

# Chapter 7

## General sheet vinyl installation procedures

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Notes

## 7.1 General recommendations

- Follow all local building codes.
- Regardless of where Altro sheet floor covering is installed, it is a standard requirement that all seams in our sheet flooring materials (horizontal or vertical) and internal and external corners are cut in, grooved and heat welded to provide a floor surface conforming to the highest standards of safety and hygiene.
- It is essential to ensure that rolls used in any one area are from the same manufacturing batch and laid in numerical sequential order.
- For shade matching, no sheet should be laid at right angles to another.
- All newly installed Altro flooring should be covered and protected from all other trades with a suitable non-staining protective covering, such as Masonite™ or Ram Board®.
- The initial clean of Altro floor covering is essential. A poor initial clean will make the routine maintenance more difficult.

Note: See product specific QuickFacts for additional information.

## 7.2 Subfloor preparation

Subfloor preparation must be performed in accordance with the Resilient Floor Covering Institute Installation Practice #1 ([www.RFCI.com](http://www.RFCI.com)) and as recommended by Altro.

- The substrate must be structurally sound, smooth, clean, and permanently dry.
- All patching and leveling must be performed using Portland cementitious underlayment or an appropriate patching and leveling compound approved by the manufacturer for the specific application. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- In wet areas such as commercial kitchens, showers, swimming pool surrounds, and other similar environments, patching and leveling must be done with moisture-tolerant materials. Refer to the underlayment manufacturer for suitable product recommendations. Note: Altro is not responsible for failures related to subfloor preparation products recommended or installed by others.
- For Altro adhesives that require testing, moisture tests must be conducted on all concrete slabs, regardless of age or grade level, in compliance with appropriate ASTM's.
- All new and existing concrete subfloors must meet the requirements outlined in the current edition of ASTM F710, Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring, and must be flat within 3/16" over 10 feet unless specified otherwise.
- Substrate must be free of all dust, loose particles, solvents, paint, grease, oil, wax, alkali, sealing, curing, and parting compounds, old adhesive, and any foreign material, which could affect the installation and adhesive bond to the substrate. All substrate contaminants must be mechanically removed prior to the installation of the flooring. Do not use liquid solvents or adhesive removers. Do not use oil based sweeping compounds.
- Do not use markers, pens, construction crayons, tapes, or paints on the subfloor, as these may bleed through and cause permanent staining.
- All work must comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, including those related to saw cutting, grinding, and patching of concrete. This work must adhere to OSHA 3902, the Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard.

## 7.3 Cutting, fitting and laying

- It is best to make rough cuts and let the Altro floor covering become conditioned to the recommended installation temperature. This allows the material to "relax" and makes it easier to install.
- Check carefully to see that drops match in shade. It may be necessary to reverse sheet depending upon the Altro flooring product being installed to obtain a side shade match. If a side shade match cannot be accomplished, do not install. Contact your Altro distributor.



Notes

trowel ridges running in the same direction as the wood grain.

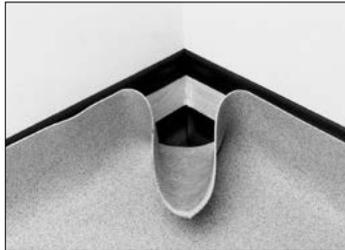
## 7.6 Flash coving

When flash coving, wall surfaces should be sound, solid, smooth, dry, clean, and free of foreign substances.

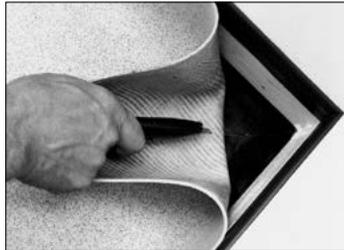
- After sub-floor preparation, install cove stick and cap strip as specified. Follow specifications of contract documents for wall cap detailing when coving up walls. C7, Stainless Steel, Aluminum or standard cap from other manufacturers are inappropriate caps to use in wet applications. In all wet floor and wall applications (showers, kitchens, cart wash areas, etcetera), the overlap detailing method is the recommended and preferred finishing method, although C4 or C8 cap can be used when an appropriate wall cladding is also specified and used.
- Apply contact tape to the areas being covered per tape manufacturers' instructions.
- Install the Altro Sheet floor covering tightly down and onto the cove stick and trim the flooring to the cap as required.
- Fit floor covering into cap strip and roll with a hand roller.

## 7.7 Forming corners

Forming an internal corner



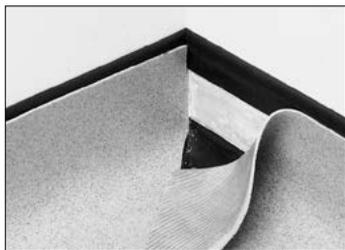
1. After warming the material, push the floor covering as far as possible into the internal corner.



2. Make a cut from the base of the material to the top of the floor covering in line with the corner.



3. Fold in one side and gradually cut off the surplus material to complete the first part of the corner.



4. Fold in the second side.



5. Gradually trim the surplus material to achieve a neat fit



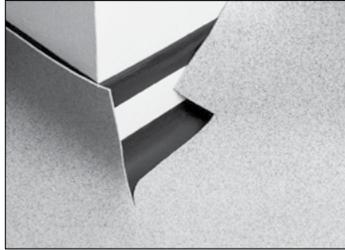
6. Heat weld to complete the section. See Heat welding on page 36 for more info about heat welding.



