Eastern NATURAL FLOORING

FiberLock Prime

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

1. Read all instructions prior to installation. Follow all guidelines for a successful installation.
2. Inspect materials upon delivery to verify material is undamaged and the correct product, color, and quantity are present prior to moving material to your installation site. Claims for incorrect material, quantity, or visibly damaged goods will not be accepted if the material has been moved from the original delivery location. Store materials in dry, indoor areas away from direct sunlight. Report discrepancies to your point of purchase immediately.
3. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that products are installed in accordance with all applicable guidelines. Refer to the FiberLock Prime warranty for any questions about the suitability of a product for any application.
4. It is important to work out of several cartons to mix the patterns when installing FiberLock Prime to properly mix the décor and ensure a beautiful application.
5. All pieces should be thoroughly inspected for color, texture, sheen, and design prior to installation. Installation of material constitutes acceptance of physical and/or aesthetic imperfections. If you have any concerns about the product, please immediately contact us at info@easternflooringproducts.com. Flooring that has been cut or installed is not eligible for return or claim.
6. Eastern Flooring Products produces FiberLock Prime to imitate natural color and texture variation, but there are a finite number of unique pieces. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to avoid creating unintended patterns by installing identical pieces beside one another.
7. Avoid creating patterns with the end joints of the material. Stagger the first piece of each row in size to avoid the end joints of alternating rows from lining up. No pieces smaller than 1/4 the length of a plank should be installed to maintain the aesthetics of the installation. End joints in adjacent rows should be a minimum of 8” from one another.
8. FiberLock Prime does not require acclimation unless exposed to temperatures outside of the installation range of 65-85° F and 30%-50% RH prior to the beginning of installation. Installation environments should be temperature controlled by an HVAC system to provide a constant temperature of 65-85° F, and 30%-50% RH, 48 hours prior to installation, during installation, and continuously after installation. The best practice is to acclimate the material for 24 or more hours prior to installation.
9. Install FiberLock Prime in indoor areas with a constantly maintained temperature between 65°F and 85°F and 30%-50% RH. Eastern Flooring Products does not recommend this product in 3 season rooms.
10. Install FiberLock Prime after all other trades have completed their work to avoid damaging or soiling the floor.

11. Dry fit all moldings prior to installing the floor to ensure proper color, fit, and finish.
12. Do not fasten anything through the floor such as cabinets, toilets, trim, or molding. Failure to maintain a floating installation may result in buckling or decoupling.
13. Expansion is required around all fixed obstructions such as walls, door jams, cabinets fastened to the floor, islands, or toilets.
    a. Areas under 40 ft. in length or width require a minimum of 3/8” expansion gap.
    b. Areas over 40 ft. in length or width require a minimum of 1/2” expansion gap.

GENERAL SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

1. Before beginning installation, read all subfloor guidelines for the correct subfloor type. Proper subfloor preparation is the responsibility of the installer and one of the most important components of the durability of any floor.
2. Subfloor must be level, flat, clean, dry, and structurally sound. Subfloor flatness must be within 3/16” in 10’ or 1/8” in 6’ in all directions.
3. Subfloor must be free of any dust, solvent, wax, asphalt sealing compound, and other material that may compromise the backing of the flooring or inhibit the free floating of the floor after installation. Unevenness and obstructions may compromise the locking mechanism and cause it to disengage.
4. Any patching or leveling compound used to achieve a flat subfloor needs to meet subfloor alkalinity and moisture standards. Eastern Flooring Products recommends the use of a water resistant, non-shrinking, Portland leveling compound with a compressive strength of at least 3,000 psi.
5. FiberLock Prime will resist damage from moisture due to wet mopping and everyday spills, and have its joints remain secure but is not waterproof and is not a vapor barrier. Subfloor moisture can still cause mold, mildew, transfer of alkali salts, and other moisture-related issues, unrelated to FiberLock Prime. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure the subfloor is not improperly emitting moisture prior to installation and retain records of such a process.
6. Acceptable subfloor types include:
    a. Concrete slab meeting updated ASTM F710 guidelines
    b. APA rated plywood underlayment meeting updated ASTM F1482 guidelines
    c. Underlayment grade particleboard
    d. Securely fastened hard surface floors including hardwood flooring installed over a wood

sublfoor, ceramic tile, or one layer of non-cushion backed resilient sheet or tile. Must be clean, flat, free of deflection, and securely adhered or fastened.

