

## Natural Creations with I-Set Installation Guide

Product	Gauge	Size	Adhesive
Natural Creations with I-Set Tiles	0.160 (4.0 mm)	12" x 24" (305 mm x 610 mm) 18" x 18" (457 mm x 457 mm) 18" x 36" (457 mm x 914 mm)	Natural Creations technology with I-Set
Natural Creations with I-Set Planks	0.160 (4.0 mm)	4" x 36" (102 mm x 914 mm) 6" x 36" (152 mm x 914 mm) 8" x 36" (203 mm x 914 mm) 9" x 48" (229 mm x 1219 mm)	

### Installation:

Location: All grade levels

Layout: End joints should be staggered a minimum of 6" (15.24 cm) apart

### General Information:

The Natural Creations with I-Set installation system allows the planks/tiles to be installed without additional adhesive. The planks/tiles bond directly to the subfloor. The planks/tiles should be cut 1/8" (3.18 mm) away from all vertical surfaces such as walls, cabinets, pipes, etc. (a larger gap could cause excessive floor movement). When installed in wet areas, the gap should be filled and sealed with a good quality siliconized or acrylic caulk. The gap will then be covered with molding or wall base. Base cabinets should not be installed on top of the planks.

### Keys to Successful Natural Creations with I-Set Installation:

- Natural Creations with I-Set should not be exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. It can result in discoloration and excessive temperatures that may cause expansion. The use of drapes or blinds is recommended during peak sunlight exposure. If drapes or blinds are not going to be used and expansion occurs in this area, we recommend adhering this area with S-288 or S-240 Adhesive using the fine notch trowel.
- Most installations will need approximately 10% cutting allowance added to the square footage of the room.
- Proper conditioning of both the jobsite and the flooring is necessary. Natural Creations with I-Set should not be exposed to sudden changes in temperature or moisture/humidity.
- Store, transport and handle Natural Creations with I-Set so as to prevent any distortions. Store cartons flat, never on edge. Distortions will not disappear over time. Ensure that the planks are lying flat at time of installation.
- Do not compress the edges of the floating installation in any way when installing other flooring materials next to Natural Creations with I-Set. Installations of carpet, metal strips and other transition moldings should not pinch flooring and should allow for some slight movement wherever practical.
- Protect the floor from heavy rolling loads, other trades and appliances by using sheets of plywood or similar.

## Installation Guide for Resilient Flooring

### Suitable Substrates:

All substrates listed must be properly prepared and meet certain requirements. There may be other exceptions and special conditions for these substrates to be suitable for the Natural Creations with I-Set Installation System as noted below. (Refer to Chapter 3, Subfloors and Underlayments for more details, or visit [www.floorexpert.com](http://www.floorexpert.com).)

- Concrete — dry and smooth on all grade levels
- Suspended wood subfloors with approved wood underlayments — must have a minimum of 18" (45.72 cm) well ventilated crawl space underneath
- Suspended hardwood flooring that is fully adhered, smooth and square edge without texture
- Single-layer, fully adhered, existing resilient floors — must not be foam-backed or cushion-backed
- Ceramic tile, terrazzo, marble
- Polymeric poured (seamless) floors
- Existing Resilient Sheet Flooring
- Existing Vinyl Composition Tile (VCT) On-grade or Suspended only

### Do Not Install Over:

- Particleboard or waferboard
- Any existing adhesive residue
- Oriented Strand Board (OSB)
- Gypsum based patches or underlayments
- Single-layer wood subfloors\*
- Existing resilient tile floors that are below grade
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring
- Carpet

### Job Conditions/Preparation:

- Resilient flooring should only be installed in temperature-controlled environments. It is necessary to maintain a constant temperature before, during and after the installation. Therefore, the permanent or temporary HVAC system must be in operation before the installation of resilient flooring. Portable heaters are not recommended, as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.
- The surface shall be free of dust, solvents, varnish, paint, wax, oil, grease, sealers, curing compounds, residual adhesive, adhesive removers and other foreign materials that might affect the adhesion of resilient flooring to the substrate or cause a discoloration of the flooring from below. Spray paints, permanent markers and other indelible ink markers must not be used to write on the back of the flooring material or used to mark the substrate as they could bleed through, telegraphing up to the surface and permanently staining the flooring material. If these contaminants are present on the substrate, they must be mechanically removed prior to the installation of the flooring material.
- High spots on the substrate should be leveled and low areas filled with appropriate underlayments.

