



XI

# Repairs

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## XI. Repairs

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As an installer, you will probably be called upon to repair damage to a resilient floor. Here are some of the most common problems and the recommended repairs for them. Repairs for certain types of damage may vary according to the material being repaired.

### **A. REPAIR INSETS FOR FULL-SPREAD FELT-BACKED ROTOVINYL FLOORS**

1. Cut a piece of matching material slightly larger than the damaged area.
2. Place repair piece over damaged area and fasten with double-faced tape. If the material has a pattern, be sure the pattern is aligned correctly.
3. Double cut through both the repair piece and the damaged floor using a utility knife and a straightedge or square.
4. Remove the repair piece from the double-faced tape and cut the damaged area in the center. Work to the edges to remove.
5. Carefully scrape adhesive and backing from the substrate.
6. Apply adhesive to the back of the repair piece and put it in place. Roll with a hand roller and clean any adhesive that might be on the surface.
7. Apply seam treatments as recommended for the product being repaired.
8. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

### **B. REPAIR INSETS FOR PERIMETER-BONDED FELT-BACKED RESIDENTIAL FLOORS**

1. Place industrial or masking tape around the damaged area to prevent excessive shrinkage.
2. Cut a piece of matching material slightly larger than the damaged area.
3. Place repair piece over damaged area and fasten with double-faced tape. If the material has a pattern, be sure the pattern is aligned correctly.
4. Double cut through both the repair piece and damaged floor using a utility knife and a straightedge or square.
5. Lift out the repair piece and the damaged area.
6. Use a small spatula-type trowel such as the S-50 or S-51 to carefully spread adhesive approximately 5" under the edges of the existing floor surrounding the inset. Insets smaller than 3' x 3' should be full spread. Larger insets may be perimeter bonded with a 10" band of adhesive centered under the seams.
7. Carefully position the new repair piece, hand roll into place and clean off any adhesive that might be on the surface.
8. Apply seam treatments as recommended for the product being repaired.
9. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

### **C. REPAIR INSETS FOR INTERFLEX FLOORS**

1. Place industrial or masking tape around the damaged area to prevent excessive shrinkage.
2. Cut a piece of matching material slightly larger than the damaged area.
3. Place repair piece over damaged area and fasten with double-faced tape. If the material has a pattern, be sure the pattern is aligned correctly.
4. Double cut through both the repair piece and damaged floor using a utility knife and a straightedge or square.
5. Lift out the repair piece and the damaged area.
6. Apply a band of Interflex adhesive 1-1/2" wide beneath the seam, between the inset and the original floor.
7. Carefully position the new repair piece, hand roll into place and clean off any adhesive that might be on the surface.
8. Apply seam treatments as recommended for the product being repaired.
9. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

### **D. REPAIR INSETS FOR PATTERNED CORLON**

1. From a piece of scrap material, cut a matching repair piece that will cover the damaged area. Use a straightedge or square and make a cut in a grout line or where two different colors meet to hide the seam.
2. Place repair piece over damaged area and fasten with double-faced tape. Be sure the pattern is aligned correctly.
3. With the point of a knife, score around the repair piece deep enough to identify the outline of the damaged area to be removed.
4. Remove the repair piece from the double-faced tape.
5. Holding the knife perpendicular, cut along score lines on damaged piece.
6. Cut through middle of damaged material and peel away from the substrate, being careful not to damage edges.
7. Clean residue of adhesive and backing from the substrate, apply adhesive to the back of the repair piece and put in place. Roll with a hand roller and clean off any adhesive that might be on the surface.
8. Apply seam treatments as recommended for the product being repaired.
9. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

### **E. REPAIR INSETS FOR NONPATTERNED COMMERCIAL SHEET FLOORING AND LINOLEUM**

1. Cut a triangular- or diamond-shaped repair piece, which will be less noticeable. All edges should be cut vertically.
2. With the repair piece over the damaged area, place a square against one edge of it.
3. Holding the repair piece without moving the square, score along the edges which are not butted to the square. Tip your knife slightly so the point of the knife is against the repair piece.

4. Remove the repair piece without moving the square and cut the last side along the square. This cut will now be half the thickness of the knife blade away from the square, which will make the opening in the floor slightly smaller than the repair piece, assuring a tight fit.
5. Cut through the middle of the damaged material and peel away from the substrate, being careful not to damage edges. Clean residue of adhesive and backing from the substrate, apply adhesive to the back of the repair piece and bend repair piece into position to locate the three points. Compress repair piece into opening with a hand roller and roll thoroughly. Clean off any adhesive that might be on the surface.