e. Properly prepared gypsum cement with a dry density exceeding 90 pounds per cubic foot.

f. Magnesium Oxide Underlayment Panels (ex. EXACOR) designated by the manufacturer as underlayment for resilient products. A bond test must be conducted to validate compatibility with adhesive

7. Unacceptable subfloor types include, but are not limited to:
    a. Crumb rubber underlayment, as it may interact with the flooring, chemically.
    b. Existing floating floors or cushion back products of any kind. Soft layers of flooring under FiberLock Prime may compromise the locking integrity and resistance to indentation.
    c. Ceramic tile with grout joints exceeding 1/4” in width. Grout joints exceeding 1/4” must be filled with an acceptable patching compound, previously described.
    d. Carpet of any kind
    e. Wood adhered to concrete, including sleeper construction subfloors
    f. Unapproved underlayment with or without express designation as being acceptable for FiberLock product installation. If an underlayment is not expressly mentioned in this installation guideline, you can request guidance from Eastern Flooring Products by emailing info@easternflooringproducts.com prior to installation.
        i. FiberLock Prime already features an attached underlayment and further cushioning may compromise the integrity of the locking mechanism.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

1. Concrete subfloors must meet the updated ASTM F710 guidelines, prior to installation.
2. Conduct moisture and pH testing prior to installing any floor to limit liability. Ensuring acceptable moisture levels and retaining test records for FiberLock Prime are the responsibility of the installer. Eastern Flooring Products is not liable for moisture-related claims that do not meet stated installation standards.
3. New and existing concrete floors on or below grade require the application of Eastern Flooring Products Assurance™ as a roll-on moisture vapor barrier prior to the installation of FiberLock Prime. Follow the guidelines provided on the Assurance™ technical data sheet from Eastern Flooring Products for additional instructions and guidelines prior to application.

When using Assurance as a moisture vapor barrier, concrete floors must be dry, clean, smooth and structurally sound. They shall be free of any foreign materials that might prevent proper absorption, including dust, dirt, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, incompatible sealers, fire-retardant chemicals, fungicides, release agents, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation, laitance, mold, mildew, and curing, sealing, hardening or parting compounds, or unapproved admixtures.

4. Installation of FiberLock Prime without the use of Assurance™ will only be considered within the concrete subfloor guidelines if thorough moisture, relative humidity, and pH testing is conducted, records are retained, and a 6-mil poly barrier is present. A layer of underlayment with no cushioning properties and a perm rating of .1 or less may also be used as a vapor barrier over concrete floors in these circumstances.
    a. Testing for poly barrier installation should comply with the following testing parameters:
        i. ASTM 1869 Calcium Chloride – maximum result 5lbs
        ii. ASTM 2170 Relative Humidity – maximum result 85% per 1000 sf per 24 hours
        iii. Concrete pH should be no less than 7, but not exceed 10
    b. Please note that installation of 6 mil poly barrier can present a hazard to installation professionals when multiple layers of the barrier are overlapped and walked upon. Eastern Flooring Products takes no responsibility for this risk and strongly recommends the use of Assurance roll on moisture vapor barrier.
5. New concrete floors should be fully cured prior to installation. Concrete slabs must have no visible moisture.
6. All concrete floors must be dry, clean, smooth and structurally sound. They shall be free of any foreign materials that might prevent proper absorption, including, but not limited to dust, dirt, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, incompatible sealers, fire-retardant chemicals, fungicides, release agents, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation, laitance, mold, mildew, and curing, sealing, hardening or parting compounds, or unapproved admixtures.
7. Eastern Flooring Products Assurance™ can also be used as an encapsulator for concrete floors with well-bonded cutback adhesive, or well-bonded residue from multipurpose, latex, or pressure sensitive adhesives. Follow all related instructions for FiberLock Prime during installation. When used as an encapsulator, only one coat is required.

a. If cut-back adhesive residue is present, but not well bonded it must be removed by safe methods such as mechanical removal or wet scraping. Contact a professional to remove these adhesives as breathing crystalline silica or asbestos fibers can cause cancer and is a severe respiratory hazard. Refer to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute's guide "Recommended Work

Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for more information on safe removal of resilient flooring.

