



Installation Instructions

Recycled Leather Tiles

Glue-Down Option

Echelon Collection

Thank you for choosing leather tiles, a natural product. The tiles, like wood, bamboo, or cork may absorb moisture and need to acclimate to their surrounding environment prior to installation. Please carefully read and follow these instructions. A professional installer with experience with cork, hardwood or vinyl flooring is recommended to install leather flooring. The option exists to have our tiles without the EasyContact System™ for a direct glue-down installation for commercial jobs in particular. Contact us for details.

PREPARATION

- ALLOW THE TILES TO ACCLIMATE OUT OF THE BOX, FANNED OUT AND ON-SITE, FOR A PERIOD OF 48 HOURS AT ROOM TEMPERATURE. Never install tiles below 12°C and 32°C due to humidity. Keep the doors closed during the acclimation period to maintain the room temperature.
- Remove furniture and appliances using a piece of hardboard to protect the floor.
- Test for moisture prior to installation. A basic method of testing for concrete moisture is shown on the left. Seal with duct tape 2' x 2' pieces of 6 mil or similar poly film to the slab in several areas of the layout. Make sure all edges are sealed; allow it to sit 24-48 hours. If any condensation or color change takes place you have moisture issues that need to be addressed. The standard for EcoDomo Recycled Leather Tiles is a maximum of 3 pounds per





1,000 sq. feet over a 24 hour period using the calcium chloride test ASTM 1869-98. Do not install tiles until corrective actions are complete.

- If you are installing the Recycled Leather over existing ceramic tile, use a self-leveling compound such as Ardex® Feather Finish or like to ensure an even surface. Old grout lines **MUST** be filled. The substance must be smooth, flat and dry before installation.

- If using underlayment to correct deficiencies in the subfloor and to provide a smooth sound surface on which to install the recycled leather, be sure to acclimate panels to site conditions before installation. Underlayment will need to be minimum of ¼ “or thicker with one fully sanded face (APA Underlayment Grade plywood or equal). Underlayment must be free of any material that would interfere with providing a secure bond or that would cause discoloration (adhesives, solvents, inks, sealers, etc.). EcoDomo does not recommend installation over particle or ship board, tempered hardboard, fire retardant plywood, or pressure treated plywood.

- Check that the wood is firmly fastened to the original subfloor.
- Repair any knotholes, indentations or open joints with Ardex® Feather Finish or like.
- Use a belt sander or sanding block to smooth out any rough areas.
- The prepared sub floor must be smooth, clean, dry and dust-free.
- We recommend the application of Kilz Oil Based Stain Blocker in a matching color in order to seal the substrate and limit dust and moisture variation. This is a similar process which is recommended for wallpaper.

***** NOTE: To cut tiles, you will need a straight edge and a heavy duty utility knife. Make sure your blades are new, sharp and kept clean. When working with East Contact™ we have found it is often easier to use a light hand cream to keep the adhesive from sticking to your fingers. If you are turning a corner working a cut, or an area of difficulty wait to remove the backing until you are sure of placement of the tile. Hopefully you are reading these instructions prior to installation. Please call (301) 424-7717 for technical assistance.



ACCLIMATE

Tiles are the last thing you want to install in a room. Take the tiles **out of their boxes and remove from plastic** and let them acclimate in the room designated for installation as described above. When acclimating tiles, please fan them, opening the areas between the tiles to allow air flow, keep tiles flat during process.

REVIEW AND PREPARE SUBSTRATE

No installation is better than the substrate over which it is installed. The finished appearance and performance of the floor will be determined by the condition of the substrate. The substrate must be structurally sound, rigid, smooth, flat, clean, and permanently dry.

The substrate should be smooth and free of dirt, waxes, polish, old adhesives, and voids. You can test the area by passing a trowel to ensure there are no protrusions. You can fill the indentations by using the *Ardex Feather Finish*® or like.



Layout your pattern as you would for any tile work. Chalk your lines onto the floor or walls.

APPLY TWO COATS OF ADHESIVE

Apply the adhesive first with a paintbrush at the perimeter of the wall. Should the adhesive be mistakenly applied to the edge of the wall, remove with a moist rag or, when dry, simply by rubbing it. Do not use thinners or removers. We recommend using **Wilson Art**® H20 or **FORMICA**® 160, both are premium-grade water based contact cement with low VOCs.



Use a paint roller with a medium nap refill and apply the adhesive to your substrate as you would in painting a substrate. Apply adhesive over the chalk lines. Adhesive will dry clear.



To apply the adhesive to the tile, the use of a paintbrush is recommended. Apply the adhesive from the center of the tile towards the edges – this motion ensures that no adhesive will be applied on the finished side of the tile.



Once applied to the tiles and the floor, let the adhesive dry completely, following the indications of the manufacturer. This may take between 30-60 minutes depending on the level of humidity in the room.

Apply a **SECOND COAT** of adhesive on the substrate and tiles following the same procedure as described above. Let the adhesive on your tiles and the substrate dry following the manufacturer's instructions.



APPLY THE TILES

Once the second coat of adhesive is dry and tacky (roughly 30-60 minutes depending on humidity), carefully align the tile edge to the chalk line. Once tiles touch the adhesive, the tiles will grab to the substrate.



You can apply pressure to the tile with your hands and then follow with a rubber mallet. Tile must be hit for positive contact between substrate and tile, especially at the perimeter and corners. **Solid contact at the corners and edges is essential** for a successful long-term installation.





Once the first tile is in place, align the next tile to the edges of the first. Continue in the same fashion as above.



Apply pressure with a 125 pound roller by passing twice on the tiles in a slow motion in a different direction each time. For wall applications, apply the J-roller on all the wall tiles in addition to the seams. Apply extra pressure by hitting corners and edges with the rubber mallet as well.



