# GroundLock Extreme Interlocking Tiles Installation Guidelines



# PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

- 1. Check deliveries for compliance with order confirmation.
- 2. All flooring products and accessories must be stored off the ground in the environment in which they will be installed for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. The environment shall be a weather-tight enclosure. Temperature shall be maintained for 48 hours before installation, during installation, and 72 hours after installation.
- 3. Minimum ambient temperature: 50°F
- 4. Minimum substrate temperature: 50°F

Before installing the flooring, it is a good idea to inspect it and identify any problems with the appearance. If there are visible manufacturing defects, please contact StaticWorx and speak with a representative prior to installing the flooring.

#### SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS OF CONDUCTIVE FLOORING

It is the responsibility of the architect, end user client, and/or contractor to indicate the applicable static control requirements in the product specification.

#### TEST METHODS FOR ESD PROPERTIES OF RESILIENT FLOOR COVERINGS

ANSI/ESD S7.1 (resistance) ANSI/ESD STM97.2 (walking body voltage)

#### **JOINT TREATMENT**

Concrete control joints should be thoroughly cleaned and filled as needed using a standard leveling compound (per manufacturer's instructions) prior to installing the flooring.

#### **SUBFLOOR PREPARATION**

Prepare the subfloor by cleaning it, removing or repairing any noticeable imperfections, and removing any waxes or polishes. Patching and large depressions in the subfloor shall be leveled as needed prior to installing the flooring.

# **INSTALL GROUNDLOCK INTERLOCKING TILES**

Tools Required: tile cutter, tape measure, metal ruler, jigsaw, circular saw, rubber flooring mallet, dead blow hammer

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#### **PRECAUTIONS**

- The tiles are shipped on pallets. Different batches may have different dye lots and must not be mixed.
- Tile direction: The tiles must all be oriented in the same direction. Observe the direction as indicated by the arrow found on the back of each tile.
- GroundLock interlocking tiles may have dimensional tolerance variances between batches or between colors. In this case, it is possible that the tiles could become slightly offset. If necessary, the entire row of tiles must be overlapped to continue installing.
- Mark out a grid on the ground using chalk or tape
- Orient all tiles in the same direction
- Install tiles, following the grid that has been marked out, laying the tiles in a staircase pattern.

#### INTERLOCK THE TILES

- 1. Position all the tiles in the same direction, following the arrows on the back of the flooring (fig. a.)
- 2. Arrange the tiles on the substrate, interlocking from the corner to the edge (fig. b.)
- 3. To interlock the tiles, strike them with a rubber flooring mallet or plastic dead blow hammer (fig. c.)

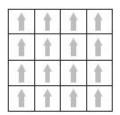


figure a.

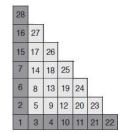


figure b.

#### **CUTTING**

Use a cutter to trim the tile (make one marking cut and two surface cuts before snapping the tile). To help with trimming, heat the material with a hot-air gun before cutting. This installation method does not require a jigsaw.

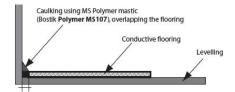
For more difficult cuts (door frames, etc.), you may wish to use a jigsaw or high leverage gripper shears. If there is a lot of cutting required, we recommend keeping a circular saw on site.



figure c.

#### **EDGING (OPTIONAL)**

Map out the room to balance the cuts at the edges. The cut tiles must be at least half a tile wide. Leave a space of 0.2 inches (5mm) along the walls. Caulk the edges with an MS POLYMER sealant or similar.



#### **WASTE DISPOSAL**

Remove all excess waste and materials from the work area. Dispose of all refuse in accordance with federal and local statutes.

#### **INITIAL USE**

- The floor can accept normal walking traffic immediately after the installation is completed.
- To move furniture/equipment, lay Masonite panels or Ram Board to distribute the load.
- Avoid placing rubber feet on the bottom of furniture legs.



## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

#### INSTALLATION OVER EXPANSION JOINTS IN THE SUBSTRATE

#### a. Structural expansion joints recessed in the tiling

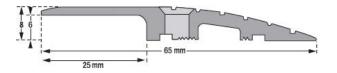
Be sure the two areas to be tiled are completely level. Install the recessed expansion joints. GroundLock tiles are freefloating, so it is not necessary to stop on either side of the expansion joint.

#### b. Covering expansion joints installed after GroundLock tiles are laid

In this case, the two areas of tiling on each side of the expansion joint must be treated as separate rooms, so an edge transition strip is required on both sides of the expansion joint cover. The profile should extend over the flooring and be fixed on one side only.

#### **CORNERS, ENDS & DOORWAYS**

Use GroundLock Extreme aluminum reducers to transition from the interlocking tile to the subfloor or adjacent flooring. The reducer installation is to be performed after completion of the floor covering.