8. FiberLock Prime is not a vapor barrier. Subfloor moisture can still cause mold, mildew, and other moisture-related issues, unrelated to FiberLock Prime. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure any subfloor is not improperly emitting moisture prior to installation.

WOOD SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

1. Wooden subfloors must be structurally sound, installed to their manufacturer's guidelines, and meet the updated ASTM F1482 guidelines, prior to installation.
2. Be certain the floor joists do not impede the floor flatness as required. Floors must be sufficiently rigid to avoid deflection that exceeds the subfloor flatness standards under any use. An additional layer of well-attached APA rated 1/4" thick underlayment may be used to aid rigidity where unacceptable conditions exist.
3. Crawl spaces and basements must be dry. The bottom of wooden subfloor joists must be a minimum of 18" above ground surface. 6 mil or greater black polyethylene sheeting must be in place covering 100% of the ground and overlapping a minimum 6" at seams acting as a moisture barrier. This polyethylene sheeting must run up the walls no less than 6". Air venting must be open on all sides and open no less than 1.5% of the total crawlspace area.
4. Plastic sheeting is not recommended over wooden subfloors.

RADIANT HEAT GUIDELINES

1. Embedded radiant heating elements are acceptable in the subfloor provided they are a minimum of 1/2" from FiberLock Prime in final installation. Electric radiant heating systems may be acceptable provided they meet specific requirements. Contact Technical Services at info@easternflooringproducts.com for details.
2. Material covering embedded radiant heating elements should still meet subfloor standards.
3. To install FiberLock Prime over radiant heating systems, the system should be running and operational for at least 2 weeks prior to installation. 72 hours before installation, system temperature should be reduced to 65°F or cooler. After installation, increase temperature in increments of 5°F per 24 hours period to avoid overheating. Once installed, the floor temperature should never exceed 85°F. Temperature should be measured by an in-floor temperature sensor.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Required Tools

1. Appropriately sized spacers, depending on the installation dimensions
2. Tape Measure
3. Cutter
4. Rubber Mallet

5. Tapping block or trimmed piece of floor
6. Pencil
7. Pry bar or pull bar
8. Chalk Line
9. 3M Scotch-Blue Tape 2080
10. Gel Type Cyanaocrylate Adhesive (Super Glue) or Wood Glue

Installation Notes

1. Before beginning installation, ensure all appropriate general and subfloor guidelines are met. Inspect the material to ensure it is correct and undamaged.

   a. While it is not the recommendation of Eastern Flooring Products, if poly film is used for installation, install the first row of poly film before installing the material. Run the poly film up the walls prior to installation and trim after installation is finished, being sure not to impede the expansion space of the product. Do not install more than one sheet of poly film at a time to avoid slip hazard. Seams must be taped with a minimum 4" overlap. Take great caution when walking on poly film to avoid injury. Ensure poly film is smooth and flat before laying flooring pieces over it.

2. Always start installation in the left corner of the room. When installing, the tongue side of the pieces should face your starting wall.
3. Use the appropriate amount of expansion space for all fixed obstructions, based on specific product requirements and the dimensions of the installation. Under cut door jambs where necessary to provide the same amount of expansion as along walls. Do not undercut metal door jambs without checking local building codes.
4. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that all subfloor requirements are met. Refer to the subfloor requirements section of the installation instructions before proceeding.

Planning the Layout

1. Determine in which direction the planks will be installed. Choose a starting wall according to the most aesthetically or architecturally important elements in the room, taking into consideration doorways, hallways, fireplaces, cabinets, and transitions, as well as the overall squareness of the room. The starting wall will often be the longest unbroken wall in the room.
2. Carefully measure the room to determine squareness as well as the width of the last row of planks. If the last row will be smaller than ½ the width of the product cut (rip) the first row accordingly to balance the installation. Plan the layout to make sure that you will have no starting or ending plank shorter than ¼ of the length of the plank in any row. Should the room be out of square, the installer is responsible for resolving the layout in a manner that is aesthetically pleasing and/or acceptable to the end-user.
3. Working from multiple cartons, dry lay several rows of material to ensure desired aesthetic. Immediately after dry laying FiberLock Prime, dry fit all trim, transitions, and stair accessories to ensure acceptable fit and finish for the entire job.