**To complete nonheat-welded floors:**

6. Burrs resulting at these cuts may be skived off with the back edge of a linoleum knife or sanded smooth with fine sandpaper followed by a few thin coats of floor finish.
7. Burrs around insets can also be heat sealed with aluminum foil and an iron set at its hottest setting. Tape a small strip of heavy-duty aluminum foil over the inset with the dull side of the foil in contact with the vinyl. Smooth the foil with your finger to make the burrs visible. Using the tip of the iron, make several quick passes over each burr until the foil is flattened, indicating that the burr has been fused. Cool the foil with a damp cloth and remove it from the floor. Repeat the process if necessary. We suggest practicing with a piece of scrap material.

**To complete heat-welded floors:**

6. Hand rout seams as recommended for the product being repaired.
7. Place a small piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil at the end of each seam (shiny side up). Start and stop heat welding on top of the aluminum foil. This will prevent the welding rod from bonding to the material at the non-routed areas.
8. Allow the welding rod to cool to room temperature and skive in two passes.

**To complete S-761 Repairs for Linoleum, MEDINTECH, MEDINTECH Tandem, ROYAL, SOLID (Canadian Exclusive), POSSIBILITIES Petit Point, TRANSLATIONS, TIMBERLINE, PERSPECTIVES and Connection CORLON:** Repair as for heat-welded floors, do not rout; seal the edges of the repair using S-761 Seam Adhesive.

**To complete S-553 repairs for TRANSLATIONS, PERSPECTIVES or TIMBERLINE:** Repair as for heat-welded floors; do not rout; seal the repair using S-553 Seam Sealing Adhesive following the seal and wipe procedure.

**F. REPAIR MINOR TEARS OR BREAKS IN RESIDENTIAL SHEET FLOORING**

1. Clean torn material with a small brush, such as a toothbrush, and mild detergent. Rinse and thoroughly dry the area.
2. Use the point of a knife to level the surface on both sides of the tear.
3. Apply seam treatments as recommended for the product being repaired.
4. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

## **G. REPAIR MINOR TEARS OR BREAKS IN COMMERCIAL SHEET FLOORING**

1. Tears are most commonly found at outside corners, door casings and other stress points. These are generally caused during installation and are a result of handling problems or material abuse. If both sides of the tear are at the same level, it will hide fairly well until dirt accumulates in the tear.
2. Clean torn material with a small brush, such as a toothbrush, and mild detergent. Rinse and thoroughly dry the area.
3. Apply a small bead of S-553 Seam Sealing Adhesive on the face of the flooring over the tear. Do not insert the applicator into the tear.
4. Severe tears may require an inset as an alternative.
5. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

## **H. REPAIR STRESS WHITENING IN COMMERCIAL SHEET FLOORING**

1. When dark-colored materials are severely bent or stressed during installation, they may show a lighter-colored stress mark. This can be removed by heating the area with a heat gun or hair dryer. Do not use a torch.
2. If the stress marks are discovered prior to installation, heating from both front and back will speed the procedure.
3. When heating the material with a heat gun, keep the heat gun moving in a back and forth motion over the stressed area and about 6" to 8" away from the material. Be careful not to concentrate the heat on a single area for any amount of time.

## **I. REPAIR BUCKLES IN INTERFLEX FLOORS**

1. Interflex products that have been allowed to become egg-shaped on the roll or were fit too tightly will have a tendency to have some buckling after installation. Mild buckling may flatten out when the material contracts overnight or in a few days.
2. If buckles persist after a reasonable length of time, heat them with a heat gun or hair dryer and cover with a piece of underlayment board. Weight the board with heavy objects until the material has cooled.

## **J. REPAIR MINOR DAMAGE OR POOR FITS IN COMMERCIAL SHEET FLOORING**

1. Place masking tape around damaged or poorly fit area to protect surrounding area.
2. Using a scrap piece of material, apply several drops of S-553 Seam Sealing Adhesive onto the face of the scrap. Scrape the surface with a knife blade until you have a smooth, paste-like material.
3. Smooth this paste into the damaged area and allow it to dry.
4. Coat with floor finish and remove masking tape. Light sanding and additional finish may be necessary to smooth the area.

