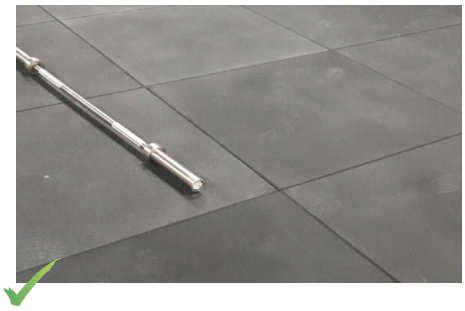
# INDOOR RUBBER TILE SERIES INSTALLATION GUIDE

## PREVIOUS CONSIDERATIONS

Rubber tiles are the best solution for Fitness centers, CrossFit boxes and Commercial gyms. Achieving the best properties is directly connected with a good installation. A bad installation can mean unnecessary damages to your rubber floor. Rubber tiles are heavier than rubber rolls, which means an installation without adhesive is possible. Adhesive however, offers better properties on the long run.



This installation guide is intended to provide the necessary information for the proper installation of BEKA RUBBER INDOOR TILES SERIES. These instructions are based on accepted industry standards and are provided for informational use only. BEKA RUBBER does not warrant any installation performed pursuant to these instructions or otherwise and specifically disclaims liability for any direct or indirect personal injury, property damage or other costs or losses resulting from installation. BEKA RUBBER products should be installed by qualified and experienced personnel.

***BEKA RUBBER SBR TILES are manufactured from recycled materials and slight variance in shade and color chip dispersion is normal. It is the installer's responsibility to inspect all products to ensure the correct style, thickness, color and spot any visual defects before beginning the installation. Any discrepancies must be reported immediately before beginning installation.***

## BEFORE INSTALLATION

1. Confirm that packing list and products received match.
2. Store tiles and adhesive in a clean and dry environment between 18ºC- 35ºC.
3. Tiles should be protected against humidity before and after application and also during the curing.
4. Rubber tiles and adhesive must be acclimated at room temperature for a minimum of 48 hours before starting installation if adhesive is going to be used.
5. Tiles are packed on pallets at the factory. At the job site, the installer should allow these tiles to relax for a minimum of two hours before gluing or cutting material.
6. Installation areas should be resistant to all air conditions and should be held in 18ºC homogenic temperature during 48 hours before, during and after installation.
7. Read carefully and entirely all product and subfloor preparation instructions before starting any installation.
8. For using heavy weights, check the suitability of the subfloor for the intended loads in advance and prepare it if necessary.

## ***SUBFLOOR PREPARATION***

a. ***WARNING***: Particle board, chip board, Masonite, and lauan are not suitable underlayment.
b. Subfloor MUST be dry, clean, smooth, level, and structurally sound. It should be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, asphalt, sealers, curing and hardening compounds, alkaline salts, old adhesive residue, and other extraneous materials,
c. Mechanically remove all traces of old adhesives, paint, or other debris by scraping, sanding, or scarifying the substrate. **Do not use solvents.** All high spots shall be ground level and low spots filled with an approved cementitious based patching compound. **Gypsum based patching and leveling compounds are not acceptable.**
d. Always allow patching materials to dry thoroughly and install according to the manufacturer's instructions. Excessive moisture in patching material may cause bonding problems or a bubbling reaction with the adhesive. When gluing your flooring down, it is imperative that the sub-floor is free of any moisture.
e. Subfloor should be strong as structural and it must have a surface which is properly straight, without holes or cavities bigger than 2mm.

## ***SUBFLOOR FOR INDOOR RUBBER TILES***

### ***Flat Concrete***

Of all the potential surfaces for installing rubber, a flat concrete surface is probably the most ideal. Rubber tiles over flat concrete provide a consistent, long-lasting foundation, which creates great long-term quality. Rubber flooring requires a solid, level surface, and concrete is nearly perfect for this need. However, you want to make sure that there is not a high level of moisture within or underneath the concrete, as this can seep upward, become trapped between the concrete and rubber and cause problems.

Before installing rubber tiles on concrete, be sure that the subfloor has been entirely hardened and cured (about 45 days at least). Minimum pressure resistance of the concrete should be 3000 psi.

While rubber tiles are a perfect floor for flat concrete slabs, when placed without adhesive, it can shift and move underneath your foot, creating a potentially dangerous safety hazard. Therefore, it's better to use an adhesive to keep the rubber flooring in place. Else, double side tape can be used in order to fix the tiles. Ideally, tiles touch on a wall and this way, after carefully adjusting, they stay in place without even double side tape.

**WARNING**: Concrete, floor patching compounds, toppings, and leveling compounds can contain free crystalline silica. Respirable crystalline silica (particles 1-10 micrometers) can be produced by cutting, sawing, grinding, or drilling. Respirable silica is classified by OSHA as an IA carcinogen and is known to cause silicosis and other respiratory diseases. Avoid actions that cause dust to become airborne. Use local or general ventilation, or protective equipment, to reduce exposure below applicable exposure limits.

### Ceramic Tile

Another surface that is good for rubber tiles is ceramic tile, but because of the fragile nature of these materials, it may be necessary to include some sort of protection and subflooring. Even the best ceramic tiles can be brittle when used for heavy foot traffic or if weights are dropped, so it's possible to damage the tile if the rubber tiles used are too thin and the weight used goes over 80kg.

If you install rubber tiles over ceramic tile, you may notice some follow through. You could also see grout lines through the rubber flooring, especially if the grout is significantly deep in between the tiles. It is convenient a subflooring or padding to protect the tiles or prevent lines or creases.