Installing the First Row

1. It is very important that the first row is installed straight, while accommodating proper expansion space. If the starting wall is crooked or bowed, scribe the contour of the wall on the first row of planks and trim as needed (Fig.1) Use appropriate spacers along all sides that butt up against walls to maintain the appropriate expansion zone.
2. Begin by positioning the first plank so that groove edge is facing you. Use appropriate spacers along all sides that butt up against walls to maintain expansion zone. Install the product from left to right in the room (Fig. 2). Lock the first-row end joints by placing a short side plank tongue into the short side groove of the previous plank at a 20-30° angle and lower it gently until it locks into place (Fig.3).
3. Continue in this manner until you reach the final plank in the first row. Cut the end piece to length and fit in place, making sure to leave the appropriate expansion space. Use a pull bar and mallet to close any gap in the joint (Fig.4)

Fig. 1

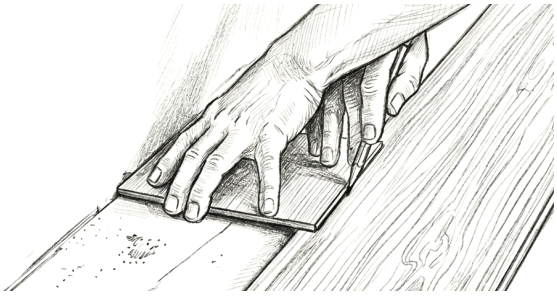


Fig. 2

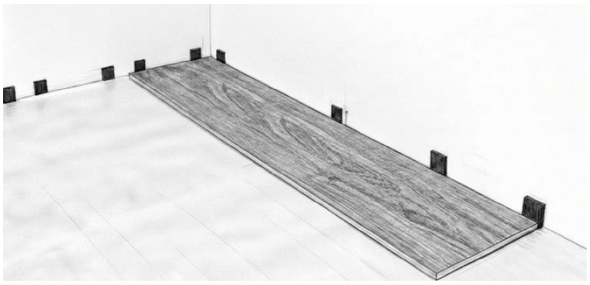


Fig. 3

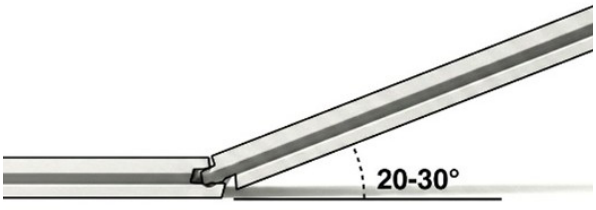
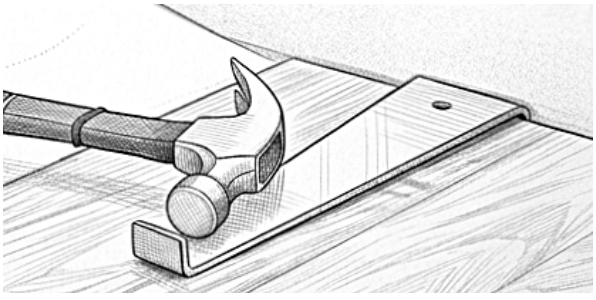


Fig. 4



4. Should you need to disassemble two pieces on the long side, you can lift to the same angle used when assembling the pieces. If you need to disassemble two pieces on the short side, first disengage both planks on the long side, then lift the tongue-side piece at an angle to disassemble. Failure to disassemble correctly can damage the pieces. Do not reassemble damaged pieces as this can impede the structural integrity of the flooring installation.

5. Making sure to maintain a minimum 8” joint stagger, insert the second-row piece by placing the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row (Fig.5). Rotate down until it clicks into place. Gentle use of a mallet and a tapping block, or scrap piece can be used to close any remaining gap (Fig.6-7) BE SURE TO TAP ON EDGE OF VINYL SO AS NOT TO DAMAGE LOCKING PROFILE. NEVER contact the edge of the product directly with the mallet.

