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United States of America

Relief Seams Installation Guide for FreeStyle 8400™ Interlocking Flooring System

Overview

FreeStyle 8400™ heavy duty “built in underlayment” allows it to be installed over uneven floors with minimal surface preparation. However, like other vinyl flooring products FreeStyle is subject to slight size variations. The cumulative effect of slight tile size variations and uneven subfloor can cause FreeStyle tiles to go “off line”, particularly as the size of the installation increases. While Freestyle’s patented interlock system is designed to accommodate a degree of variation, in larger installations these variations can accumulate to the point where it becomes difficult to install using the interlocks. This can also occur when replacing tiles where the “old” tiles have settled in and changed slightly in size. To minimize these issues Statguard Flooring recommends using a cut seam to create relief and reestablish easy interlock alignment.



- 1) Conductive Interlocking Base
- 2) 8400 ESD Vinyl Floor Tile

Surface to Surface Electrical Continuity for FreeStyle 8400™ Installations

FreeStyle 8400™ surface to surface electrical continuity is created by the contact of the tile to tile interlocks. Therefore, cutting off the interlocks creates a break in continuity. This will ensure electrical continuity. For further assurance, place another grounding wire on the cut off side of the installation. You can reestablish connection between the tiles by placing a 4-6” strip of copper tape under the tiles, bridging the tiles where the interlocks used to be.

Cut 6” long strips of copper tape. After removing the protective paper from the two-sided tape, place a strip of the copper tape perpendicular to the seam so that the tape will extend under the tiles on each side of the cut seam. Do this every 3rd tile.

Two-Sided Tape

If a less visible seam is required this can be accomplished with two-sided tape. Use tape with a minimum width of 1.5”. Use Johnsonite Power Tape, Ultrastik or equal.

1. Cut a minimum of 1” off of each tile on the edges to be seamed. This will remove the exposed interlock on edges where it is present and the “hidden” underside of the interlock on the adjoining side of the tile. Since these edges will not be interlocked, if the “hidden” interlock side is not cut back it will be unsupported and will “sag” creating different heights where the seamed edges meet.
2. Place a strip of tape at the edge where you will be butting the cut tiles together. Place a second strip of tape parallel to the first strip at the edge where the tiles will meet. Do not peel off protective layers of tape until you are certain placement is correct.
3. Lay out another strip of tape at the midpoint of where the new row will install. Install the new row carefully, tightly butting the cut edges together. Peel back the protective tape layer only as needed for each tile or two at a time. Do not apply firm pressure on the tape until you are certain of proper placement of the tile. Continue installation.
4. The appearance of the seam will be determined by the quality of the cuts. A circular saw may be used but for best results Statguard Flooring recommends cutting the tile with a tile cutter such as the 20” Magnum Flooring Shear (Bullet Tools) or equal.