

Installation instructions for

Meraply Premium Underlayment

Preparation prior to installation.

- Installation of MERAPLY panels, whether directly over sub-floors in new construction or over an existing floor in a renovation, is to occur after the existing joists and sub floor have been inspected and verified to be sound, spring free and designed to accommodate the system as a flooring structure. All foreign matter should be cleaned from the sub floor and any loose areas or protruding nails or staples should be hammered tightly.
- Allow panels to acclimate 24-48 hours by standing them on edge in the room where they will be installed.
- Vacuum all construction dust and debris from the sub floor. Sweeping is not sufficient.

Ready to Install

- Set panels at right angles to the sub floor panels (ignore if installing over an existing floor). Where the joints run at right angles to the joists, offset sub floor and floor core panel edges at least 8". Ensure that four corners do not meet.
- Begin laying the MERAPLY panels in one corner of the room where you can cover the most amount of floor without cutting in for fixtures. A space of at least 1/8" should be left between the panel edges and the wall around the perimeter of the room to allow for any expansion.
- Do not lay out and tack the whole floor! After fastening the first panel measure and cut the next panel to fit. Avoid panel pieces less than 12" except where cutting to allot for floor fixtures.

Fastening

- Nailing should start at the center of the panel and work up and down to the panel edges. Fasteners should be spaced 2" centers along panel edges and 4" centers in the field of the panels. Hold floor core panels down securely while fastening. Do not rack corners first. For the very best job glue down the panels first using a high solid content PVA (polyvinyl acetate) white glue. For best results the fastener chosen to install your MERAPLY panels should be long enough to reach the bottom of the sub floor, **but not go through it.**

Nails

- Use annular-grooved underlay flooring nails, not less than 1" long. If you are renovating and applying the floor core panels over an existing floor, nails should be sufficient length as to be equal to the total thickness of the sub floor, without entering into the floor joists.
- Drive nails perpendicular to, and countersunk slightly below, the surface of the MERAPLY panels.

- Set nails no closer than 3/8" and further than 3/4" from panel edge.
- Hold MERAPLY panels securely to the sub floor to ensure full contact during fastening.

Staples

- Use polymer coated chisel-point staples with not less than 18 gauge shank with a crown between 3/16" and 3/8". They must be galvanized or coated, and should not be less than 1" long. Use sufficient pressure on the stapling gun so that staples are flush or countersunk slightly below the MERAPLY panel surface. Follow nailing procedure.

Sanding and Patching.

- After fastening thoroughly sand all MERAPLY panel joints until level using a heavy-duty power sander. If the joints are smooth enough so you can't feel the seam, a floor-patching compound is not necessary. Hand sanding is not sufficient to correct any unevenness between panels. Avoid over-sanding.
- Voids or gaps in excess of 1/16" between panels, and any irregularities in the surface should be filled after sanding with a non-shrinking cementitious patching compound with a liquid acrylic latex additive, intended for this purpose. Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Sand again after patching, being careful to allow the patching compound to dry thoroughly, as per the manufacturer's instructions. Sand excess patch completely off the face of the panels.

Installing the floor covering.

- Inspect the installed MERAPLY panels to ensure there are no visible core laps or voids that could affect the integrity of the panels. Any panels that contain these defects should be removed and replaced prior to installing your new floor covering.
- Read the flooring manufacture's instructions carefully before beginning to install your new floor.
- Use only those adhesives recommended by the floor cover manufacturer for use over wood floor core panels.
- In all high moisture area seams in the resilient flooring must be well sealed and all traffic must be kept away until the sealant is fully cured.
- The edges of the resilient flooring must be well sealed along doors, bathtubs, shower bases, toilets, cabinets, vanities, and other locations where water or moisture could be present. Use a mildew-proof sealant.

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