Fig. 5



Fig. 6

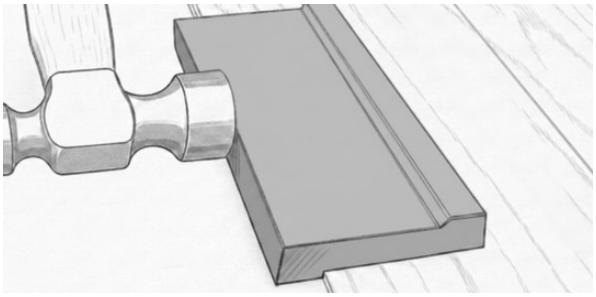


Fig. 7

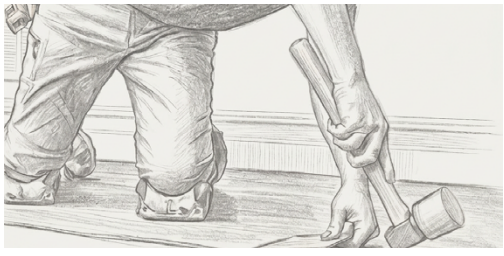


6. Engage the second plank’s long side tongue at a 20-30° angle. While maintaining this angle, slide it toward the previous plank, until there is only a small gap at the end joint and rotate down to lock in place.
7. Fully engage a scrap piece of material or bridge (Fig.8) at this juncture. Then, at the opposite end of the plank, use a tapping block or another scrap piece and mallet to tap the end joint, closing this gap (Fig.9). You can then remove the bridge and proceed to install the remainder of the row in the same manner.

Fig. 8



Fig. 9



8. Follow the order described above to continue laying the planks in each additional row. The last row may have to be cut (ripped) to properly fit the remaining width. Place the final row of flooring to be fit precisely on top of the last row of installed flooring. Use a piece of flooring and a pencil to trace (or scribe) the contour of the wall onto these pieces as you may have done at the beginning of the install (Fig.10) After the pieces are marked and cut, position the flooring and tighten the fit by using the pull bar (Fig.11).

Fig. 10

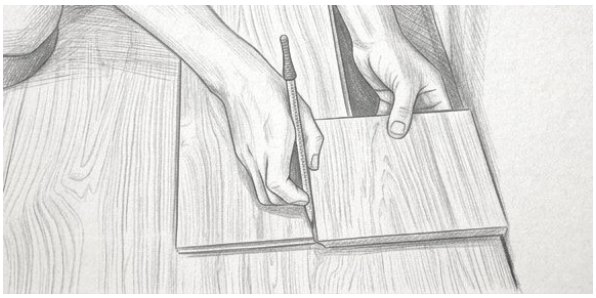
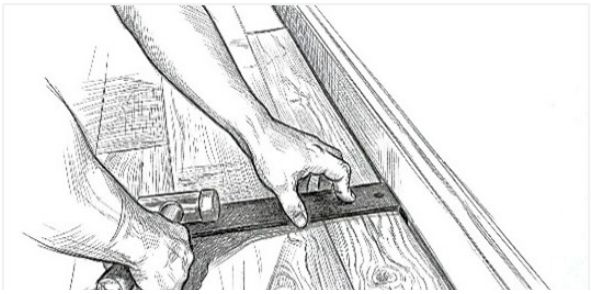


Fig. 11



Under Counters or Door Jambs

1. Installation under moldings, such as door jambs, under cabinet toe kicks or anywhere that makes it impossible to raise a plank to engage it properly may require that the lip of the groove be reduced in size. Using a small block plane or chisel, carefully shave off approximately 75% of the ledge of the groove (Fig.12)
2. After cutting the piece to the appropriate size and confirming proper fit and expansion space, place a bead of cyanoacrylate adhesive (Gel Type Super Glue) or wood glue on the bottom lip of the groove, being careful to observe working time and not to overfill the joint (Fig.13). Insert the tongue into the groove and tighten the fit with a pull bar or tap into place with a tapping block or scrap piece (Fig.14).