## **K. REPAIR CIGARETTE BURNS IN COMMERCIAL SHEET FLOORING**

1. Scrape the charred vinyl with a knife, followed with a few drops of S-553 Seam Sealing Adhesive.
2. After the S-553 has softened the vinyl, scrape again with a knife point to remove the discolored area.
3. Allow to dry for a few minutes and then smooth the area with fine sandpaper or 000 steel wool and apply floor finish.

## **L. REPAIR RESIDENTIAL SHEET FLOORING COATED SEAMS**

1. If dirt gets into the **wet** seam coating within the first minute of applying the coating or if drops of coating fall on the flooring other than at the seam, they can be wiped up immediately with a clean, white cloth dampened with lighter fluid (naphtha).
2. If dirt gets into partially dried seam coating or if dirt is not detected right away, wait until coating has cured. Protect the flooring material by placing masking tape on either side of the seam coating as tight to the seam coating as possible. Then, using fine sandpaper carefully remove the dirty portions of seam coating and recoat the affected area using the applicator bottle or a cotton swab to apply the S-570.
3. S-570 Seam Coating cannot be removed from surfaces once it has started to set up – usually within a few minutes of application. For that reason, care must be taken when using this product. If the S-570 is spilled on the floor and goes undetected until later, there is nothing that can be done. It usually becomes less noticeable with traffic. **DO NOT** attempt to remove it as doing so will dull the finish and can cause damage to the flooring surface.

## **M. REPAIR INSETS IN LINOLEUM**

1. From a piece of scrap or extra material, cut a diamond-shaped repair piece large enough to cover the damaged area.
2. Place the repair piece over the damaged area and secure with double-faced tape. Be sure the repair material is running in the same direction as the existing floor.
3. Place a square against one edge of repair piece and score along the edges that are **not** butted to the square.
4. Remove the repair piece without moving the square and score the last side along the square. This cut will now be half the thickness of the knife blade away from the square, which will make the opening in the floor slightly smaller than the repair piece, assuring a tighter fit.
5. Holding the knife straight up and down, cut along the score lines and completely through the damaged flooring.
6. Cut through the middle of the damaged material and peel away from the substrate, being careful not to damage the edges.

7. Clean adhesive residue from the substrate and apply the recommended adhesive to the back of the repair piece.
8. Gently compress and bend the repair piece into the opening, locking in all four points, and roll thoroughly with a hand roller.
9. Clean off any adhesive residue with a clean cloth dampened with detergent and water and let dry.
10. Apply several coats of floor finish to the repaired area if needed.

#### **N. REPAIR SMALL GOUGES IN LINOLEUM**

1. Place tape around the damaged gouged area.
2. Using a piece of scrap material, scrape the surface of this material using a paint scraper or a knife.
3. Grind the scrapings together to make a fine powder.
4. On a piece of scrap material, mix the grindings together with white carpenter's glue to form a paste-like material.
5. Fill the gouge or damaged area with the paste, leaving an excess so that when dry it can be rubbed flush with the flooring surface.
6. When dry, gently rub the damaged area flush with the flooring surface using a fine grit piece of sandpaper.
7. Thoroughly clean the repaired area and then apply several coats of floor finish if needed.

#### **O. REPAIR CIGARETTE BURNS IN LINOLEUM**

1. Using 000 steel wool, smooth the damaged area in the direction of the material until burn mark is removed.
2. Thoroughly clean the repaired area and then apply several coats of floor finish if needed.

#### **P. REPAIR INSET FOR VINYL-BACKED LOOSE LAY FLOORING**

1. Cut a piece of matching material slightly larger than the damaged area.
2. Place repair piece over damaged area and fasten with double-faced tape. If the material has a pattern, be sure the pattern is aligned correctly.
3. Double-cut through both the repair piece and the damaged flooring. Be sure not to cut the substrate. Hold a straight bladed knife at a 90 degree angle while cutting the seam. Square edges are important for a professional-looking and hard-to-find repair.
4. Lift out repair piece and the damaged area.
5. Center the acrylic double-faced tape under all seams. Be sure not to overlap the tape.
6. Carefully position the repair piece and roll all seams firmly with a hand roller.
7. Apply seam treatments as recommended for the product being repaired.
8. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

