

Natchez 5.0mm SPC Installation Instructions

General Information & Limitations: Natchez 5-mm has a rigid core and is designed to be installed indoors only, for either residential or light commercial applications. The optimal operating temperature is between 40°F to 90°F (4°C to 32°C). Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight or other heat sources where temperatures will exceed 90°F (32°C), as damage may occur. This product is not suitable for heavy rolling loads. Rolling chairs with soft or W-type casters are acceptable – otherwise, use a vinyl chair mat in rolling chair areas. Do not secure flooring or furniture to the subfloor with mechanical fasteners or adhesives. Do not install cabinets, kitchen islands, or other non-movable furniture on top of this floor covering. Copies of ASTM documents are available for purchase at www.astm.org. If required or concerned for any reason, immediately contact Powerhold at 844-638-4583 or visit powerhold.com for assistance.

Examples of Acceptable Light Commercial Areas:

Specialty Retail Medical	Art galleries, jewelry stores, boutiques/clothing, bookstores, and gift shops
Medical	Doctor offices & waiting rooms, exam rooms, reception areas (areas where hospital beds are excluded) and nursing home common areas.
Multi-Use	Living spaces/apartments/hotel rooms, laundry rooms, storage areas, conference rooms, entrance ways, lobby areas, and light-use exercise rooms (no free weights or aerobics, must use heavy vinyl mats under the equipment).
School / Institution	Meeting & training rooms, offices, common areas, lobbies, storage areas, and reception areas.
Office / Industrial	Banks, offices, reception areas, storage rooms, conference, dining, and training rooms.

Receiving Material & Storage: Confirm the color, style and quantity, and lot numbers. Carefully check all materials for shipping damage. Note any damage on the bill of lading before signing for delivery. Visible damage not reported on the bill of lading is your responsibility. The floor covering, adhesive and accessories must be stored indoors, in dry conditions between 40°F - 90°F. Do not store outside (even in containers) and do not stack pallets.

Recommended Tool List: Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including safety glasses, gloves and suitable dust mask. Appropriate tools to prepare the substrate, HEPA-filtered vacuum, 6-foot and 1-foot straight edge or level, two quarters (U.S. coins), tape measure, pencil, speed square, utility

knife with blades, 1-lb. (~ 16-oz.) rubber or soft faced dead blow hammer (preferred) or rubber mallet, chalk-line, pull-bar, Oscillating Multi-Tool or hand saw (door jambs), wedge spacers or similar, jigsaw with carbide blades, knee pads. If required, use a clear super-glue liquid adhesive for any small pieces.

Warning: All local, state, and federal regulations must be followed; this includes the removal of in-place asbestos (floor covering and adhesive) and any lead-containing material. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has exposure limits for people exposed to respirable crystalline silica; this requirement must be followed. Do not use solvent or citrus-based adhesive removers. When appropriate, follow the Resilient Floor Covering Institute's (RFCI) Recommended Work Practice for Removal of Existing Floor Covering and Adhesive. Always wear safety glasses and use respiratory protection or other safeguards to avoid inhaling any dust. The label, installation, and maintenance instructions along with the technical data sheet, limited warranty and any appropriate Safety Data Sheet (SDS) of all products must be read, understood, and followed before installation commences and are available on the website. If the substrate or subfloor fails for any reason, then the floor covering limited warranty is void.

Do not leave spills unattended - wipe up promptly, and allow the floor covering to dry before trafficking. Use bathmats and install safety handrails where this floor covering is used next to wet or barefoot areas, like showers and baths.

Documentation: Record and file the measured and observed site conditions and test results, including all photographs and corrective measures. Maintaining this documentation, along with the original invoice and any labor receipts throughout the warranty period, is recommended, as this will be required in the unlikely event of a claim.

Site Conditions: The prepared installation area must be fully enclosed and weather tight. During the installation, any direct sunlight should be blocked using blinds, drapes or other protection. The ambient temperature during installation must be > 60°F (16°C), with a recommended maximum of 80°F (27°C).

Note: When installing at temperatures > 80°F (27°C), the size of an expansion gap will increase when the floor covering is cooled.

Flatness: Check all substrates for flatness prior to installation. The maximum acceptable tolerance is < 1/8-inch gap (2 x U.S quarters) underneath a 6-foot straight edge or level and < 1/16-inch gap (1 x U.S quarter) over 1-foot. Make any necessary and appropriate adjustments to the substrate before installation. Dormant cracks, saw cut joints and grout lines < 1/8-inch wide or deep are acceptable – all others must be cleaned of all dirt and debris, then filled using a suitable commercial grade patching or repair compound, following the product instructions.

Concrete Subfloors: All concrete must be free of contaminates and structurally sound. If required, smooth the surface using a suitable, moisture-resistant commercial grade leveling or patching compound, following the product instructions. Do not install if hydrostatic pressure is visible, present or suspected. If a chemical adhesive remover has been used, contact the technical department.

