Tandus Centiva
A Tarkett Company

Form #021

TarkettTAPE™
Flex-Aire™ Modular Carpet
INSTALLATION AND FLOOR PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

General Notes

These installation instructions are specific to **TarkettTAPE™** with **Flex-Aire** modular installations and are not intended to be applicable to any other Tandus Centiva modular products or installation systems. They are not applicable for all sub-floor conditions. If you have any questions concerning the proper installation (or use) of this system please contact Tandus Centiva's Installation Services at 800-241-4902, ext. 2625, 2623, 2129, 2023 or 2670. **All products should be inspected for dye lot, style, color, size, quality and shipping damage prior to installation and should not be installed if any irregularities are observed. It is solely the responsibility of the installation contractor to insure that the sub-floor is properly prepared prior to installation. Tandus Centiva is not responsible for product failure of any kind if these floor preparation and installation instructions are not adhered to.**

Installer Certification

Tandus Centiva requires that all installers be certified prior to performing the installation of modular products on actual jobsites. Contact your local Tandus Centiva Representative for more information on installer certification.

Site Requirements

Tandus Centiva modular products are intended for indoor installations on dry, properly prepared sub-floors. This system is not intended for installation on walls, stairs, ramps, inclined walkways, outdoors, or in areas subjected to wet track in from outside areas. Vestibules, entry ways, or similar areas should use Tandus Centiva Abrasive Action Powerbond for those areas. The use of the TarkettTAPE installation system with Flex-Aire modular tile is not recommended when the tile will be exposed to heavy rolling traffic, i.e. excessively heavy mail carts, pallet jacks, etc. **Only installation materials approved by Tandus Centiva should be used**.

Moisture & pH

Excessive moisture and/or high pH on any sub-floor, especially concrete, can cause product failure. For Tandus Centiva's Flex-Aire modular products, the maximum allowable moisture vapor emission rate (MVER) from the sub-floor is 5.0 pounds, as tested according to ASTM F-1869-10 (Std. Test method for measuring Moisture Emission Rate of Concrete). The required pH range is 9.0 or less as tested according to ASTM F-710-10. The In-Situ/RH (relative humidity) requirement on concrete is not to exceed 80% as tested according to ASTM F-2170-10 (Std. Test method for measuring Relative Humidity in Concrete). When using Flex-Aire modular, Tandus Centiva requires that at least 1 MVER and 2 RH tests be performed on the initial 1000 sq ft of each project. In addition, a minimum of one test, alternating between MVER and RH, per 1000 sq ft is required for the balance of the project. All three tests must meet the allowable limits.

Note that moisture vapor emission testing, relative humidity, and pH testing indicate the moisture level and pH of the concrete sub-floor at the time of installation. These tests do not provide static results and both moisture and pH can increase over time. Tandus Centiva is not responsible for product failure as a result of changes to sub floor conditions, including increases in moisture or pH levels, post installation. Experience has shown that more accurate and representative MVER, RH and pH testing results can be achieved when the HVAC system is functioning 24/7 for two weeks prior to installation and the indoor air quality has acclimated to occupancy conditions. In cases where the flooring substrate is light weight concrete, or a Gypsum based leveling compound is used as a topcoat over existing concrete, MVER results are not an accurate means of evaluating the conditions of the flooring substrate; therefore, RH will be the only recognized moisture test method.

PH Testing

Preparing the surface of a concrete slab for pH testing requires the following attention to detail. Make sure the concrete surface is adequately cleaned of any adhesives, primers, curing compounds, surface contaminants, etc. Exercise care not to over clean the surface of the concrete removing the thin layer of carbonation. This can result in higher, non-responsive pH readings. Slightly wet the concrete sub-floor surface with a small amount of distilled water and allow the water to stand for one minute. Apply pH test paper to the wet concrete surface and immediately remove the pH test paper. The pH test paper will change color depending on the pH of the wetted surface and a color scale is provided with the pH test papers for comparison. Note pH test paper commonly supplied in MVER test kits only measures up to a pH of 12 accurately.

Installation of Tandus Centiva products on sub-floor conditions that exceed the specifications and limitations provided in this document will void the applicable limited warranties. Tandus Centiva does not represent or make any express or implied warranties that Tandus Centiva floor covering products will or will not affect, prevent or cure any other moisture or alkalinity-related issues that may arise because of the moisture and alkalinity levels found in the concrete. Tandus Centiva expressly disclaims such express or implied representations or warranties.

Temperature & Humidity

The temperature of the interior environment, including the sub floor should be no lower than 65°F and no higher than 90°F at least 72 hours prior to, during and after the tile installation. All Tandus Centiva products and installation materials should be stored between 65°F and 90°F for at least 48 hours prior to installation. Relative humidity should be no more than 65%.

Floor Inspection

The sub-floor must be structurally sound and dry prior to installation. Any curing chemicals, sealers, finishers or other chemical treatments used on sub floors must be chemically and physically compatible with the Tandus Centiva backing and the TarkettTAPE systems, or they must be removed or skim coated with a Portland cement based product. Chemically abated floors or the use of chemical adhesive removers prior to the application of Tandus Centiva backing and adhesive systems can result in product or installation failures and are not recommended nor warranted. If you have questions concerning the compatibility of specific chemicals with Tandus Centiva backing and adhesive systems please contact the Tandus Centiva Field Technical Service Department at 800-241-4902, ext. 2625, 2623, 2129, 2023 or 2670.

