

Although the use of gypsum based products as an underlayment may be acceptable as substrates for many flooring installations, some issues need to be considered prior to their application. These issues include possible reduction in adhesive bond strength and the potential of the gypsum based underlayment to crack or dust.

Proper installation of the gypsum should follow the guidelines of the resilient flooring industry which requires gypsum underlayment to be installed in accordance with ASTM F2419 "Standard Practice for Installation of Thick Poured Gypsum Concrete Underlayments and Preparation of the Surface to Receive Resilient Flooring". Prior to installing the finished flooring, the gypsum underlayment substrate must be tested for moisture using a non-destructive electronic moisture meter on a scale recommended by the underlayment manufacturer to receive floorcoverings (Refer to ASTM F2659).

XL Brands recommends that gypsum-based underlayment be primed (XL Brands Prelude) prior to the application of adhesive to improve the bonding surface. Priming the surface also encapsulates any dusty conditions and prevents the adhesive from being absorbed into the substrate. Apply the gypsum underlayment and appropriate primer in strict accordance with the underlayment manufacturer's guidelines.

Pre-installation testing, a test bond must be performed to ensure that adhesive bond performance is achieved to the underlayment/primer before proceeding.

Thinly applied underlayments and those with low compression and tensile strength may not be able to resist stresses caused by structural movement and/or heavy loads. When these stresses occur, those underlayments can be prone to fracture, increasing the potential for installation problems. However, some improved gypsum underlayment products are now available that have increased compressive strength, reducing the potential for this problem.

The potential for gypsum underlayment to fracture exists regardless of the flooring material being installed. Underlayment, patching, self-leveling, and other floor fills generally need a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi. as required for most commercial end-use substrates.

XL Brands assumes no liability for issues relating to or resulting from the use of gypsum or any other underlayment. Any flooring installation problems or claims associated with the use of any type underlayment product should be directed to the underlayment manufacturer or to those responsible for its application.

This document is provided for informational purposes only and is believed to be accurate and reliable. However, XL Brands/Bostik assumes no responsibility for any errors and is not liable for any damages of any kind resulting from the use of, or reliance on, the information contained herein.