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Repairs

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As an installer, you will probably be called upon to repair damage to a resilient floor. Here are some of the most common problems and the recommended repairs for them. Repairs for certain types of damage may vary according to the material being repaired.

A. LINOLEUM REPAIRS

1. REPAIR INSETS IN LINOLEUM

- a. From a piece of scrap or extra material, cut a diamond-shaped repair piece large enough to cover the damaged area.
- b. Place the repair piece over the damaged area and secure with double-faced tape. Be sure the repair material is running in the same direction as the existing floor.
- c. Place a square against one edge of the repair piece and score along the edges that are not butted to the square.
- d. Remove the repair piece without moving the square and score the last side along the square. This cut will now be half the thickness of the knife blade away from the square, which will make the opening in the floor slightly smaller than the repair piece, assuring a tighter fit.
- e. Holding the knife straight up and down, cut along the score lines and completely through the damaged flooring.
- f. Cut through the middle of the damaged material and peel away from the substrate, being careful not to damage the edges.
- g. Clean adhesive residue from the substrate and apply the recommended adhesive to the back of the repair piece.
- h. Gently compress and bend the repair piece into the opening, locking in all four points, and roll thoroughly with a hand roller.
- i. Clean off any adhesive residue with a clean cloth dampened with detergent and water and let dry.
- j. Apply several coats of floor finish to the repaired area if needed.

2. REPAIR SMALL GOUGES IN LINOLEUM

- a. Place tape around the damaged gouged area.
- b. Using a piece of scrap material, scrape the surface of this material using a paint scraper or a knife.
- c. Grind the scrapings together to make a fine powder.
- d. On a piece of scrap material, mix the grindings together with white carpenter's glue to form a paste-like material.
- e. Fill the gouge or damaged area with the paste, leaving an excess so that it can be rubbed flush with the flooring surface when dry.
- f. When dry, gently rub the damaged area flush with the flooring surface using a fine-grit piece of sandpaper.
- g. Thoroughly clean the repaired area and then apply several coats of floor finish if needed.

3. REPAIR CIGARETTE BURNS IN LINOLEUM

- a. Using 000 steel wool, smooth the damaged area in the direction of the material until burn mark is removed.
- b. Thoroughly clean the repaired area and then apply several coats of floor finish if needed.

B. INSET REPAIRS

1. FOR FULL-SPREAD FELT-BACKED ROTOVINYL FLOORS

- a. Cut a piece of matching material slightly larger than the damaged area.
- b. Place repair piece over the damaged area and fasten with double-faced tape. If the material has a pattern, be sure the pattern is aligned correctly.
- c. Double-cut through both the repair piece and the damaged floor using a utility knife and a straightedge or square.
- d. Remove the repair piece from the double-faced tape and cut the damaged area in the center. Work to the edges to remove.
- e. Carefully scrape adhesive and backing from the substrate.
- f. Apply adhesive to the back of the repair piece and put it in place. Roll with a hand roller and clean any adhesive that might be on the surface.
- g. Apply seam treatments as recommended for the product being repaired.
- h. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

2. FOR PERIMETER-BONDED FELT-BACKED RESIDENTIAL FLOORS

- a. Place industrial or masking tape around the damaged area to prevent excessive shrinkage.
- b. Cut a piece of matching material slightly larger than the damaged area.
- c. Place repair piece over the damaged area and fasten with double-faced tape. If the material has a pattern, be sure the pattern is aligned correctly.
- d. Double-cut through both the repair piece and the damaged floor using a utility knife and a straightedge or square.
- e. Lift out the repair piece and the damaged area.
- f. Use a small spatula-type trowel to carefully spread adhesive approximately 5" under the edges of the existing floor surrounding the inset. Insets smaller than 3' x 3' should be full spread. Larger insets may be perimeter bonded with a 10" band of adhesive centered under the seams.
- g. Carefully position the new repair piece, hand roll into place and clean off any adhesive that might be on the surface.
- h. Apply seam treatments as recommended for the product being repaired.
- i. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

