Vinyl Tile Installation Instructions

**Preparation**

- Remove furniture and appliances (use a piece of hardboard to protect the floor).
- Remove baseboard molding.
- Undercut doorframes (optional) - this makes fitting tiles around doorframes easier.
- If subfloor is existing **resilient vinyl**:
  - Do not install over an existing soft or cushioned vinyl sheet flooring.
  - Do not install tile over existing tile over below-grade concrete.
  - Floor must be firmly bonded to the original subfloor.
  - Use Armstrong New Beginning to strip any polish or cleaning residues from the surface.
  - Use Armstrong S-199 Embossing Leveler to smooth any texture or embossing on the old floor.
- If subfloor is **wood**:
  - Check that the wood is firmly nailed to the original subfloor. We recommend 1/4 inches minimum APA-rated plywood designed specifically for underlayment purposes. Whatever board you choose, make sure you get written instructions and a guarantee.
  - Repair any knotholes, indentations or open joints with Armstrong S-183, S-184 or S-194 Underlayment.
  - Use a belt sander or sanding block to smooth out any rough areas.
  - The prepared subfloor must be smooth, clean, dry and dust-free.
- If subfloor is **concrete**:
  - If the floor has been painted, make sure the paint is completely dry and firmly bonded to the floor.
  - NOTE: Only self-adhering tiles can be installed over a painted concrete floor. Tiles that require adhesive should not be used.
  - Fill low spots with Armstrong S-183, S-184 or S-194 Underlayment.
  - The prepared subfloor must be smooth, clean, dry and dust-free.
- Find the center point between the two longest parallel walls. Mark guidelines from centers of opposite walls.
- Without removing backing, lay rows of tiles in both directions from the center, adjusting to give the most balanced cutting at the borders.
Spreading Adhesive
(Skip if installing self-adhering tile.)

- Cover 1/4 of the room with Armstrong S-515 or S-750 Adhesive.
- Allow adhesive to set according to manufacturer's instructions.

Laying Tile

- Peel the backing from a tile and place it at the center point.
- Starting where the perpendicular lines cross, firmly press the first tile into place. **Make sure edges are flush with chalk lines.**
- Make sure it’s positioned correctly and then press down firmly.
- Lay all full tiles in step fashion, starting in center of room.
- Position tiles so arrows on back all point in the same direction.

**CAUTION**
Do not stand or walk on release paper or a tile with release paper on the back as it is extremely slippery. Place it in a wastebasket immediately upon removal from tile.

Fitting Partial Tiles

- To fit partial tiles, lay the tile to be cut exactly over the last full tile; place another full tile against the wall and mark the cutting line where the tiles overlap.
- Cut tile on line. Before peeling the backing paper of self-adhering tile, check that the cut tile fits. Do not force it into place.
- Install tile (removing paper from self-adhering tile), and press tile firmly into position.

Fitting Around Pipes

- To fit around pipes, make a cardboard pattern as a guide and use to draw an outline on the tile. Cut to shape.
- Check fit before peeling backing paper. It should be snug but don’t force into place.
Finishing Up

- Remove any excess adhesive from the tile surface immediately after installation. Lightly dampen a clean, white cloth with mineral spirits, and wipe over the adhesive. Change the area of the cloth frequently as the adhesive is removed.
- When finished installing, roll the floor to make sure tiles are firmly stuck down.
- Replace baseboard molding.
- Carefully move furniture and appliances back into the room using hardboard panels to protect new floor.
- Do not wash wet the floor for 5 days.

Care Instructions

- Sweep or vacuum regularly.
- Wash regularly with a no-rinse floor cleaner such as Armstrong Once ‘n Done Floor Cleaner.
- Do not use soap-based detergents, abrasive cleansers, or mop and shine products. They can leave a film on your floor.
- To restore the shine, polish with a liquid floor polish such as Armstrong Shinekeeper Floor Polish. Do not use paste wax or solvent-based polishes.
- Use floor protectors on chair and table legs to distribute furniture weight and protect against indentation damage.
- Use natural-fiber mats at outside doorways to reduce tracked-in dirt, stains and moisture. Do not use mats with rubber backing which can cause permanent discoloration.