Fig. 12

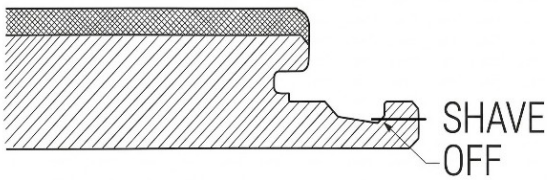


Fig. 13

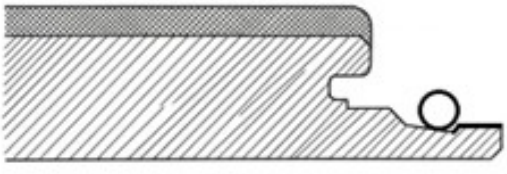


Fig. 14



3. Hold the board in place with painters' tape (3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape) until the glue is dry. Do not use masking tape or duct tape as they may damage the floors finish. Thoroughly remove any glue residue or haze before proceeding.

MOLDING INSTALLATION

1. When you have finished installing FiberLock Prime, remove perimeter spacers, and ensure you have maintained the required expansion space in all instances. Protect all edges with non-pinning base boards, transition strips, quarter round, or shoe mold.
2. Eastern Flooring Products® recommends using stair caps on stairs when possible. Matching stair caps and risers can be purchased from your source for FiberLock Prime.
3. All moldings and trim should be thoroughly inspected and dry fit prior to the installation of FiberLock Prime to ensure proper fit, finish, and match.
4. Do not install transition strips to the pieces of flooring, except when instructed to do so in stairnose installation instructions. Do not nail, staple, or screw moldings through the floor into the subfloor. Do not pinch the floor with transitions or perimeter molding, such as baseboards or quarter round.

AFTER INSTALLATION

1. All vinyl floors can be scratched in abusive situations. To avoid scratching your floor:
    a. All furniture must be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances must be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with wheeled castors should only have 2" or wider castors no less than 4" in diameter.
    b. Regularly sweep or vacuum floors to keep your floor free of debris, debris can become trapped in shoes, castors, or other acceptable contacts with floor and create scratches. Do not use vacuums with beater bar attachments on.

c. Keep pets' nails trimmed.

d. Avoid sliding things across the floor that could have rough edges or trap debris.

e. Avoid high heeled shoes as they create very high pressure which may indent floors.

2. Eastern Flooring Products doesn't recommend any heavy rolling traffic on floating floors. Office areas must have a protective mat under chairs and be equipped with non-marking roller blade style wheels. Do not use ball-type castors.

3. Floating floors must not be pinned with fixed cabinetry, heavy equipment, or other heavy items. This includes kitchen cabinets/islands, slate pool tables, safes, or other heavy objects that would keep the floor from floating freely. If you have a question about a given piece of furniture or otherwise heavy object, please contact Eastern Flooring Products at info@easternflooringproducts.com for support.

4. Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.

5. Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt driveway sealer or other oil-based products on the floor.

6. Use walk-off mats at entrances to prevent dirt, grit, and staining substances from damaging the floor. Use mats with non-staining backs, as rubber may discolor the floor.

7. Keep an appropriate amount of attic stock of your material to allow for repairs of the floor should you damage it or an environmental issue arise.

8. Eastern Flooring Products does not recommend the use of steam cleaning devices of any sort, abrasive cleaners, harsh chemicals, detergents, or "mop and shine" products. If you have a question about care and maintenance, consult the FiberLock Prime Care and Maintenance Guide.

REPORTING A PROBLEM

1. If you think there is something wrong with your floor that is covered by this warranty, immediately contact the company you purchased the floor from within 48 hours of noticing the problem. Subsequent damage to the floor is not covered by the warranty.
2. Do not walk or roll anything over the affected area of the floor until the problem is identified and resolved.
3. If the company you purchased the product from determines there is a warranted issue with the floor, they will contact Eastern Flooring Products to file a claim. Only the original purchasing party can file a claim or inquire as to the status of that claim.
4. Eastern Flooring Products has the unimpeachable right to decline a claim if not given the opportunity to inspect the floor in a timely manner. Floors that have been repaired, replaced, or permanently covered without manufacturer inspection will not be eligible to file a claim.

WARNING: Existing resilient floor coverings and black asphalt adhesive may contain asbestos. Improper removal procedures could release asbestos fibers into the air. Asbestos fibers, when inhaled, could cause serious bodily harm. Do not sand or dry scrape these materials. If removal of existing floor coverings is necessary, be certain that all precautions are taken and proper procedures are followed. For information regarding proper removal procedures in the U.S.A., please consult the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 12-B, Rockville, MD 20850) for a pamphlet, “Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings.”