3. FOR FULL-SPREAD FIBERGLASS ROTOVINYL FLOORS

(S-289 Releasable & Permanent Flooring Adhesive and S-288 Flooring Adhesive)

- a. Cut a piece of matching material slightly larger than the damaged area.
- b. Place repair piece over the damaged area and fasten with double-faced tape. If the material has a pattern, be sure the pattern is aligned correctly.
- c. Double-cut through both the repair piece and the damaged floor using a utility knife and a straightedge or square.
- d. Remove the repair piece from the double-faced tape and cut the damaged area in the center. Work to the edges to remove.
- e. Carefully scrape adhesive (S-288) from the substrate. (No need to scrape S-289.)
- f. Apply S-761 Seam Adhesive around the perimeter of the opening.

- g. Apply adhesive to the back of the repair piece and put it in place. Roll with a hand roller and clean any adhesive that might be on the surface.
- h. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

4. FOR VINYL-BACKED LOOSE LAY FLOORING

- a. Cut a piece of matching material slightly larger than the damaged area.
- b. Place repair piece over the damaged area and fasten with double-faced tape. If the material has a pattern, be sure the pattern is aligned correctly.
- c. Double-cut through both the repair piece and the damaged flooring. Be sure not to cut the substrate. Hold a straight bladed knife at a 90° angle while cutting the seam. Square edges are important for a professional looking and hard-to-find repair.
- d. Lift out repair piece and the damaged area.
- e. Center the acrylic double-faced tape under all seams. Be sure not to overlap the tape.
- f. Apply S-761 Seam Adhesive around the perimeter of the opening.
- g. Carefully position the repair piece and roll all seams firmly with a hand roller. Clean any adhesive that might be on the surface.
- h. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

5. FOR PATTERNED COMMERCIAL SHEET FLOORING

- a. From a piece of scrap material, cut a matching repair piece that will cover the damaged area. Use a straightedge or square. To hide the seam, make a cut in a grout line or where two different colors meet.
- b. Place repair piece over damaged area and fasten with double-faced tape. Be sure the pattern is aligned correctly.
- c. With the point of a knife, score around the repair piece deep enough to identify the outline of the damaged area to be removed.
- d. Remove the repair piece from the double-faced tape.
- e. Holding the knife perpendicular, cut along the score lines on the damaged piece.
- f. Cut through the middle of the damaged material and peel away from the substrate, being careful not to damage the edges.
- g. Clean residue of adhesive and backing from the substrate, apply adhesive to the back of the repair piece and put in place. Roll with a hand roller and clean off any adhesive that might be on the surface.
- h. Apply seam treatments as recommended for the product being repaired.
- i. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

6. FOR NONPATTERNED COMMERCIAL SHEET FLOORING AND LINOLEUM

- a. Cut a triangle- or diamond-shaped repair piece, which will be less noticeable. All edges should be cut vertically.
- b. With the repair piece over the damaged area, place a square against one edge of it.
- c. Holding the repair piece without moving the square, score along the edges, which are not butted to the square. Tip your knife slightly so the point of the knife is against the repair piece.

- d. Remove the repair piece without moving the square and cut the last side along the square. This cut will now be half the thickness of the knife blade away from the square, which will make the opening in the floor slightly smaller than the repair piece, assuring a tight fit.
- e. Cut through the middle of the damaged material and peel away from the substrate, being careful not to damage the edges. Clean residue of adhesive and backing from the substrate, apply adhesive to the back of the repair piece, and bend the repair piece into position to locate the three points. Compress repair piece into the opening with a hand roller and roll thoroughly. Clean off any adhesive that might be on the surface.

To complete nonheat-welded floors:

- f. Burrs resulting at these cuts may be skived off with the back edge of a linoleum knife or sanded smooth with fine sandpaper followed by a few thin coats of floor finish.
- g. Burrs around insets can also be heat sealed with aluminum foil and an iron set at its hottest setting. Tape a small strip of heavy-duty aluminum foil over the inset with the dull side of the foil in contact with the vinyl. Smooth the foil with your finger to make the burrs visible. Using the tip of the iron, make several quick passes over each burr until the foil is flattened, indicating that the burr has been fused. Cool the foil with a damp cloth and remove it from the floor. Repeat the process if necessary. We suggest practicing with a piece of scrap material.

