Accuply® Plywood Underlayment

Installation Instructions

For Vinyl and other non-ceramic Flooring

ACCUPLY®

The following plywood underlayment instructions have been specifically prepared for the installation of Accuply Plywood Underlayment panels. Strict adherence to these instructions and the instructions of the vinyl flooring manufacturer and adhesive manufacturer will produce a strong, sound, level floor that complies with the terms of the Accuply Lifetime Warranty. When installed according to these instructions, Accuply plywood underlayment panels will not contribute to seam telegraphing through the surface of the vinyl flooring, or contribute to staining or discoloration of vinyl flooring.

Preparing the Subfloor

Ensure the existing subfloor is completely dry, fastened tightly, structurally sound, and smooth. Reset all protruding nail heads.

Replace any soft, decayed or delaminated areas of the subfloor. Add ring shank nails to any area of the subfloor that squeaks, has vertical movement, or is warped or cupped. Scrape any construction debris, paint, caulk, or drywall compound that has built up on the surface. Fill low spots with patching compound; sand joints, high spots, and patched areas until smooth. In new construction, moisture tests of the existing subfloor and the Accuply Plywood Underlayment panels are recommended.

Acclimating the Plywood Underlayment

Allow Accuply Plywood Underlayment panels to acclimate at the jobsite for 48 hours before installation. If space permits, separate the Accuply Plywood Underlayment panels and store them vertically around the room to allow air passage on each side.

Laying out the Plywood Underlayment

Lay out Accuply Plywood Underlayment panels perpendicular to the grain of the existing subfloor panels. Place all full panels of Accuply Plywood Underlayment in position and ensure that the grain of each panel is running in the same direction. Plywood underlayment edges should be offset from subfloor edges by at least 8". Plywood underlayment panels should be staggered so that 4 corners do not meet.

Lightly butt plywood underlayment panel edges together. Do not force panels together, but do not leave a gap. Leave a minimum gap of 1/4" and a maximum gap of 1/2" between the plywood underlayment panel edges and the walls for expansion. Cut plywood underlayment panels as necessary and lay out factory edges to factory edges. Layout any edges with jobsite cuts towards the wall.

Cutting the Plywood Underlayment

Make any long straight cuts from the underside of the plywood underlayment panel using a circular power saw with a fine toothed blade. Adjust the blade to extend not more than 3/8" through the plywood underlayment to minimize splintering.

Make any short or irregular cuts from the underside of the plywood underlayment panel using a power jig saw with a fine toothed blade. Drill any required holes through the face of the plywood underlayment panel.

Selecting the Plywood Underlayment Fasteners

Use plated ring shank underlayment nails with a 3/16" diameter head or double coated chisel point staples with a 1/4" maximum crown. The fastener length should be selected so that the point will not extend through the bottom side of the subfloor. Do not use uncoated, cement coated, or rosin coated fasteners as they may contribute to staining.

Fastening the Underlayment

Each panel should be nailed or stapled every 2" along each edge and every 4" throughout the main part of the panel. Ensure the panel is in firm contact with the subfloor. Always have your body weight on the panel being fastened.
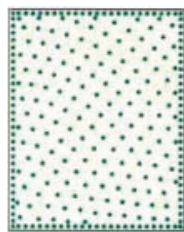

Fig. 1   **Fig. 2**

Set fasteners in a random pattern to prevent show through (Fig. 1). Do not set fasteners in straight rows (Fig. 2), as straight rows are sometimes visible through the face of the vinyl flooring. All fasteners should be countersunk slightly below the surface of the new underlayment. Adjust air pressure on air staplers to a minimum to avoid staple blow through.
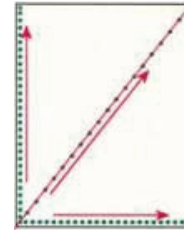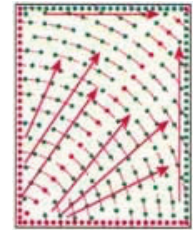

Fig. 3   **Fig. 4**

Start at one corner and work along one entire edge fastening at 2" intervals (Fig. 3). All edge fasteners should be 2" apart and not be closer than 3/8" or farther than 1/2" from the edge. Return to the starting corner and fasten the perpendicular edge at 2" intervals. Snap a chalk line from the starting corner to the diagonal corner. Return again to the starting corner and fasten at 4" intervals along the chalk line to the diagonal corner (Fig. 4). Return again to the starting corner and fasten the interior of the panel at 4" intervals in a fan pattern until the entire panel has been fastened. Fasten the two remaining edges at 2" intervals.

