

For the most current Armstrong installation recommendations, refer to the latest edition of [Armstrong Guaranteed Installation Systems](#) manual, F-5061. This manual lists all of the exceptions and special conditions for the substrates as well as the complete installation system recommendations.

INSTALLATION SYSTEMS

a. Commercial Linoleum Sheet Installation System

Recommended for installing jute-backed linoleum sheet flooring as listed in **Figure 1**. With certain exceptions and special conditions, it can be installed over approved and properly prepared substrates of concrete, suspended wood, existing resilient flooring, certain metals, polymeric poured (seamless) floors, ceramic tile, terrazzo and marble. This system may be used on all grade levels.

- Heat-welded seams are optional but highly recommended – see Commercial Seaming Methods

b. Commercial LINOPLAN Linoleum Tile Installation System

Recommended for installing polyester-backed linoleum tile as listed in **Figure 4**. With certain exceptions and special conditions, it can be installed over approved and properly prepared substrates of concrete, suspended wood, existing resilient flooring,

certain metals, polymeric poured (seamless) floors, ceramic tile, terrazzo and marble. This system may be used on all grade levels.

c. Commercial Vinyl-Backed Installation System

Recommended for installing vinyl-backed commercial sheet flooring as listed in **Figure 2**. With certain exceptions and special conditions, it can be installed over approved and properly prepared substrates of concrete, suspended wood, existing resilient flooring, certain metals, polymeric poured (seamless) floors, ceramic tile, terrazzo and marble. This system may be used on all grade levels.

The Perimeter Plus method is recommended with SAFE-GUARD and SAFEGUARD Design in areas which may be exposed to frequent water spills, such as entryways or produce areas, or when installing SAFEGUARD Hydro in showers or around whirlpools and spas. When flash coving, all inside and outside corners and all seams in the flash cove area must be heat-welded.

- Heat-welded seams – see Commercial Seaming Methods
- Seams sealed with S-553 – see Commercial Seaming Methods

d. Commercial Felt-Backed Installation System

Recommended for installing felt-backed commercial sheet flooring as listed in **Figure 3**. With certain exceptions and

special conditions, it can be installed over approved and properly prepared substrates of concrete, suspended wood, existing resilient flooring, certain metals, polymeric poured (seamless) floors, ceramic tile, terrazzo and marble. This system may be used on all grade levels.

- Securabond seams – see Commercial Seaming Methods
 - Heat-welded seams – see Commercial Seaming Methods
- COMMISSION Plus flooring is installed using the Residential Felt-Backed Installation System.

e. Luxury Solid Vinyl Flooring Installation System

Recommended for installing NATURAL OPTIONS Luxury Solid Vinyl Flooring as listed in **Figure 4**. With certain exceptions and special conditions, it can be installed over approved and properly prepared substrates of concrete, suspended wood, certain metals, polymeric poured (seamless) floors, ceramic tile, terrazzo and marble. This system may be used on all grade levels.

f. Vinyl Composition Tile Installation System

Recommended for EXCELON Tile, Standard EXCELON Tile and SAFETY ZONE Tile as listed in **Figure 4**. With certain exceptions and special conditions, it can be installed over approved and

properly prepared substrates of concrete, suspended wood, existing resilient flooring, certain metals, polymeric poured (seamless) floors, ceramic tile, terrazzo, and marble. This system may be used on all grade levels.

Tile-On installation allows installation of commercial vinyl composition tile to existing resilient flooring as listed in **Figure 4**. With certain exceptions and special conditions, this method eliminates the time and expense of removing the old flooring before installing new tile. This method may **not** be used over existing tile flooring below grade.

g. Static Dissipative Tile Installation System

Recommended for all installations of SDT Static Dissipative Tile as listed in **Figure 4**. It is recommended for use over approved and properly prepared concrete, suspended wood and certain hard surfaces. This system may be used on all grade levels. This system requires the use of copper grounding strips, S-202 SDT Adhesive, and S-392 SDT Polish.

h. Specialty Tile Installation System

Recommended for SAFETY ZONE Tile when it is installed in areas subject to frequent surface water or cooler temperatures such as around freezers, in produce areas, entryways, locker rooms and areas adjacent to showers as listed in

FIGURE 1.

ADHESIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LINOLEUM INSTALLATION SYSTEM		
Linoleum	Adhesives	Seams
MARMORETTE LINORETTE COLORETTE UNI WALTON DECORETTE GRANETTE	S-760 or S-235 full-spread S-580 optional in flash cove areas only	Recess scribe; heat-welding is optional but highly recommended*
LINODUR	S-761	Recess scribe S-761 optional
	S-760 or S-235 full-spread	Recess scribe; heat-welding is optional but highly recommended*
	S-240 Epoxy	Recess scribe and heat-weld

*Heat-welding is required when installing over radiant-heated subfloors, in areas exposed to direct sunlight, and in areas exposed to topical moisture and/or temperature fluctuations.

FIGURE 2.

ADHESIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL VINYL-BACKED SHEET INSTALLATION SYSTEM		
Sheet Flooring	Adhesives	Seams
TIMBERLINE TRANSLATIONS PERSPECTIVES	S-575 full-spread S-580 in flash cove areas only	Recess scribe or double cut; seal with S-553 or heat-weld
	S-240 Epoxy full-spread in certain areas S-580 in flash cove areas only	Recess scribe or double cut and heat-weld
MEDINTECH MULTITECH	S-575 full-spread S-580 in flash cove areas only	Recess scribe and heat-weld
SAFEGUARD SAFEGUARD Design	S-575 full-spread or S-230 Epoxy full-spread S-575/S-230 Epoxy Perimeter Plus Method S-580 in flash cove areas only	Recess scribe and heat-weld
SAFEGUARD Hydro	S-575/S-230 Epoxy Perimeter Plus Method and S-230 Epoxy around floor drains S-580 in flash cove areas only	Recess scribe and heat-weld

RESILIENT FLOORING INSTALLATION

Figure 4. It is recommended for use over approved and properly prepared substrates of concrete, suspended wood, existing resilient flooring, certain metals, polymeric poured (seamless) floors, ceramic tile, terrazzo and marble. This system may be used on all grade levels.

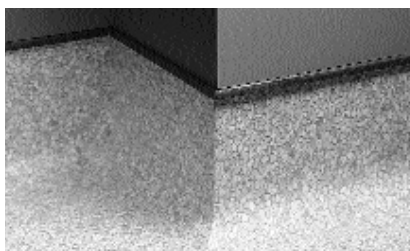
i. Flash Coving

Flash coving is an extension of sheet flooring material slightly up the wall, taking the place of conventional wall base materials or wooden baseboards and moldings. It is a neater, more hygienic installation and easier to keep clean because sharp corners are eliminated by a gentle radius.

The cross-section drawing shows how a cove stick is used as a backup to reinforce the flooring as it bends up the wall. A cap strip is usually used along the wall, although it is not required when the flooring is installed under toe kicks. Seaming methods used for the rest of the installation must be used in the flash cove area.

j. Commercial Sheet Seaming Methods

Heat-welded seams allow the use of full spread adhesive application without the need to apply special adhesive under the seams. Heat-welded seams use color-coordinated, complementary-color or, for some sheet flooring, patterned welding rods.



■ The Securabond method requires S-235 Adhesive in the field area. Seam areas are chemically bonded with S-200 Epoxy Adhesive, rendering them virtually invisible and offering a monolithic look. This chemical bonding prevents dirt and moisture from penetrating beneath the seams, ensuring a good bond between the sheet and the substrate.

■ Seams sealed with S-553 require a full spread of adhesive without the need to apply special adhesive under the seam. The S-553 Seam Sealing Adhesive is applied to the surface of the seam. This seaming method is limited to TRANSLATIONS, PERSPECTIVES, TIMBERLINE, and COMMISSION Plus.

■ Seams adhered using S-761 Linoleum Seam Adhesive require a full-spread of S-760 Adhesive in the field area. The S-761 Linoleum Seam Adhesive is applied along the seam edge and squeezed up through the seam. This seaming method is limited to Linoleum sheet products.

k. Wall Base Installation System

Armstrong Vinyl or Rubber Color-Integrated WALL BASE is recommended over most clean, dry, structurally sound interior wall surfaces. It is not recommended over vinyl wall coverings. (See Figure 5.)

FIGURE 3.

ADHESIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL FELT-BACKED INSTALLATION SYSTEM		
Sheet Flooring	Adhesives	Seams
MEDINTECH Tandem	S-235 full-spread	Recess scribe and heat-weld
POSSIBILITIES Petit Point Tapestry Classic CORLON Connection CORLON	Securabond S-235 in field and S-200 Epoxy at seams S-580 optional in flash cove areas only with S-200 Epoxy at seams	Recess scribe
Optional POSSIBILITIES Petit Point Tapestry Classic CORLON Connection CORLON	S-235 full-spread S-580 optional in flash cove areas only	Recess scribe and heat-weld
COMMISSION Plus	S-235 or S-254 full-spread S-580 optional in flash cove areas	Prepare with S-585 Seam Cleaner and coat with S-564 or S-595 Seam Coating Kit, or seal with S-553.

FIGURE 4.

ADHESIVES AND SUBFLOOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TILE INSTALLATION SYSTEMS						
Tile Flooring	Wood	Concrete	Ceramic, Terrazzo, Marble	Metal	Existing Resilient Floor	Comments
Luxury Solid Vinyl	S-575* or S-240 Epoxy	S-575* or S-240 Epoxy	S-240 Epoxy	S-240 Epoxy	Not recommended	Roll with 100-lb. roller. Install all tile in same direction.
LINOPLAN	S-760*	S-760*	S-760	S-760	S-760	Roll with 100-lb. roller. Tile must be quarter-turned.
EXCELON and Standard EXCELON	S-515, S-700, or S-750	S-89, S-515, S-700, or S-750	S-89, S-515, S-700, or S-750	S-89* or S-700	S-515 or S-750 Tile-On System	—
SAFETY ZONE	S-515, S-700, S-750, or S-230 Epoxy	S-89, S-515, S-700, S-750, or S-230 Epoxy	S-89, S-515, S-700, S-750, or S-230 Epoxy	S-89**, S-700, or S-230 Epoxy	S-515, S-750, or S-230 Epoxy Tile-On System	Roll with 100-lb. roller. Lay arrows in same direction.
SDT	S-202	S-202	S-202	S-202	Not recommended	Roll with 100-lb. roller. Install copper grounding strips with S-202 Adhesive.
PERSPECTIVES and TRANSLATIONS Tile	S-575 full-spread or S-240* full spread in certain areas	S-575 full spread or S-240* full spread in certain areas	Not recommended	Not recommended	Not recommended	Roll with 100-lb. roller. Use set-in-wet method.

* Set in wet method

** For metal, S-89 may only be used over steel, stainless steel, aluminum, and lead.

FIGURE 5.

ADHESIVE FOR WALL BASE		
Product	Adhesive	Comments
Color-Integrated WALL BASE (Vinyl or Rubber)	S-725	Use hand roller

SUBFLOORS

a. Concrete

New and existing concrete subfloors should meet the requirements of the latest edition of ASTM F 710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring." The design of the subfloor must also meet both the static and dynamic load requirements for the intended use of the space.

IMPORTANT: Regardless of the type of concrete or other cement-like material used as a base for resilient flooring, in the event of underlayment failure, the responsibility for warranties and/or performance guarantees rests with the subfloor subcontractor, not with the manufacturer of resilient flooring.

DRYING TIME –

The concrete must be dry before a bond can form between the flooring materials and the concrete. Regardless of the type of adhesive—water-based or solvent-based—it will not bond if excessive free water is present in and/or on the concrete.

Alkaline salts, which exude from concrete, will also affect the bonding of adhesives and may leave salt deposits at the seams of sheet materials and joints of tiles.

Ground moisture can also influence the amount of water contained in a concrete slab. Amounts of ground moisture vary according to weather and subsoil conditions.

When resilient floors are to be installed, concrete should be allowed to dry thoroughly for several months with good ventilation and, if possible, with heat. Calcium Chloride Tests must be performed before installation of resilient flooring to ensure that the concrete is dry. (See Figure 6.) A bond test should also be conducted.

SUSPENDED CONCRETE –

The drying of concrete is a slow process, and the loss of water is a direct function of the surface area. Slow evaporation is desirable for the first several days. Metal-pan and metal-deck construction, lightweight aggregate concrete and curing compounds retard drying.

ON- AND BELOW-GRADE CONCRETE –

Slabs in contact with the ground are exposed to ground moisture unless protected by a capillary break and a moisture vapor retarder.

MEMBRANE VAPOR RETARDERS –

Armstrong suggests the use of a membrane vapor retarder to protect concrete slabs on or below grade from subsoil moisture.