## Installation Guide for Resilient Flooring

- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.
- In renovation or remodel work, remove any existing adhesive residue so that 100% of the overall area of the original substrate is exposed.
- Embossed ceramic tile floors, ceramic and marble grout joints, and irregularities in concrete should be filled and leveled using S-194 Patch, Underlayment & Embossing Leveler to fill and smooth any embossing in the old floor.
- The area to receive the resilient flooring materials and adhesives should be maintained between 65° F (18° C) and 85° F (29° C) for 48 hours before installation, during installation, and for 48 hours after completion. Maintain temperatures between 55° F (13° C) and 85° F (29° C) thereafter.
- For concrete substrates, conduct moisture testing (moisture vapor emission rate [MVER]) and/or percent relative humidity (in-situ probe). Bond tests must also be conducted for compatibility with the substrate. Please refer to Chapter 3, Subfloors and Underlayments.
- Radiant heated substrates must not exceed a maximum surface temperature of 85° F (29° C).
- Natural Creations with I-Set should not be exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, as this can result in discoloration and excessive temperatures that may cause expansion. The use of drapes or blinds is recommended during peak sunlight exposure.
- After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.

**NOTE: Planks/Tiles are easily cut with a tile cutter or by using a straight edge and utility knife. Score the face of the plank/tile several times and snap it.**

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*\* Installation directly over single-layer wood subfloors in new construction is not recommended. New construction should have additional underlayment on top of the subflooring and be installed as late in the building schedule as possible: after permanent HVAC is running, the home is properly conditioned and other trades have completed their work.*

*If it is unavoidable to install over single-layer wood subfloors, it should only happen in remodel work where the home has been occupied and conditioned for a minimum of 1 year, having gone through the initial winter season and dry-out of the new home. The subflooring must meet all the substrate requirements noted in the Job/Conditions/ Preparation section.*

## Installation Guide for Resilient Flooring

### Fitting:

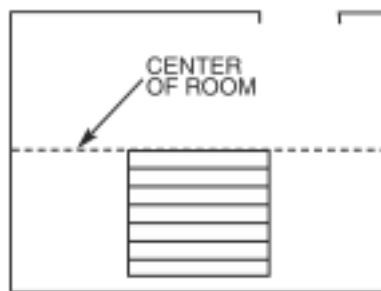
- Before installing the material, plan the layout so tile joints fall at least 6" (15.24 cm) away from subfloor/underlayment joints. Do not install over expansion joints.
- The end joints should be staggered a minimum of 6" (15.24 cm) apart.
- Recommended fitting procedures include straight scribing, pattern scribing or cutting with a tile cutter.

### Abutting Different Gauges of Resilient Flooring:

When installing thinner gauge material next to thicker gauge material, install thicker material first and then butt a 12" (30.5 cm) wide piece of S-153 Scribing Felt against the thicker material. Adhere the Scribing Felt to the subfloor with S-235 Adhesive. Use the fine notching of the S-891 Trowel over nonporous substrates such as existing resilient flooring, and use the regular notching of the S-891 Trowel over porous subfloors such as wood and concrete. Use S-184 Fast-Setting Cement-Based Patch and Skim Coat or S-194 Patch, Underlayment and Embossing Leveler to feather the edge of the S-153 Scribing Felt to the level of the substrate. Allow the patch to dry completely before installing the flooring. Scribing Felt is not recommended to be used under the entire installation.

### Layout:

- Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. The end joints of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 6" (15.24 cm) apart. Do not install over expansion joints.
- Determine which direction the planks will run. Find the center of each of the end walls (the walls perpendicular to the long dimension of the planks) and place a pencil mark on the floor. Connect these points by striking a chalk line down the center of the room. Do a dry layout of planks from the center line to the wall running parallel to the long direction of the planks to determine the width of the last row of planks (Fig. 1).

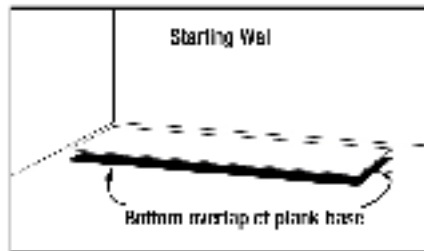


**Fig. 1 Dry layout to determine width of border plank.**

- Avoid having border pieces less than 2-1/4" (5.7 cm) wide for all plank sizes. If you find the border planks will be less than 1/2 the width of the plank, the center starting line should be shifted a distance equal to 1/2 the plank width. This will "balance" the room and provide for a larger cut piece at the wall.

**Plank Installation:**

- Most installations will start along the longest straight wall in the room. The planks will be installed starting in the corner of the room on the left side of the starting wall (as you are facing it) (Fig. 2). Remove the paper release liner exposing the adhesive on the bottom.