To complete heat-welded floors:

- f. Hand rout seams as recommended for the product being repaired.
- g. Place a small piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil at the end of each seam (shiny side up). Start and stop heat welding on top of the aluminum foil. This will prevent the weld rod from bonding to the material at the non-routed areas.
- h. Allow the weld rod to cool to room temperature and skive in two passes.

To complete S-761 Seam Adhesive Repairs for Linoleum, Medintech, Medintone, Rejuvenations, Possibilities, and Corlon:

Repair as for heat-welded floors, do not rout; seal the edges of the repair using S-761 Seam Adhesive.

C. OTHER DAMAGE REPAIRS

1. REPAIR STRESS WHITENING IN COMMERCIAL SHEET FLOORING

- a. When dark-colored materials are severely bent or stressed during installation, they may show a lighter-colored stress mark. This can be removed by heating the area with a heat gun or hair dryer. Do not use a torch.
- b. If the stress marks are discovered prior to installation, heating from both front and back will speed the procedure.
- c. When heating the material with a heat gun, keep the heat gun moving in a back and forth motion over the stressed area and about 6" to 8" away from the material. Be careful not to concentrate the heat on a single area for any amount of time.

2. REPAIR MINOR TEARS OR BREAKS IN RESIDENTIAL SHEET FLOORING

- a. Clean torn material with a small brush (such as a toothbrush) and mild detergent. Rinse and thoroughly dry the area.
- b. Use the point of a knife to level the surface on both sides of the tear.
- c. Apply seam treatments as recommended for the product being repaired.
- d. Protect repaired area until seam treatments have dried.

3. REPAIR RESIDENTIAL SHEET FLOORING COATED SEAMS

- a. If dirt gets into the wet seam coating within the first minute of applying the coating or if drops of coating fall on the flooring other than at the seam, they can be wiped up immediately with a clean, white cloth dampened with lighter fluid (naphtha).
- b. If dirt gets into partially dried seam coating or if dirt is not detected right away, wait until coating has cured. Protect the flooring material by placing masking tape on either side of the seam coating as tight to the seam coating as possible. Then, using fine sandpaper, carefully remove the dirty portions of seam coating and recoat the affected area using the applicator bottle to apply the S-500 Seam Coating.
- c. S-500 Seam Coating cannot be removed from surfaces once it has started to set up – usually within a few minutes of application. For that reason, care must be taken when using this product. If the S-500 is spilled on the floor and goes undetected until later, there is nothing that can be done. It usually becomes less noticeable with traffic. DO NOT attempt to remove it as doing so will dull the finish and can cause damage to the flooring surface.

4. REPAIRS TO LUXE PLANK/LYNX

After installation, if a plank becomes damaged to the extent that it needs to be replaced, use the following procedure:

- a. Use a sharp utility knife (razor knife) to score down through the joints on all four sides of the damaged plank. Cut completely through the rigid vinyl film backing on the plank. Also a repair can be achieved by cutting a small corner of the plank. Remove this section, then follow the remaining steps. You can slightly raise the plank it will make it easier to cut the film.
- b. Remove damaged plank.
- c. Remove the exposed, L-shaped, bottom overlap film from the replacement plank. Trim it carefully along the edge of the plank.
- d. Turn the replacement plank face down and use the trimmed film (from Step C above) to fill in the areas on the back of the plank that do not have film. This creates a uniform thickness on all four edges of the plank.
- e. Cut Luxe Plank transition strips material to lengths so that it can be inserted beneath adjoining planks on all four sides of the opening where the damaged plank was removed. Remove release paper from the Luxe Plank transition strip and insert it, adhesive side up, about 1" under the surrounding planks. Do not overlap the Luxe Plank transition strip material surrounding the opening.
- f. Insert the replacement plank into the opening and bond to the adhesive on the transition strips. This method will ensure that planks are bonded to each other, not the subfloor, as intended with this floating installation.