Floor Cleaning & Priming

Clean the sub-floor of all dust, dirt, or solid debris. Sweep and vacuum the floor after patching and debris removal. Make sure all perimeter areas are clean. DO NOT use oil-based or silicone based sweeping compound. Sweep. DO NOT use solvents or any other chemical adhesive removers to clean the sub-floor. Smooth, clean, new nonporous floors should be damp mopped prior to product installation. Completely remove any grease, oil based paints, and any old multipurpose adhesive. Residual multipurpose adhesive that has been removed to trace levels (90% removal), or existing pressure sensitive adhesive should be primed with Tandus Centiva C-56 in accordance with the label instructions on that product.

Cutback, emulsion, or similar types of asphaltic adhesives are not compatible with Flex-Aire tile or this installation system. Where existing, non-asbestos containing cutback adhesive is present, remove the old cutback to the substrate. A licensed asbestos contractor in accordance with state and federal requirements should perform removal of asbestos containing cutback adhesive. Chemical abatement is not recommended with any Tandus Centiva product. After the floor has been abated install the

Flex-Aire modular following Tandus Centiva installation procedures. You may contact Tandus Centiva for specific floor preparation guidelines including installation over cutback or information on general purpose adhesive.

Floor Patching and Leveling

All sub-floors should be clean, smooth, level, and structurally sound. Concrete sub-floors should be troweled smooth and should conform to the standard specifications as recommended by the Portland Cement Association. The floor should be flat to within 1/8" in 10 feet. Cracks, holes and depressions can be filled using Portland Cement/Latex fortified patching material. Do not install over loose tile (VAT, VCT or others loose existing flooring substrates).

Installation

Before starting, determine the lay direction of the modular tile based on building design and efficiencies. For example, ***monolithic*** (all going in same direction), ***quarter turned*** (every other tile is turned perpendicular to the next), ***random*** (tiles laid without regard to direction). Using these three installation methods, each roll of TarkettTAPE will yield 144 square yards per roll. The example for ***ashlar*** (all going in same direction with end joints staggered by ½ tile width) will yield 83 square yards per roll of tape. This is applicable to 24" x 24" tiles ONLY for all of the installation methods listed above. For other installation configurations refer to the installation graphic posted to the Installation section at www.tandus-centiva.com.

1. Typically, a room is divided into 4 equal parts (or quarters). Make the centerline by marking the center point of two opposing, parallel walls (usually this is the longest line). Snap a white chalk line between the two center marks. Snap a second cross line at the mid-point of the centerline, perpendicular line. To ensure that the lines are square with each other, use a 3-4-5-triangle method:

    - From the point of the centerline/cross line intersection, measure out and mark *exactly* 3 (feet, yards, etc.) on the centerline.
    - Then starting at the center point of the cross line/centerline intersection, measure out and mark *exactly* 4 (feet, yards, etc.) on the cross line.
    - Carefully measure the distance from the two points. If it is not exactly 5 (feet, yards, etc.), adjust the cross line angle until the measurement is exact. This procedure is very important.

2. Check the distance from each line to its parallel wall and determine how many tiles will be required. Shift the line as needed (in a parallel direction) to balance the width of the perimeter tiles (tiles against the wall). Whenever possible, perimeter tiles should be half-tile or greater.

3. Use the directional arrows printed on the back of all tiles to make sure all tiles are installed uniformly.

4. The illustration below shows the method that should be used to attach the TarkettTAPE to the corner of each carpet tile. The TarkettTAPE is perforated so that a single section can be removed and applied to each tile as illustrated. Using the stair step method tiles can be installed so that they are secured one to the next.

5. Start laying tiles from the intersection point in the center of the floor and install the first line of tiles along the long centerline. Install the second line of tiles along the cross line. Keep all the tiles exactly on the chalk lines. Fit the tiles next to each other by sliding them into place. Press down on the corners of the tile to assure positive contact with the TarkettTAPE. TarkettTAPE will allow tiles to be removed and repositioned as necessary during the installation process, or for future tile replacement.

6. **DO NOT FORCE THE TILES TOGETHER. COMPRESSION OF THE TILES MUST BE AVOIDED. DO NOT TRAP FACE YARN BETWEEN OR UNDER TILE EDGES**.

7. Continue to install the tiles in a stair-step or pyramid pattern starting from the intersection point. Check to make sure the tiles are properly aligned at the edges during installation.

8. When installing over raised access flooring systems the starting installation grid should always overlap the access panel joints. Installing the modular carpet tiles so that they are flush with the panels will create more visible tile seams, and if there is any movement in the panels due to not being securely in place the tile edges may be adversely affected.

9. Options for cutting and placing perimeter tiles:

    - Flex-Aire tiles are easy to cut and can be placed whole and freehand trimmed snug to fit the wall or door, etc.
    - *Alternatively*: Perimeter can be trimmed to fit by placing a tile (the fill tile) exactly on top of the last full line of field tile. Ensure that the fill tile is oriented properly by checking the arrow on back. Next, place another full tile (the reference tile) against the wall allowing it to fall on top of the fill tile. Use the edge of the reference tile as a guide to cut the fill tile, being careful not to cut through to the field tile. Install the cut tile with the cut edge along the wall. **Avoid compression of wall and door cuts.**
    - A half tab of TarkettTAPE must be used to secure wall cuts. This ensures the tiles are not displaced during vacuuming & routine maintenance.
    - Doorways and other permanent objects can be fitted using this method, by making a pattern or by measuring techniques. Provide transition strips on all exposed tile edges.

During move in the carpet tile should be protected in areas that will receive heavy rolling traffic or heavy cart usage using plywood, masonite, or lauan. For more detailed information please contact Tandus Centiva Technical Services at 800-241-4902, ext. 2625, 2623, 2129, 2023 or 2670.