**Fig. 2 Beginning the first row.**

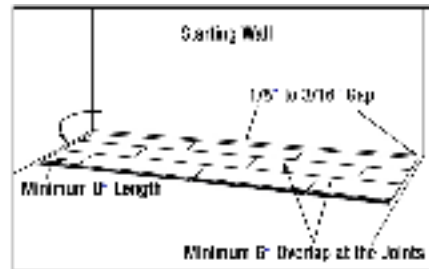
**NOTE:** The releasable adhesive must be protected from dust and debris after the release paper is removed and until it is installed. If the job is stopped prior to completion, leave the release paper intact. This will prevent dust or traffic from other trades from interfering with the adhesive's performance.

**CAUTION** Do not stand or walk on release liner, as it is extremely slippery. Place it in a wastebasket immediately upon removal from the plank.

- Begin laying the first row of planks. Press into place to obtain adhesive bond. Fit the plank face edges together tightly. Continue, left to right, with the first row of planks until you near the end and need to cut the last plank to fit. Try to avoid having planks shorter than 12" (30.48 cm) at the ends of rows. You may have to cut some additional length off the starting plank and slide the first row toward the left so the last plank will be at least 12" (30.48 cm) in length. Remember to leave a gap of 1/8" (3.18 mm) from the end wall and cut the last piece in that row to fit.
- Start the second row on the left side with a piece cut to about 2/3 the length of the starting plank in the first row. It is important to keep the end joints staggered a minimum of 6" (15.24 cm) in adjacent rows (Fig. 3). Both the long side edges and the short ends of planks should be neatly butted against adjoining planks and those in adjacent rows. Use one hand to hold the plank, and the other hand to guide the edges into place by lowering the plank as you go. It's important to butt the edges together neatly. Press into place to obtain adhesion. If the joints are not tight, pull up the plank and reposition it immediately.

**NOTE:** Natural Creations with I-Set is precisely made to size and squareness. After the first 3 rows of planks are installed, they should be checked with a string line to ensure that rows are still running straight. If they are not, it could be that the starting wall has some irregularities that caused bowing in the installation. If so, the starting row of planks may have to be scribed and re-trimmed to account for any unevenness in the wall.

- Continue installing the remaining rows in similar fashion. Maintain the 6" (15.24 cm) minimum staggered end joints between rows and maintain the gap at perimeter and vertical surfaces (Fig. 3). After you have enough rows in place, you may find it easier to turn around and work on top of the newly installed planks for the remainder of the room.



**Fig. 3 Stagger end joints by 6" (15.24 cm), cut pieces at ends of row should be 8" (20.32 cm) or greater for planks.**

- After the installation is completed, roll the entire floor, in both directions, with a 100-lb. roller. Use a hand-roller in confined areas where the large roller will not reach, such as under toe kicks.

## Tile Installation:

- Taking the most prominent walls in the room into consideration, find the center point in the room. Divide the room into equal quadrants by making two perpendicular lines on the subfloor intersecting at the center point. Starting from the center point, and either by measurements, or by doing a dry layout of the tiles, determine the distance between the last full tile and the perimeter walls and cabinets. A balanced layout will result in border tiles being 8" (20.3 cm) or greater for the 18" x 18" (45.7 cm x 45.7 cm) tiles.
- If the border pieces are less than 8" (20.3 cm) wide, particularly at the prominent walls, you will need to shift the starting point in the middle of the room 1/2 the dimension of the tile [8" (20.3 cm) for a 18" x 18" (45.7 cm x 45.7 cm) tile] to balance the layout. After you have balanced the room to achieve larger pieces at the borders, make two new perpendicular lines on the subfloor intersecting at the new starting point near the center of the room.
- Begin at the starting point and install the tile along the chalk lines, laying the field area first in step fashion. Complete installation of full tile in all quadrants of the room. Do not slide the tile into place. Press tile firmly into place. After the installation is completed, roll the entire floor, in both directions, with a 100-lb. roller. Use a hand-roller in confined areas where the large roller will not reach, such as under toe kicks.

## Finishing the Installation:

- Replace molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface, not to the flooring. At doorways and at other areas where Natural Creations with I-Set may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a "T" molding or similar to cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks or tiles. Leave a small gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.
- When replacing appliances, or whenever moving heavy furniture over the flooring, place a wood panel under the object. Without moving the panel, slide or roll the object over it. Follow with additional panels as needed. This prevents scratches, tears or buckling of the flooring material.