Finishing The Underlayment

Sand all panel edge joints with a power belt sander until smooth. Hand sanding is not sufficient. Avoid oversanding and cupping of joints.

Patch all voids, gaps, gouges, and chipped edges with a patching compound approved by the vinyl flooring manufacturer. Allow patched areas to dry completely. If joints have been patched, allow patch to dry overnight.

NOTE: Remember, the patch is 1/4" deep in the joint between two panel edges and it will not dry as quickly as a surface patch. When a latex adhesive is applied to the underlayment, some of the water is absorbed into the wood causing it to expand slightly. This expansion will force wet patch out of the joint, forming a bead that can be seen through the vinyl. Once the patch is dry, resand all areas with a power belt sander. If necessary, patch again, allow to dry, and resand with a power belt sander.

Proceed with the installation according to the instructions of the vinyl flooring manufacturer and adhesive manufacturer. Keep the underlayment clean and dry until the vinyl flooring is installed. Cover with protective paper if necessary.

For Plywood Underlayment Installation Instructions under Ceramic Tile Floor, see the next page →

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Preparing the Subfloor

Before installing Accuply plywood underlayment, be sure the floor joists and subfloor are structurally sound. We recommend a minimum 5/8" exterior grade plywood subfloor with joist spacing not to exceed 16" on center. The floor must meet or exceed a L/360 rating. Homes with crawl spaces must have a vapor barrier to prevent moisture from entering into the joist and sub-floor. Be sure subfloor is clean and free of debris. Any uneven subfloor joints should be sanded so the joints are even.

Acclimating the Plywood Underlayment

Acclimate the plywood underlayment panels 24 hours in the area the panels will be installed and 48 hours in extreme conditions. Separate and store panels vertically to allow air passage on all sides. Acclimation may not be necessary if storage temperature and humidity level is similar to the job site conditions.

Laying out the Plywood Underlayment

Lay the plywood underlayment panels out perpendicular to the floor joist off setting the joist at least 12" from the subfloor joints. Do not allow four corners to meet at the point. Leave a 1/8" gap between all plywood underlayment panels and between the panels and the walls. Place factory cut edges together and hand cut edges against wall.

Fastening the Underlayment

No thin set is required between the Accuplyplywood underlayment and the subfloor. No joint taping is required. Fasten the plywood underlayment panels securely to a structurally sound, smooth, clean and dry subfloor using:

- Staples: galvanized or polymer coated 18 gauge chisel point staples with minimum 1/4" crown
- Galvanized ring shank flooring nails: 12 gauge, minimum 3/16" diameter head
- Galvanized flat head wood screws

Fasteners should be long enough to penetrate through the plywood underlayment and at least 80-95% of the subfloor, but not protrude through the bottom. Fasten one plywood underlayment panel at a time, starting from one side and working to the other. Do not lack the corners first. If using staples or nails, fasten on every fastener mark (4" on center in the field and 2" on center along all edges. Fasten edges 3/8"-1/2" from the edge. Fasteners should be set flush so they do not protrude above the plywood underlayment.

Setting Tile

Before setting tile be sure that the plywood underlayment surface is clean and free of dirt, dust, oily film and foreign matter. Use EGP latex-portland cement mortar complying with ANSI A118.11 to set the tile and use grout complying with ANSI A118.6, A118.7 or A118.3.

AC-844-6P	Accuply Premium Underlayment 6 mm (.25 inches) thick - 4' x 4' (65/pallet)
AC-845-6P	Accuply Premium Underlayment 6 mm (.25 inches) thick - 4' x 5' (65/pallet)
AC-848-6P	Accuply Premium Underlayment 6 mm (.25 inches) thick - 4' x 8' (65/pallet)
AC-844-9P	Accuply Premium Underlayment 9 mm (.375 inches) thick - 4' x 4' (44/pallet)
AC-848-9P	Accuply Premium Underlayment 9 mm (.375 inches) thick - 4' x 8' (22/pallet)

* This product manufactured using CARB ATCM Phase II and TSCA Title VI compliant materials.