Once the tiles are pressed in place with the 125 pound roller, use a J-roller to apply extra pressure on the seams and tile edges. The methodical application of extra pressure on the seams will ensure the adhesion to the substrate. As mentioned earlier, corners and edges generate the most problems after installation.



TOPICAL SEALER FOR FLOORS ONLY

Once installed, a topical sealer should be applied. You can use:

- VERMEISTER® HI TECH 2K – Gloss from 10-30 two component waterborne Polyurethane finish. This is especially desirable in commercial applications and provides not only a urethane finish but is also ADA compliant. This can be obtained from any Vermeister® distributor.
- Butcher's® Wax or TreWax® (requires frequent re-application)



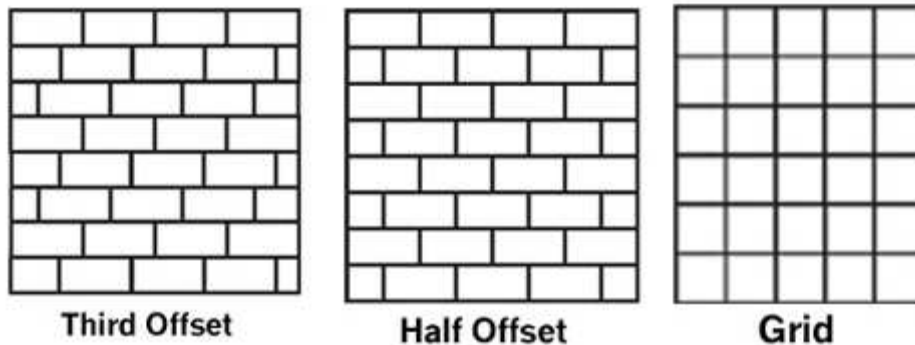
For the topical sealers, you need to follow the instructions of the manufacturers. Wax can be applied and buffed with an electric buffer. Apply wax two times, buffing each time in between coats and after it has dried completely. Wait for 24 hours before using the floor as the wax should be given time to completely harden. If buffing, please use white floor polish and buffing pad. If you use the wrong pad you can end up polishing the floor, therefore making it like an ice rink.



WALL INSTRUCTIONS

For wall installation, follow the initial steps recommended for installation – first acclimate properly and prepare the substrate. You must apply the tiles to APA Underlayment Grade plywood or equal. You cannot install the tiles on drywall as the contact cement will react negatively with the drywall and your tiles risk peeling off over time UNLESS YOU SEAL THE WALL WITH A COAT OF KILZ WATER BASED STAIN KILLER OF A MATCHING COLOR AS THE TILE. The preferred method is to apply the tiles over plywood.

You can apply ¼” APA Underlayment Grade plywood over existing drywall by having it glued and laid against the wall with nails a/o screws. In all cases, the substrate must be clean & smooth. Fill-in any cracks or seams with Ardex® feather finish. Draw your horizontal and then a couple of vertical lines that you'll need to line up the start of your tiles. Laying your tiles in an offset brick pattern is easier to install as very often the walls are not perfectly horizontal. Laying your tiles in a straight grid pattern (like a checkerboard) will highlight any discrepancy in your wall unless it is perfectly flat – regardless of the skill level of the installer.



Next simply roll our adhesive on the wall or you can use a paint brush to apply the adhesive if it's a small area. Wait until the adhesive dries to tacky and clear state (about 30- 45 minutes), then apply a second coat. Wait until the adhesive is clear before starting and you'll be able to see your lines again. Apply two coats of adhesive on the tiles.

Align one corner of the tile against your 2 lines and then carefully push down the rest of that tile. Carefully align the edge of the next tile to the first one and continue to stick the tiles to the wall. Carefully place each tile tightly against the next one because once the tile sticks, it's very difficult to remove. While the tile is in place, smack the tile with the palm of your hand all across the tile to ensure that all parts of the tile have made contact with the wall adhesive. You can then use a rubber mallet or a hammer with a batten board to make sure all parts of the tile are secured to the wall.

There is no need to apply a wax sealer or other protective finish on wall tiles. Contact us for more information regarding products, designs, sales, distribution and installation.



EXTRA TIPS



Ensuring tight seams can be challenging when installing the recycled leather tiles. The best method to ensure a very tight seam is to apply the tiles with a slight concave application. Apply the tile to the substrate on both sides. Leave just enough space to put a small finger in between the tile and the substrate in the middle of the tile. Push the tile downward. The extra pressure will tighten the tiles against each other. You may wish to practice ahead of time on tiles without adhesive to develop your skills.

Should you make a mistake, slowly peel up the recycled leather tile with the aid of a utility knife. Cut the adhesive free from the substrate and or tile being careful not to damage the tile. Reapply the adhesive to these areas.



- A brick, running-bond pattern is the easiest pattern to install.
- Stain the sub-floor using a WATER-BASED stain of a matching color of the tiles. This will help conceal any gaps in installation.
- DRY WALL SHOULD BE SEALED WITH KILZ WATER BASED stain killer of a matching color as the tile;
- During installation, do not cover floor tiles with plastic. The use of roll paper is preferred for any unavoidable traffic. Plastic sheets will stick to the contact cement.
- Use a Sharpie pen of a color equivalent to the tile to draw the contour the tile on the sub-floor. This will help eliminate any gaps.
- Do not allow any traffic onto dry adhesive. This will cause a coating of dirt onto the adhesive and inhibit it from being effective in holding the tiles.



- Ensure low humidity during the acclimation time by turning on the AC in the room. This will only work if the room remains enclosed and with the AC running constantly during the acclimation period.

These tips and photo guides are a general guideline to assist with installation of the product provided for reference only. A deviation from the instructions voids any responsibility of EcoDomo LLC.