CURING AND PARTING COMPOUNDS –

"Curing compounds leave a film that can interfere with the adhesion of other materials to the treated surface; ... Their use should be avoided on surfaces that will later be covered with

resilient floor coverings, ... Where applicable, a letter of compatibility should be issued prior to the use of a curing compound on a floor receiving a subsequent finish." (Quote from American Concrete Institute, ACI, publication 302.1R-96, "Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction," page 50.) Any letter of compatibility must come from the manufacturer of the compound.

NOTE: Regardless of the bond tests or the type of compound used, the responsibility for warranties and/or performance guarantees rests with the compound manufacturer in the event of adhesion failure and not with the manufacturer of resilient flooring or adhesives.

CALCIUM CHLORIDE TEST –

It is the responsibility of the general contractor or flooring contractor to conduct Calcium Chloride Tests before installing resilient flooring. Tests should be made where concrete is least subject to drying conditions. Where curing agents have been used, they should be removed in and around the test areas to help obtain accurate results.

The tests should be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of ASTM F 1869, "Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride." Armstrong offers the guidelines in Figure 6 as maximum acceptable moisture emission levels.

If the tests fail, the concrete is not sufficiently dry **at that time** for a resilient flooring installation.

BOND TEST –

In addition to Calcium Chloride Tests, Qualitative tests, such as the Armstrong Bond Test, may be conducted to determine the compatibility of resilient flooring adhesives to concrete floors after removal of old adhesives, curing agents, breaker compounds, dust inhibitors, oil, grease paint and other special surface treatments and conditions. Test areas should be selected adjacent to walls, columns, etc., and other light traffic areas. Using the flooring specified in the building specifications, install 3' x 3' (91.4 cm x 91.4 cm) panels spaced approximately 50 feet (15.24 m) apart throughout the floor area. Install the panels with the recommended adhesives to be used in the actual installation.

If the panels are securely bonded after 72 hours, then the floor surface is sufficiently clean of foreign material for satisfactory installation.

ALKALI TEST –

Concrete floors should be tested for alkalinity before the installation of Armstrong resilient flooring. The allowable readings are 5 to 9 on the pH scale.

FIGURE 6.

MAXIMUM ACCEPTABLE MOISTURE EMISSION LEVELS					
Flooring (1)	Pounds per 1000 square feet per 24 hours	Micrograms per square meter	Kilograms per second per square meter	Perms/On-Grade	Perms/Below-Grade
Felt-backed sheet	5	280	2.44	0.3	0.1
VCT, SAFETY ZONE	5	280	2.44	0.3	0.1
Linoleum sheet	5	280	2.44	0.3	0.1
Vinyl-backed sheet	3	170	1.46	0.3	0.1
LINOPLAN	5	280	1.44	0.3	0.1
Luxury solid vinyl	3	170	1.46	0.3	0.1
SDT/static dissipative tile	3	170	1.46	0.3	0.1
SAFETY ZONE w/S-230	3	170	1.46	0.3	0.1

(1) Armstrong resilient flooring may be installed on all grade levels following recommendations in the Armstrong Guaranteed Installation Systems manual, F-5061.

RESILIENT FLOORING INSTALLATION

LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE –

Armstrong resilient flooring may be acceptable over lightweight aggregate concretes having dry densities greater than 90 lbs. per cubic foot (1441 kg/m³) and cellular concretes having plastic (wet) densities over 100 lbs. per cubic foot (1602 kg/m³) [94 lbs. (1506 kg) dry weight] providing the surface is troweled to a smooth, even finish.

This is a minimum requirement for the application of resilient floor covering. Concrete slabs with heavy static and/or dynamic loads should have higher design strength and densities calculated to accommodate such loads.

FLOOR FILLS AND TOPPINGS –

Many products such as cellular concretes, resin-reinforced self-leveling cement underlayments and gypsum-based products are recommended by their manufacturers for use as floor fills or toppings.

NOTE: All recommendations and guarantees regarding the suitability of these products and their performance as underlayments (for resilient flooring) are the responsibility of the manufacturer and installer of the underlayment system used.