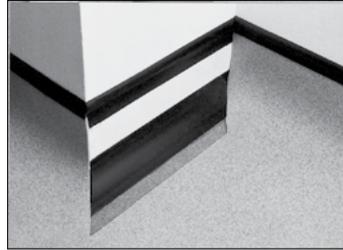
Notes

Note: A butterfly piece, or v-plug is the preferred external corner treatment method and is recommended for safety floor installations where traffic is expected to impact outside corners, however in certain situations a boot corner may be made.

- When adhesive has set, all corners are to be heat welded.
- External corners may be made using a boot and/or a butterfly piece fitted net without any gaps.
- Internal corners are to be cut to fit net without any gaps.



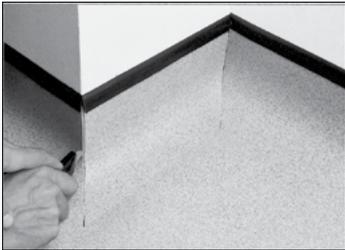
1. Roughly cut the floor covering oversized to meet the required section.



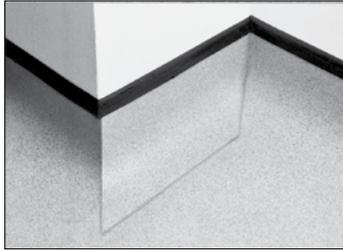
2. Cut in the back and front corner, then cut out the section to accommodate the filler piece.



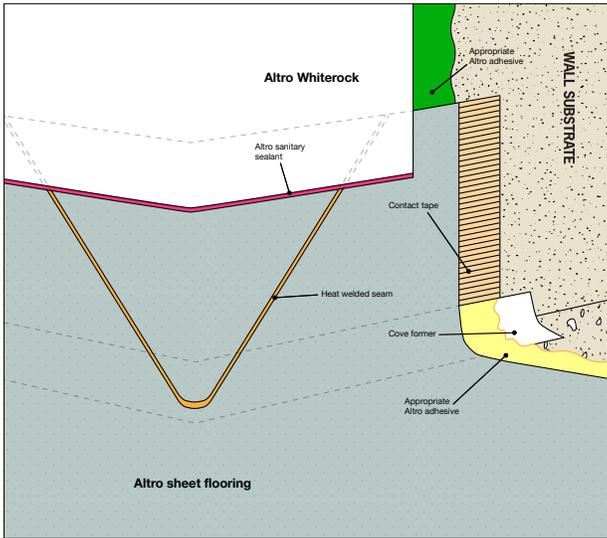
3. Take a separate piece of floor covering and fit to the back of the internal corner.



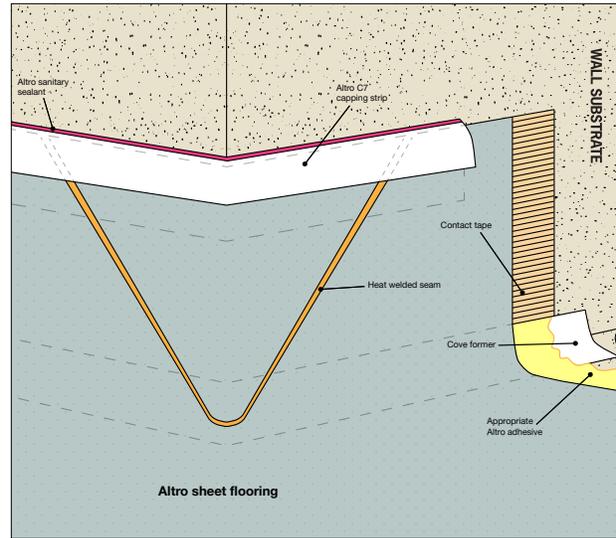
4. Cut in the front of the external corner.



5. Heat weld to complete the section. See Heat welding on page 36 for more info about heat welding.



Butterfly corner(external v-plug) overlap transition



Butterfly corner(external v-plug) with C7 cap strip

## 7.8 Seam grooving

After the Altro flooring has been cut in and the adhesive is fully cured, seam grooving can begin.

Refer to grooving depth chart for recommended depth of groove. The groove must be cut equally along the seam using an Altro Hand Grooving Tool and straightedge. Alternatively, special power grooving blades are available.

Due to the metal particles in the Altro safety flooring, do not use standard grooving blades as the blades will dull very quickly.

Power grooving should only be accomplished by using a machine equipped with an Industrial Diamond Tipped Blade designed for Altro safety flooring.

Set the grooving machine to make a channel. Line up the grooving machine indicators with the center of the seam and push the machine along the seam.

Practice on a scrap piece of material before grooving the installed material to ensure the correct depth is set for the grooving machine.



Grooving depth based on flooring		
Non-PUR	Altro Stronghold 30 - 3.0mm	75%
	Altro Atlas 40 - 4.0mm	75%
	Altro Classic 25 - 2.5mm	75%
	Altro Marine 20 - 2mm	75%
PUR treated	Altro Aquarius - 2.0mm	90%
	Altro Illustra - 2.0mm	30-40%
	Altro Illustra AF - 2.4mm	70%
	Altro Reliance 25 - 2.5mm	90%
	Altro Walkway 20 - 2.0mm	90%
	Altro XpressLay - 2.2mm	70%
	Altro Cantata - 2.0mm	70%
	Altro Symphonia	70%
	Altro Orchestra	30-40%
	Altro Promenade	30-40%
	Altro Operetta	30-40%
	Altro Serenade	30-40%
	Altro Wood	30-40%
	Altro Wood Comfort	30-40%
Altro Wood Acoustic	30-40%	
Altro Wood adhesive-free	70%	
Altro Zodiac Smooth	30-40%	