For all on and below grade concrete slabs, test the surface to confirm it is absorbent (porous), following the ASTM F3191 Standard Practice for Field Determination of Substrate Water Absorption (Porosity) for Substrates to Receive Resilient Flooring. The water droplets placed on the substrate must be absorbed

for it to be considered absorbent. If required, the concrete can be made porous by mechanical methods, such as diamond grinding, a DiamaBrush buffer attachment, shotblasting or similar.

Concrete Moisture: For all on and below grade concrete slabs, use a ³ 6-mil thick polyethylene (PE) sheet, such as the Blue Hawk Premium Flooring Underlayment, available at home improvement stores. Sheeting must be installed over the entire area and extend at least 2-inches up the walls. All seams must be overlapped and taped according to the product instructions. The liability and warranty for any product' performance remains with its manufacturer.

Wood Subfloors: All wooden subfloors and substrates must be dry and in compliance with the moisture content percent (MC-%) for your region. Regional values are freely available by searching "moisture map of wood" images. Test using a non-destructive electronic moisture meter, following the product instructions.

The subfloor must comply with local building codes, have at least 18-inches of well-ventilated air space below and have a suitable vapor retarder to isolate the subfloor from ground cover and outdoor conditions. Wood subfloors must have a total thickness of at least 1-inch. Sleepers must not make direct contact with concrete or earth. If necessary, install an underlayment grade plywood with a minimum thickness of 1/4-inch on the surface. The underlayment must be installed in the opposite direction to the subfloor, following "ASTM F1482 Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayments to Receive Resilient Flooring".

Gypsum Subfloors: Any finished gypsum substrate must be prepared and installed in accordance with "ASTM F2419 Standard Practice for Installation of Thick Poured Gypsum Concrete Underlayments and Preparation of the Surface to Receive Resilient Flooring" or "ASTM F2471 Standard Practice for Installation of Thick Poured Lightweight Cellular Concrete Underlayments and Preparation of the Surface to Receive Resilient Flooring". The substrate must also be and remain dry according to the manufacturer, be structurally sound and firmly bonded and without contaminants.

Unsuitable Substrates: These include but are not limited to: any floating or loose floor coverings, hardwood, carpet, cushion vinyl, rubber, cork, foam, asphalt tile, any additional acoustic underlayment, any substrate with visible mold, mildew, or fungi and any substrate in wet areas, such as inside showers and saunas. Do not install directly over any adhesive or adhesive residue of any kind. Do not install directly over radiant heated substrate or in recreation vehicles, campers or boats.

Note: Existing hardwood floor coverings will swell when exposed to moisture: vinyl floor covering may restrict the movement of moisture in hardwood, which may result in flooring failure, especially when installed on or below grade. Some hardwood floor coverings may also discolor vinyl floor covering, which is excluded from warranty coverage. By electing to install over any existing floor covering releases the manufacturer from any responsibility regarding the suitability and continued performance of that product, including any resulting effect on the new floor covering, such as indentations and damaged locking mechanisms.

Other Subfloors/Substrates: These may be acceptable. However, they must be and remain dry, without contaminants and be structurally sound.

Expansion Gap: If the length or width of the installation area is ≤ 50 -feet, an expansion gap of at least 1/4-inch must be created around the entire perimeter. If the overall length or width is between 50 – 85-feet, then the gap must be increased to 1/2-inch around the entire perimeter. A maximum of 85-feet in length or width must not be exceeded. If required, use a suitable trim molding covering the edges by 1/8-inch and allowing a 1/2-inch expansion gap. For three-season rooms, a gap of at least 1/2-inch around the entire perimeter is required. In addition, the area must be separated from all other rooms using a suitable trim molding. The maximum of 30-feet in length or width must not be exceeded. Note: Areas with heavy furniture 800-lb. (363-kg) must double the required expansion gap as the weight may restrict the natural expansion and contraction.

General Preparation: It is recommended to remove all wall-base before flooring installation. Alternately, a quarter round molding (fixed to the wall or wall-base only) that covers both the required expansion gap and at least 1/8-inch of the floor covering may be installed. Undercut all wooden door jambs and the first inch of any remaining wall-base (later covered with molding) with an Oscillating Multi-Tool or hand saw - the height must be the thickness of the floor covering plus 1/64-inch, which allows the floor covering to expand and contract freely, out of sight, with temperature fluctuations. Steel door jambs should be pattern-scribed, leaving the required expansion gap. Use a color-coordinated 100% silicone to fill the void. Clean the entire area to be installed using a HEPA-filtered vacuum. Before beginning, check and make sure the lot numbers on the packaging match and mix the floor covering from several boxes to ensure a random appearance. During the installation, inspect for visible defects, including any damage, gloss, color or shade variations, dirt and debris in the locking mechanism (remove using a soft brush), as installing it assumes full responsibility.

