



Standard Practice for Development of Literature Pertaining to the Selection of Residential Resilient Floor Coverings¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice addresses criteria pertinent to the selection of resilient residential flooring including properties of materials, end use, environment, and maintenance. It applies to all non-textile resilient floor coverings. Documents developed according to this practice shall address all characteristics and materials within the scope of this practice.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- F 141 Terminology Relating to Resilient Floor Coverings²
- F 1066 Specification for Vinyl Composition Floor Tile²
- F 1102 Guide for Preparation of Use and Care Booklets for Residential Resilient Vinyl Floor Coverings²
- F 1303 Specification for Sheet Vinyl Floor Covering with Backing²
- F 1344 Specification for Rubber Floor Tile²
- F 1482 Guide to Wood Underlayment Products Available for Use Under Resilient Flooring²

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This practice is intended to assist manufacturers and writers of educational materials in understanding and explaining residential resilient floor covering selection. Literature developed according to this practice will aid consumers in making decisions about selecting residential resilient floor coverings.

3.2 All topics covered in Sections 4-8 are to be included in documents prepared under this practice.

4. Evaluating Purchaser Needs

4.1 Visual Characteristics:

- 4.1.1 Color,
- 4.1.2 Pattern, and
- 4.1.3 Texture.

NOTE 1—A sample of the flooring to be selected should be made available to the purchaser to determine appropriateness to the decoration and lighting of the area.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 15.04.

4.2 Performance Characteristics:

4.2.1 Resistance to Specific Types of Damage:

- 4.2.1.1 Abrasion,
- 4.2.1.2 Cuts and gouges,
- 4.2.1.3 Stains,
- 4.2.1.4 Temporary moisture retention,
- 4.2.1.5 Indentation,
- 4.2.1.6 Change in color, and
- 4.2.1.7 Loss of initial gloss.

4.2.2 Maintenance (see Guide F 1102 and Terminology F 141):

- 4.2.2.1 Time involved, including frequency of cleaning and stripping of prior cleaning products or finishes,
- 4.2.2.2 Cleaning products and techniques including stripping,
- 4.2.2.3 Finishes or dressings used, and
- 4.2.2.4 Mechanical buffing.

NOTE 2—Appearance retention is affected by maintenance procedures used. Appropriate maintenance prolongs the life of the floor.

4.2.3 Repairability:

- 4.2.3.1 Small cuts and gouges (repair usually done in place using sealer and technique recommended by the manufacturer).
- 4.2.3.2 Large cuts, gouges, and damage (usually requires inserting repair pieces).
- 4.2.3.3 Matching of existing flooring and repair piece for color and pattern must be considered (usually leftover material from original installation is the best choice).

4.2.4 Type and Distribution of Traffic:

4.3 Warranties—Include an explanation of the consumer's rights under the warranty. Use nontechnical language, that is, language easily understood by the consumer.

5. Location

5.1 Clarify appropriate match of subflooring to floor covering.

5.1.1 Grade Level (see Terminology F 141 and Guide F 1482):

- 5.1.1.1 On grade,
- 5.1.1.2 Suspended floors including ventilated crawl space, or
- 5.1.1.3 Below grade.

5.2 Environmental Conditions in Locality:

5.2.1 Sand or grit conditions, from natural sources or construction in area,

5.2.2 Humidity,

5.2.3 Home heating and sun exposure due to extent of windows and orientation and shade.

6. Factors Affecting Appearance of Flooring

6.1 Design,

6.2 Color,

6.3 Gloss, and

6.4 Surface texture.

NOTE 3—The lighter the color of the flooring the more subject to staining the floor will be. Gloss is the shininess of a floor. Flooring is manufactured in a range of gloss levels from low to high. Low gloss floors show less change in gloss over time than do high gloss floors. Flooring is available in a range of textures. Appearance and maintenance vary with the degree of texture.

7. Factors Affecting Cost

7.1 *Construction of Product* (see Terminology F 141 and Specifications F 1066, F 1303, and F 1344):

7.1.1 Overall thickness,

7.1.2 Wear layer thickness, type, and its advertised performance,

7.1.3 Composition of the product to produce decorative effects, and

7.1.4 Form of product to satisfy specific types of installation:

7.1.4.1 Sheet flooring or

7.1.4.2 Tile.

7.2 Construction of subfloor defines the choice of resilient flooring (see Guide F 1482).

NOTE 4—Approved wood construction subfloor is used above grade. Concrete subfloors are used on, below, or above grade (in apartments).

7.3 *Installation* (see Guide F 1482 and Terminology F 141)—Includes decision to remove existing floor or install new floor over existing floor.

7.3.1 Subfloor Preparation Costs—Removal Option:

7.3.1.1 Removal of existing floor,

7.3.1.2 Patching subfloor,

7.3.1.3 Underlayment, and

7.3.1.4 Adhesive.

7.3.2 *Subfloor Preparation Costs—Installation Over Existing Floor Option:*

7.3.2.1 Patching existing floor,

7.3.2.2 Application of a leveling compound to create a smooth surface,

7.3.2.3 Alternate use of underlayment directly over existing floor, and

7.3.2.4 Adhesive.

7.3.3 Methods of Installation:

7.3.3.1 *Perimeter*—Adhesives or staples, or both, are used at edges of sheet flooring.

7.3.3.2 *Full Adhesive*—Adhesive used to adhere entire flooring (sheet or tile flooring).

7.3.3.3 *Loose Lay*—For sheet flooring when adhesives are not used

7.3.3.4 Guide the choice between self-installation or professional installation by reviewing installation options, manufacturer's recommendations, and buyer's skill level to choose.

7.4 *Maintenance After Installation*—See 4.2.2.

7.5 *Method of Repair of Damage/Method of Removal/Replacement:*

7.5.1 Construction of the product, and

7.5.2 Repair techniques.

8. Durability

8.1 Durability is affected by the physical/mechanical properties of the flooring product, such as (see Terminology F 141):

8.1.1 Wear layer composition and gage,

8.1.2 Backing composition and gage,

8.1.3 Cushion layer,

8.1.4 Design, pattern application, color,

8.1.5 Product gage, and

8.1.6 Surface smoothness.

8.2 All flooring is subject to surface damage. Floors that are more resistant have specific composition and construction which withstands attack from stainants, alkali, physical abuse, mold, etc. It is important that consumers consider specific needs and carefully investigate flooring products which meet those requirements (see Guide F 1102). Consider damage resistance to the following:

8.2.1 Abrasives,

8.2.2 Sunlight,

8.2.3 Heat sources,

8.2.4 Moisture,

8.2.5 Condition of subfloor,

8.2.6 Quality of installation,

8.2.7 Indentations and weight loads of furniture and appliances,

8.2.8 Maintenance procedures; for example, finishes used (see Terminology F 141), and

8.2.9 Other environmental conditions, for example, tar used on driveways.

9. Keywords

9.1 consumer information; flooring; residential; resilient vinyl

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