x 18" and 18" x 18" can vary in size up to 1/16 of an inch. Additional trimming on site may be required.
- Tiles can be cut on site with a straight edge and a utility blade.
- Floors can be walked on immediately after installation, but wait 48 hours before damp mopping.

Wall Installations

- **Tiles must be installed over 5/8" finished grade plywood for new-build installations and 1/4" multi-ply over existing drywall. Tiles will NOT adhere to drywall, gypsum board, or masonite.**
- To install 5/8" plywood, use screws to attach the plywood to the wall studs.
- Fill screw holes, voids and joints with Ardex Feather Finish or an industrial grade plastic wood compound and sand the surface so that it is completely smooth and even.

- To install multi-ply, apply Roberts #1407 adhesive or Full Spread Liquid Nails to the entire surface of the drywall using a trowel. Apply the multi-ply to the wall. Fasten the multi-ply with 3/4" narrow crown staples to ensure an adequate bond of both materials. Staple the seams 1" apart and 4" on center. Seal seams with Ardex Feather Finish or an industrial grade plastic wood compound and sand smooth.
- A water-based stain should be applied to the plywood or multi-ply substrate to match the existing color of the leather tile. If an exact match cannot be established, it is best to go darker in color than lighter. Staining the plywood helps to conceal minor gaps that can develop from expansion and contraction associated with natural products such as leather tiles.
- To ensure adequate adhesion, thoroughly mix the waterbased adhesive and apply the first coat to the entire surface of the back side of the tiles with a paint brush. A roller can be used to apply the adhesive to the plywood on the wall. Once again, make sure the surfaces of both materials are covered.
- The first coat of adhesive acts as a primer for the wall and for the tile. Allow the adhesive to completely soak into the back of the tiles and the plywood. The adhesive will turn from milky white to clear when it is cured. The first coat must cure completely before the second coat is applied. Cure time is usually thirty minutes or less.
- Apply a second coat of adhesive in the same manner as above. Again, use a paint brush to apply the second coat of adhesive to the back of the tiles. Apply the second coat to the wood substrate on the walls using a roller as directed. Both applications must cover the entire surface of the tile and the wall as previously outlined. Allow the second coat of adhesive to cure thoroughly. **The second application of adhesive is mandatory in order for the tiles to adhere properly to the substrate. If this step is omitted the tiles will become loose and lift up from the substrate.**
- Using rollers from Everhard (or similar product), roll over the entire surface of each tile to ensure proper adhesion. Apply additional pressure to corners, points and seams. Use 1-1/2" or 2" wide rollers. It will be necessary to use a ladder to reach the top portion of the wall to ensure enough force is applied to properly roll the upper tiles.
- Larger tiles measuring 6" x 18" and 18" x 18" can vary in size up to 1/16 of an inch. Additional trimming may be required.
- Tiles can be cut on site with a straight edge and a utility blade.

Care and Maintenance

Frequently sweep or vacuum the tiles with a soft bristle broom/brush to remove loose dirt and debris. Since there is a water-resistant finish on the tiles, liquid will not be immediately absorbed into the surface. Blot any spills with a soft rag or paper towel. Do not rub. Approximately every 60 days, damp mop the tiles. Use only WATER and make sure the rag mop or sponge mop is rung out well. Occasional conditioning with Spinneybeck Cleaner, Conditioner and Protector is recommended. Tiles can be buffed with a soft, dry cloth or a floor buffer with a cotton cloth pad. Never use leather cleaners such as saddle soaps, household cleaners such as Murphy's Oil Soap, cleaners that contain harsh chemicals or alcohol, or ink removers on the tiles.

Resources

Spinneybeck

Water Based

Contact Adhesive: Available for purchase from Spinneybeck

Weldwood

Water Based

Contact Adhesive: Available at Home Depot or Lowes

Roberts #1407: Available at Home Depot or Lowes

Everhard: www.everhard.com

ARDEX: www.ardex.com

Manufactures self-leveling underlayment concrete

Phone: (724) 203-5000

Email: info@ardex.com

Leather Specifications

Style:	Leather Tiles (FT)
Content:	Full grain, aniline dyed leather, available with or without recycled leather composite backer
Thickness:	7.0 mm (Backed) 3.5 mm (Unbacked)
Weight:	17.50 oz. (Backed) 8.75 oz. (Unbacked)
Average Hide Size:	10 sq. ft./Various patterns available
Finish:	Aqueous-based water repellant finish

Performance Characteristics

Test

Light Fastness (AATCC Method 16, Option E, 72 Hours)	Class 2-3
Crocking (ASTM D-5053):	Dry: Class 4-5 Wet: Class 4
Breaking Force (ASTM D-2208):	500+ lbs.
Elongation (ASTM D-2211):	0% - 10%
Slip Resistance (ASTM C-1028, Coefficient of Friction)	0.50+ (Satisfies ADA)

Flammability

Passes the following flammability tests

California Technical Bulletin 117	Complies
Boston Fire Dept. BFD IX-1	Complies