PREFORMED CONCRETE PLANK OR SECTIONS –

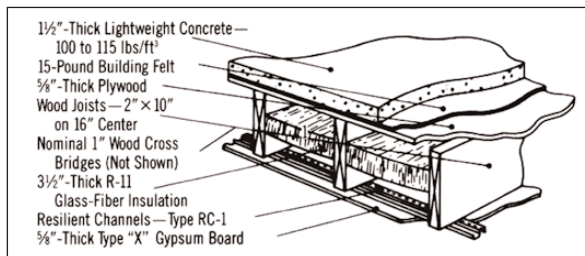
Because of the joints between these sections, this type of subfloor requires finishing with a topping as per the plank manufacturer's recommendations before resilient flooring can be installed. The topping will help smooth out any unevenness due to differences in the level of adjacent surfaces.

COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH –

Because of the concentrated floor loads that can be experienced in commercial and institutional environments, all concrete slabs should meet the requirements for ACI* Class 2 or Class 4 floors. For these environments, all concrete slabs, including lightweight, should have a compressive strength of 3,500 psi (24 MPa) or greater. *ACI 302.1R-96, Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction, pp.5 and 22.

b. Capped Wooden Subfloors

An increasingly popular form of construction for some multi-family residential structures consists of lightweight concrete or gypsum-based topping over plywood on wood joists or trusses. All recommendations and guarantees regarding the suitability and performance of such subfloors as underlayments for resilient flooring are the responsibility of the manufacturer and installer of the underlayment system. (See also Floor Fills and Toppings under Concrete.)



c. Wood

Armstrong resilient floors are recommended on wood subfloor construction **only** if the subfloor is suspended with a minimum of 18 inches (45.72 cm) well-ventilated air space below. The installation of resilient flooring on wood subfloors applied directly over concrete, or on sleeper-construction subfloors is not recommended.

For recommended grades of performance-rated subfloor panels, refer to APA—The Engineered Wood Association.

d. Existing Resilient Floors

Commercial resilient floors (except SDT, luxury solid vinyl PERSPECTIVES tile and TRANSLATIONS tile) may be installed directly onto an existing single layer resilient floor if:

- The existing resilient floor is smooth, not embossed, completely and firmly bonded, and properly installed.
- There is no evidence of moisture, alkaline salts or hydrostatic pressure.
- The existing floor is not a cushion-backed floor.
- Polish and other finishes have been stripped completely.

e. Terrazzo

Terrazzo subfloors should be dry, smooth and free of depressions, scale, dust or foreign deposits of any kind. Sealers, paint, varnish, oil, and wax should be entirely removed. (A bond test must be conducted before installing over terrazzo floors.)

f. Metal

Armstrong linoleum, commercial felt-backed sheet and vinyl composition tile floors (except SDT, luxury solid vinyl flooring with S-575 Adhesive PERSPECTIVES tile and TRANSLATIONS tile) may be installed over clean and abraded steel, stainless steel, aluminum, lead, copper, brass, and bronze subfloors. Armstrong commercial vinyl-backed sheet and vinyl-backed tile floors may be installed directly over clean and abraded steel, stainless steel, and aluminum subfloors.



DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST, OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

These products may contain either **asbestos fibers** and/or **crystalline silica**. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a nonasbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication "Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for instructions on removing all resilient floor covering structures.

PREPARING EXISTING SUBFLOORS

Resilient floors offer the simplest means of utilizing existing floor construction. However, no resilient floor is any better than the surface over which it is installed, and satisfactory results depend a great deal on correct preparatory work.

a. Wood

Preparation of suspended wood floors often involves replacing or installing new wood underlayment to receive the resilient flooring.

Subfloor panels such as APA-rated sheathing or STURD-I-FLOOR® should be covered with a minimum of 1/4" (6.35 mm) thick underlayment.

For strip wood or plank-type subflooring, Armstrong recommends the following, regardless of whether the subfloor is single-layer or double-layer:

- If the top layer is tongue-and-groove *and* the strip wood is 3" (7.62 cm) or less in face width, cover with 1/4" (6.35 mm) or thicker underlayment panels.
- All others [not tongue-and-groove or greater than 3" (7.62 cm) face width] should be covered with 1/2" (12.7 mm) or thicker underlayment panels.

b. Concrete

Surface coatings such as paint, varnish or wax can be removed by wet grinding or by applying the manufacturer's recommended solution of trisodium phosphate and water followed by thoroughly rinsing and drying. Where oil or grease has penetrated too deeply into the concrete and it cannot be removed satisfactorily, the concrete must be replaced. A bond test should be performed over all floors where paint, varnish and other foreign agents were removed.

