Tandus Centiva
A Tarkett Company

TarkettTAPE™ for ethos® Modular with Omnicoat Technology™
INSTALLATION AND FLOOR PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

General Notes
These installation instructions are specific to **TarkettTAPE** for **ethos** modular with Omnicoat Technology 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 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 ethos 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
ethos modular with Omnicoat Technology installations utilizing TarkettTAPE do not require pH testing. Additionally, ethos modular with Omnicoat Technology installations utilizing TarkettTAPE do not require moisture vapor emission rate (MVER) nor relative humidity (RH) testing provided that no free liquids are present and that no moisture stained concrete is evident. In the event that free liquids and/or moisture stained concrete are observed, a full assessment of the concrete substrate is required. This assessment includes MVER testing per ASTM F-1869 (Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Emission Rate of Concrete) and In-Situ RH testing per ASTM F-2170 (Standard Test Method for Measuring Relative Humidity in Concrete). For assistance with installations that require MVER and RH testing, please contact Tandus Centiva Installation Services at 800-241-4902, ext. 2129, 2625, 2623, 2023, or 2670. In cases where such testing is mandated, 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. Refer to our Technical Services Bulletin "Moisture and pH Testing of Tandus Centiva Products" for specific instructions on test methods, ambient conditions and other requirements.

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 temperature and ambient relative humidity has acclimated to occupancy conditions. In cases where the flooring substrate is light weight concrete, MVER results are not an accurate method of evaluating the conditions of the substrate. RH testing is the only accurate moisture test method for light weight concrete. Gypsum based self-leveling compounds used as a topcoat over existing concrete or wood sub-floors are tested in accordance with ASTM F-2659 using an Electronic Moisture Meter.

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, including microbial growth. Tandus Centiva Modular products are not a food source and do not promote growth or colonization of microscopic organisms. However, Tandus Centiva has no control over local conditions including the presence of mold spores and the potential for the introduction of food sources and therefore cannot warrant against such conditions. Tandus Centiva expressly disclaims such express or implied representations or warranties. Please contact the Tandus Centiva Field Technical Service Department at 800-241-4902 for assistance with any concerns regarding the potential for future microbial growth.

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, Cleaning & Priming
The sub-floor must be structurally sound and dry prior to installation. Concrete subfloors must comply with ASTM C-150 Standard Specification for Portland cement. 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, or oil based paints. Existing multipurpose or pressure sensitive adhesives may remain on the floor provided that there are no high ridges that would profile through the new installation and the adhesive integrity and thickness is such that there is no risk of seepage through the tile joints. The pre-existing adhesive must also be free of microbial growth or offensive odors such as those created through saponification.

Installation can take place over existing cutback, emulsion or similar types of asphaltic adhesives following hand scraping or mechanical removal. No priming or skim coating is required. Asbestos containing cutback adhesive must be removed by a licensed asbestos contractor in accordance with state and federal requirements. After the floor has been abated install the ethos modular following Tandus Centiva installation instructions. Contact Tandus Centiva for specific floor preparation guidelines including installation over cutback or information on general purpose adhesive.
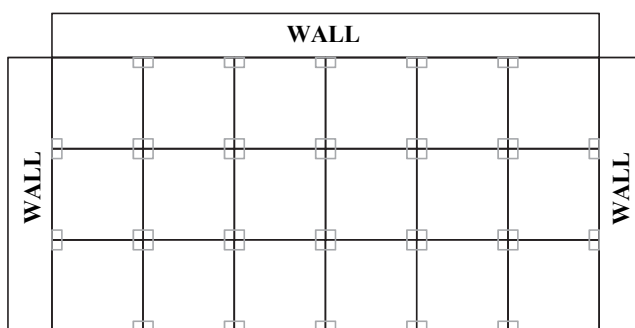
Floor Patching and Leveling
All sub-floors should be clean, level, and structurally sound. Concrete sub-floor patches or self-leveling products should be troweled smooth and conform to the ASTM F-2873 Standard for Compressive Strength. The floor should be flat to within 1/8" in 10 feet. Cracks, holes and depressions can be filled using Portland Cement/Latex fortified patching material or other Tandus Centiva approved 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 graphics contained in the TarkettTAPE Flyer posted to 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. Tile should be stored in boxes until they are being secured in place either by tape or adhesive. Tiles that are removed from the box should be placed backing side up to increase the visibility of the loose tile and prevent tile stacks from being stepped upon. Care should be taken to avoid stepping on single tiles or stacks of loose flooring.

Install tabs to the back of each tile so that one quarter of each tab contacts an individual tile. Use half tabs at walls.

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:

   - ethos 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.

Post Installation Protection

Installation of ethos modular with TarkettTAPE in areas where other trades have not completed their work requires that the carpet be protected until and during furniture movement on site. Once the installation is completed, a covering of Kraft Paper taped at the seams will prevent premature soiling and limit the potential for damage. Self-adhering plastic films should never be used as a protective cover. The adhesive from the plastic film will transfer to the face of the ethos modular and cause rapid and irreversible soiling following removal.

During move-in, the installation of ethos modular with TarkettTAPE must be protected. Areas that will receive light to heavy cart usage must have a protective layer of plywood, OSB, Masonite or Luan placed on the floor to protect the new installation. The furnishings can be rolled across the protective layer and then lifted into place. Systems furniture assembly should be staged working from the protected pathway, carrying and placing the components in place for assembly. Adjustments in placement must be accomplished via lifting into place, not pushing or pulling. Pushing or pulling furniture or other heavy objects across the installation could result in tile movement and potential damage to edges.

Information and assistance is available by contacting Tandus Centiva Technical Services at 800-241-4902, ext. 2625, 2623, 2129, 2023 or 2670.