

## Telegraphing on Resilient Flooring using Spray Adhesive

“Telegraphing” is the term used to refer to visible patterns on the surface interface of resilient flooring (vinyl sheet, tile, VCT, etc.) caused by the impression of some unevenness of the substrate, substrate preparation or adhesive placement (or all) underneath it. Telegraphing is more visible with backlighting or natural light and is more visible when the flooring is polished. It is much less visible on flooring coverings that have a matte finish.

Telegraphing occurs when the resilient flooring conforms to substrate profile or textures, coatings, adhesives, debris or other structures over which it is installed. The flooring eventually conforms to the substrate and the topography becomes visibly distinguishable on the floor coverings surface. High speed buffing and polishing warms, softens and molds the flooring which in turn speeds up and accentuates this process.

Flooring spray adhesives should be applied in accordance with the flooring manufacturer’s installation guidelines using the specified application method and coverage rates. Once spray adhesives are applied, the adhesive should be given the proper drying time and the flooring installed within the spray adhesives working time. Loss of adhesion can result if the flooring is not installed within the working time of the spray adhesive. Also, if the adhesive is allowed to dry too long, it may not transfer evenly between the substrate and the applied flooring. Roll the finished flooring installation immediately using an appropriate 75 – 100 lbs. 3-section roller to ensure sufficient adhesive transfer and to flatten the installation before the adhesive becomes overly dried and less malleable.

When installing thin gauge flooring, or those that are to be highly polished, the spray adhesive must be properly metered by following all recommended spray pattern application methods and coverage rate documentation for a successful installation. It is up to the end user to determine the spray pattern and coverage, keep spray nozzle tip clean to prevent large deposits of adhesive that can result in telegraphing issues. The porosity and texture of the substrate will affect the spray pattern and coverage rate of the spray adhesive, extending or shortening the drying time and working time. A porous floor and drier ambient conditions can cause the adhesive to dry quickly and set firmly. Flooring installed over firmly dried adhesive spray patterns will not flatten out properly when rolled. Generally, however, telegraphing from spray adhesives are expected to be more problematic over non-porous or irregular substrates. Applied over a non-porous substrate may require a lighter adhesive application pattern.