- 1. Adjust the reducer lengths to the required sizes as needed, taking into account the corners if necessary.
- 2. Position the reducer flush against the edge of the floor tiles.
- 3. Secure the reducer to the tiles using nylon plugs and 2" screws.



#### **SKIRTING/WALL BASE**

Use standard skirting/wall base to complete the junction between the floor and the wall.

#### **REPAIRS**

If a tile needs to be replaced:

- Cut a dovetail
- Disengage the dovetails
- Replace with a new tile

#### **UNDER FLOOR RADIANT HEATING**

Under floor radiant heating should be turned up gradually over seven days, after the floor has been installed.



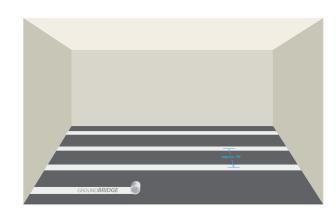
#### **MAINTENANCE**

- Wait at least 24 hours after the floor has been installed before cleaning it.
- Remove dust and debris using a broom or vacuum cleaner.
- Clean the floor with a scrubber drier using a pH-neutral ESD floor cleaner.
- Rinse with clean water to remove all traces of the floor cleaner and allow to dry.
- Note: To prevent seepage between the tiles, do not flood with water.
- Contact StaticWorx for information regarding approved cleaning methods, chemicals, etc.

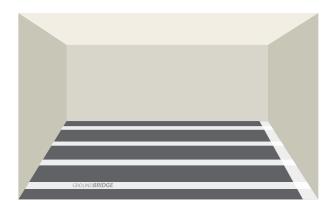
# INSTALL GROUNDBRIDGE CONDUCTIVE UNDERLAYMENT

## THIS IS AN OPTIONAL STEP, NOT REQUIRED

1. Available in 14" wide rolls, lay the GroundBridge underlayment out in strips parallel with the room's longest dimension. The strips should be spaced approximately 36 inches apart (48-50 inches on center) so they are positioned underneath every other seam, thereby making contact with every row of 25" interlocking tiles.



2. Finish installing the GroundBridge underlayment by positioning one strip of GroundBridge along one edge of the room running perpendicular to the previously installed strips. This strip will connect all of the ends of the strips, creating a unified ground plane above the subfloor.



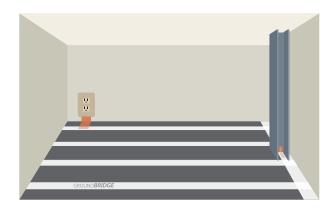


# GROUND THE GROUNDBRIDGE CONDUCTIVE UNDERLAYMENT

GroundBridge needs to be properly grounded by using strips of 24 inch copper tape. Copper strips need to be installed at a frequency of 1 copper strip for every 1,000 sq. ft. of floor space (or one strip of copper tape per room in smaller spaces). At least 2-3 inches of copper strip should contact a GroundBridge strip. The copper tape has a self-adhesive backing to hold it in place.

Option 1: Install copper strip by attaching one end to a grounded electrical outlet.

Option 2: Install copper strip by attaching one end to a grounded metal structure such as an I-beam.



GroundLock Extreme does not require GroundBridge underlayment or any other added conductive ground plane. With direct contact between interlocking tiles across the installation, GroundLock Extreme measures below 1.0 x 10E7 ohms and reliably meets ANSI/ESD standards for conductivity. For GroundLock applications, GroundBridge is a belt-and-suspenders-type installation product.

Some clients and installers prefer this type of Plus 1 protection. If you have questions about GroundLock or GroundBridge, please contact your StaticWorx representatives for technical details.

# **QUALITY ASSURANCE & WARRANTY**

- 1. StaticWorx ESD interlocking vinyl tile is warranted for a period of ten (10) years to be free of defects in material and workmanship if installed, maintained, and used strictly in accordance with StaticWorx written instructions.
- 2. The warranty is expressly limited to the synthetic flooring materials supplied by the manufacturer. The warranty does not cover damage caused by fire, winds, floods, moisture, chemicals (other than those used for maintenance specified by manufacturer) nor does it apply to damage caused by ordinary wear, misuse, abuse, neglect, faulty building construction, faulty subsurface or site preparation, or unprofessional installation.
- 3. Resistive properties warranty: Lifetime (contact StaticWorx for information regarding exclusions based on improper maintenance, usage, etc.)
- 4. Installer shall be liable for all matters related to the installation of the products described herein for a period of not less than one year from the date of installation.
- 5. All warranty claims must be submitted, in writing, within five (5) days of the discovery of any defect. Status of claims will be based on complete inspection of installation. All claims not submitted in writing and received by StaticWorx within the time period specified above shall be waived. The warranty begins upon receipt of the material by the customer and continues for the warranty period set forth above so long as the product is maintained in accordance with StaticWorx maintenance guidelines.



# **QUESTIONS/ASSISTANCE**

Call StaticWorx Customer Service at 617-923-2000 Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (ET), or visit us at staticworx.com