5. REPAIRS TO BUCKLES IN LOOSE LAY VINYL-BACKED FLOORING

Buckles in loose lay installations may be caused by material which was fit too tightly or became distorted on the roll, or by subfloor movement. Distorted rolls should never be installed.

- a. Check around the perimeter and make sure the flooring is not pinched anywhere. If the flooring is tight in some places, pull it back and trim the excess to leave the appropriate expansion space.
- b. For small buckles, you may be able to heat the buckle with a hair dryer, and then weigh the area down until it cools to room temperature.

6. REPAIRS TO ALTERNA TILE

After installation, if a tile becomes damaged to the extent that it needs to be replaced, use the following procedure.

- a. Use a sharp utility knife (razor knife) to score down through the tile with two diagonal cuts.
- b. Using a heat gun in the center of the tile, start removing the tile with a scraper or putty knife. Continue using the heat gun until the damaged tile is removed.
- c. After the tile has been removed, use a putty knife to remove all of the grout surrounding the tile.

- d. Clean the area thoroughly before preparing for the new tile.
- e. Apply S-288 Flooring Adhesive with a paint brush in the repair area and allow to dry tacky with no adhesive transfer to your finger.
- f. Use spacers on three sides of the repaired area and place the new tile in the repair area. Remove the spacers and hand roll the new tile into place.
- g. Grout and clean the new tile with a cellulose sponge.

7. Vivero LVT Integrilock plank replacement

- a. This repair is for a damage plank that may be in the middle of your floor. For planks that are close to the wall, you may choose to remove several rows. Then remove the damaged plank and re-install.
- b. Using a saw or knife cut down the center of the damaged plank.
- c. Make angled cut into the corners of the plank.
- d. Both ends of the plank should be cut into the corners.
- e. Using a chisel, lightly tap and crack the LVT plank to the edge of the adjoining plank.
- f. Remove the end of the plank that does not have the 5g clip lock it can be removed easily.
- g. Remove the back of the damaged plank by angling, then pull it toward you.
- h. Remove the other side of the plank by angling and pulling the piece away from you.
- i. Place a chisel or screwdriver under the surrounding planks to slightly lift up the end joint. Then, slightly angle and carefully remove from the end joint. Clean the area well before replacing with a new plank.
- j. On the tongue side of the new plank, remove the tongue. Take two or three passes to remove. Go slowly so your knife does not cut into the material.
- k. Keep your knife angled so you do not damage the plank.
- l. Using high quality liquid super glue, place small beads approximately 2" apart on the adjoining plank's groove. Make sure to place a bead close to each corner.
- m. Angle the end joint with the groove first. Next angle the side joint with the groove into the adjoining plank.
- n. Carefully engage the groove side and snap the end joint into place.
- o. Place weight onto the repaired plank until the adhesive cures. Read the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for cure times.

8. Rigid Core/ Elements plank/Tile replacement

- a. This repair is for a damaged plank that may be in the middle of your floor. For planks that are close to the wall, you may choose to remove several rows. Then remove the damaged plank and re-install.
- b. Mark the area that you need to cut. Tape can also be used around the perimeter of the plank to prevent damage.
- c. Cut along the two lengthwise lines using a circular saw.
- d. Make sure to cut, meeting the angled lines in the corners.
- e. Make angled cuts into each corner stopping about a 1/2" from the corner.
- f. Using a chisel, tap with a hammer cracking the corner of the plank.
- g. Remove the middle of the damaged plank.
- h. After removing the center of the damaged plank, remove each end of the plank.
- i. Angle up the sides of the damaged plank and remove.

- j. Clean the area to make sure that no debris is present.
- k. Using a sharp utility knife, remove the side tongue on the replacement plank.
- l. Remove the end tongue angling your knife.
- m. With a chisel or small plane, remove 75% of the lip on the end groove.
- n. Place adhesive onto the end groove of the replacement plank.
- o. Place adhesive onto the side groove where the replacement plank will be installed.
- p. Tap the plank lightly on the groove end until the plank is fully engaged.
- q. Fold down the side, fully engaging the side tongue into the groove.
- r. Place weight on the replacement plank until the adhesive is fully cured. Read the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for cure times.