**Flat Hardwood**

If you want to cover hardwood, rubber flooring is actually a great choice. But there is a condition: rubber tiles over hardwood require a protective underlayment, especially for high-quality hardwood, so you can avoid staining the hardwood with the black color of the tiles.

***While rubber tiles can be great for indoor hardwood floors, it is a poor option for covering outdoor wood decks.. INDOOR RUBBER TILES series are manufactured as INDOOR flooring.***

**Carpet**

We do not recommend using rubber tiles over carpet. When you place rubber tiles over carpeting, the material will bunch up, creating tripping hazards and giving the surface an inconsistent, ugly appearance. Rubber can also cause damage to carpet, creating more problems for your flooring.

**Rooftops & Outdoor Surfaces (Grass, Dirt, Rock, Etc.)**

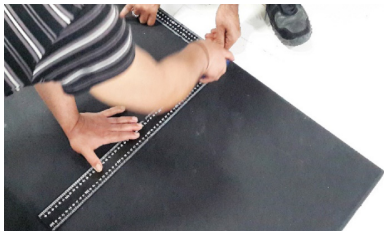
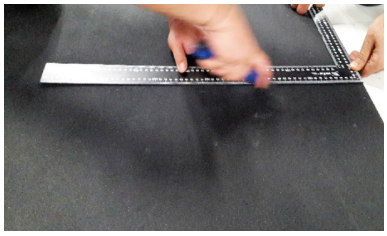
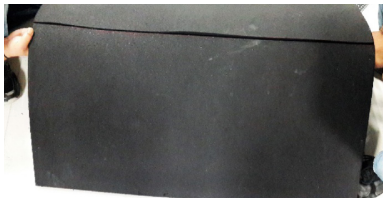
INDOOR RUBBER TILES SERIES are designed and manufactured for INDOOR use. Many people want to turn their outdoor rooftop into a usable space. Assuming the structure has enough strength and integrity for foot traffic and weights, **RUBBER TILES FOR OUTDOOR** use are recommended.

***INSTALLING INDOOR RUBBER TILES***

Installing INDOOR rubber tiles is a job that should be done by professionals, especially if we are talking about a commercial Gym. For home gym use, rubber tiles are a much easier option than rubber rolls. However, even in this case, a proper installation is recommended.

1) Loose lay out the tiles in the room as you would like them to look after a complete installation. Pay attention to color and patter design so they match as much as possible if rubber tiles contain EPDM flecks.

2) If cutting the tiles is necessary, accuracy in measurement is very important. Use a Straight Edge and a Utility Knife with a fresh blade. We recommend to cut the tiles slowly and steady in a place with enough light an space so appropriate cutting can be done.

An alternative would be to use an electric table saw (for straight-line fulltile cutting) or an electric jig-saw to cut around curves.

3) In case adhesive will be used for the installation, BEKA RUBBER recommends BEKA adhesive, a two component polyurethane based adhesive. Follow the instructions contained on adhesive package to achieved desired results. If another adhesive is selected, specific instructions from the manufacturer must be followed.

4) After mixing both components according to instructions, apply adhesive to the subfloor using a notched trowel. Take care not to spread more adhesive than can be covered by tiles within 15 minutes. The open time of the adhesive is 15 - 20 minutes at 20°C and 50% relative humidity.

**Note: The open time of adhesive is affected by temperature and humidity. High temperatures and high humidity will cause the adhesive to set quickly. Low temperatures and low humidity will cause adhesive to cure at a slower rate. The installer should monitor on-site conditions and adjust open time accordingly.**

5) For a big space installation (100m$^2$ or more), it is possible to use adhesive on some tiles, that will offer a fixed point where other tiles can be adjusted. This way, you can save energy and money and avoid the problem of tiles moving.

6) Carefully lay the rubber tile into the wet adhesive. Immediately roll the floor with a 45-50kg. roller to ensure proper transfer of adhesive. Repeat this step for every tile until the whole subfloor is covered.

***NOTE*: Never leave adhesive ridges or puddles. These will telegraph through the material. Do not allow BEKA adhesive to cure on your hands or the flooring. Cured adhesive is very difficult to remove. We strongly suggest wearing gloves. Immediately wipe off excess adhesive off floor with a rag slightly dampened with mineral spirits. Follow the mineral spirits with a rag dampened with water to remove the mineral spirits. Use mineral spirits sparingly. Saturating the rubber with mineral spirits may cause the adhesive to be pushed too deeply into the pores of the rubber.**

7) If some seams are gapping it is possible to hold them together temporarily with blue painters tape. Tape MUST be removed after adhesive has developed a firm set which is approximately 2-3 hours. Allowing tape to remain longer than 2-3 hours or using aggressive tapes may result in adhesive residue.

In some instances, it may be necessary to weigh down the seam until the adhesive develops a firm set. Boxes of cove base or tile work well. Keep traffic off the floor for a minimum of 48 hours. Floor should be free from rolling loads for a minimum of 72 hours. Foot traffic and rolling loads can cause permanent indentations or debonding in the uncured adhesive.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT INSTALLATION

There are 2 basic layouts posible: symmetrical and asymmetrical.

## SYMMETRICAL LAYOUT

Simmetrical installation is easy and quick. The important thing is to follow the tile edges. When choosing a symmetrical installation remember that recycled rubber tiles usually have some tolerances in dimensions (up to 1%), so keeping perfect straight lines may be more difficult.

## ASYMMETRICAL LAYOUT

Asymmetrical installation is always a better solution. It offers a better aesthetic result and it helps to “hide” small differences between tiles.