Layout: Follow the design or drawings provided or agreed upon by the designer, architect, or end-user. The end joint layout for all planks should be random - make sure joints are not “stair stepped”. Failure to randomize end joints could weaken the integrity of the joint system, which may lead to failure. All planks must be at least 8-inches in length and all end seams must staggered by ≥ 8 -inches. Tiles must be installed in a brick-bond pattern.

Cutting: To cut the floor covering, measure and mark the surface with a pencil, then carefully score the surface a few times on the mark using a sharp utility knife along the side of a speed square. Snap the plank downwards and complete by cutting the backing from underneath. For complicated cuts, such as door jambs, it is recommended to use a jigsaw with a carbide blade following the product safety instructions.

Installation: Clean the entire area to be installed twice using a HEPA-filtered vacuum. Determine the best wall to start installation on - typically this would be the longest straight wall with a doorway (if present). Measure the width of the room and, allowing for two expansion gaps, calculate the width of your last row. If it is less than half the width of the floor covering, or if a balanced design is required, then reduce the width of the first row accordingly. Use a chalk-line to mark the outside edge of the first row on the substrate. If needed, trim the first row (the side without the extended locking mechanism) to fit, accounting for the expansion gap.

First Row (slide): At the left corner of the starting wall, position the first tile or plank flush with the walls. Use the side and end without the extended locking mechanism against the walls. Place wedge spacers

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between the floor covering and wall to maintain the required expansion gap around the entire perimeter. Before connecting the second piece, lay it flat on the substrate, adjacent to the first row and lined up with the end of the previous piece. Then, while keeping the joint perfectly in line, slide the second plank into the first, locking the mechanism together. Complete the first row using this method. If there is a doorway, measure, mark and cut the flooring to make sure the cut edge will be located underneath the door jamb and frame while maintaining the required expansion gap. A jigsaw should be used for complicated cuts like these. Keeping the installation straight is critical, so check the first row using a chalk line or similar and, as needed, adjust and reinforce the row by adding more wedge spacers. The acceptable straightness tolerance is within 1/16-inch for lengths over 20-feet or 1/32 inch for lengths under 20-feet. Complete the following rows starting with a cut piece, such as a piece from a previous row. Install the side joints before the end joints as instructed under "Side Joints" and "End Joints".

Side Joints (angle-angle): Starting at the left corner, place the side without the extended locking mechanism into the side of the previously installed row at a ~ 25° angle. Make sure the joint is seated properly, then slide the plank or tile into position. The end joint must line up perfectly. Lay the tile or plank flat and complete the end joint as detailed below.

End Joints (drop-lock): Always check the alignment of the end joint and adjust if necessary. Lock the joint into place by lightly tap along the high side, starting from the "T", using a 1-lb. (~ 16-oz.) soft faced dead blow hammer or rubber mallet. Keep the striking head flat with the floor covering and tap until perfectly flush. If the locking mechanism does not line up properly, then check and adjust the straightness as necessary.

ProTips: Do not hit the locking mechanism directly with any hammer, tapping block or pull bar (except the last row) - doing so will damage the locking mechanism and may result in peaking, gapping or broken joints. If required, use a ~ 6-inch piece of scrap floor covering, seated in the locking mechanism, to lightly tap and close any joints.

If you need to install small cuts of floor covering that are < 3-inches in length or width, place a thin bead of super-glue on the previously installed locking mechanism just before installing. This will ensure the pieces remain locked together during use. Do not get the adhesive on the surface - coverage will be ~ 30 feet per oz.

After the first five or six rows are completed, turn around and continue installing, working on top of the installed material. This will allow the side joints to be pulled together rather than pushed together, which will make the installation even easier.

If you need to disengage the end joints for any reason, first unlock the side joints by lifting the outside edge of the row to ~ 25° and disconnect the entire row. Make sure all pieces are lying flat and are properly engaged (tap to engage, if required), then simply slide them apart. If they are angled or pulled upwards, the joint will break.

Completion: If used, the plastic sheet must be trimmed flush with the surface of the floor covering. Install the wall-base or molding. Ensure wall-base or moldings are attached to the wall or wall-base only without compression (to allow movement), fix them into the wall or wall-base only (not through the floor covering).

Protection: If required, protect the clean floor covering from other trades or heavy loads using ½-inch plywood or similar and tape all seams. For light traffic, use Ram board, Builder Board or similar and tape

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all seams. For furniture, use only polyurethane, silicon or felt glides (replaced > 3-times a year), keeping them clean and grit-free – all glides should be $\geq 1\text{-inch}^2$, especially on heavy furniture. Use chair mats underneath rolling chairs or soft “W-type” wheels. Use non-rubber-backed entrance matting at all outdoor entrances, as this will improve air quality and reduce maintenance. Do not drag heavy or sharp objects directly across the surface - use hard surface "sliders" (available at home improvement stores). For areas that may be subjected to standing water on the surface, such as bathrooms with a bath or shower, the perimeter of the installation must be properly sealed using a 100% silicon caulk to prevent water from getting beneath the flooring. Take photographs and have any required documentation signed and filed following completion.

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