For commercial and institutional environments, floor fills, toppings and underlayment must have a minimum compressive strength of 3,500 psi (24 MPa). Armstrong S-194 Patch, Underlayment and Embossing Leveler, S-183 Fast Setting Cement-Based Underlayment and S-184 Fast Setting Cement-Based Patch and Skim Coat meet or exceed this requirement.

All cracks, minor holes and crevices, score marks, control and construction joints in on-grade, below-grade, or suspended concrete should be filled with Armstrong S-194, S-183 or S-184. If it is free of foreign residue, the entire floor may be resurfaced as necessary. If there is a residue of old asphalt cutback adhesive, the residue can be covered with S-194 Patch, Underlayment and Embossing Leveler or S-184 Fast Setting Cement-Based Patch and Skim Coat as necessary. Use as recommended by the manufacturer. Actual expansion joints with elastomeric fillers are designed to absorb movement in concrete slabs. Cementitious underlayments, patches and resilient flooring installed across expansion joints often crack or buckle when the slabs move. Armstrong does not recommend flooring products be installed across expansion joints. Expansion joint covers are available for use with various floor coverings and should be specified by the architect.

RESILIENT FLOORING INSTALLATION

UNDERLAYMENTS

All resilient floorings tend to conform to the irregularities of the surface over which they are installed. Therefore, the proper type of underlayment for the particular condition must be used and properly installed.

Two main types of construction should be considered:

1. concrete and other monolithic floors
2. wood

Two types of underlayment should be considered

- a. powder – for leveling concrete floors
- b. board or panels – for resurfacing old and new wood floors

a. Powder

The best powder underlayments contain a binder of latex or polyvinyl acetate resins and portland cement in the mix. The latex can be either in powder form as part of the underlayment or as an additive in liquid form. Latex is best for use where a thin layer is required and/or where it is recommended by the manufacturer. The recommended maximum thickness of a powder underlayment should not exceed the manufacturer's recommendations.

For satisfactory bonding with any type of powder underlayment, the substrate should be dry, clean, and free of paint, oil, varnish and other foreign material.

Latex underlayments, such as Armstrong S-194 Patch, Underlayment, and Embossing Leveler, S-183 Fast-Setting Cement-Based Underlayment, and S-184 Fast-Setting Patch & Underlayment are easily troweled and can be feather-edged satisfactorily. Latex underlayments are usable under all types of resilient flooring. When resilient flooring is used over a powder underlayment, the underlayment must be allowed sufficient drying time prior to the application of the flooring adhesive.

b. Board or Panels

Underlayments for resilient flooring should be structurally sound, designed for resilient flooring underlayment purposes, with a minimum thickness of 1/4" (6.35 mm). The panels should be resistant to dents and punctures from concentrated loads and smooth enough so that the texture or graining in the panels will not show through the finished flooring. The panels should not contain any substances that will stain vinyl, e.g., edge sealers, patching compounds, marking inks, etc. Installation of the underlayment should be in strict accordance with the panel manufacturer's recommendations.

Armstrong recommends APA-trademarked plywood rated as suitable underlayment for floor resilient floor coverings for commercial installations.

NOTE: Unless it is an Armstrong product, regardless of the type of underlayment used under Armstrong resilient flooring, the responsibility for warranties and/or performance guarantees for the underlayment rests with the manufacturer of the underlayment and not with Armstrong.

Additional Armstrong guidelines for subfloors and underlayments can be found in [Armstrong Guaranteed Installation Systems](#) manual, F-5061.

HVAC INFLUENCES

The use of air conditioning (year-round) can be an important factor in the installation of resilient floor coverings. Usually air conditioning will favorably affect drying of floors because large quantities of water are removed from the air.

In warm humid climates, air-conditioning systems often reduce the temperature of the conditioned areas below the dew point of the outside air. When this condition exists over long periods of time, condensation of moisture in the walls and floors may be expected if moisture retarders are not installed beneath the concrete slab.

Moisture retarders are recommended to protect floors exposed on one side to unconditioned areas, from becoming saturated with condensation water. Soil warmer than an air-conditioned room may be viewed as an unconditioned area. This would also require a moisture retarder to separate it from the concrete floor.

The surface of radiant-heated subfloors should not exceed 85°F (29°C), and all material should be protected from the direct flow of heat from hot-air registers, radiators or other heating fixtures and appliances.