
Installation Guidelines

Suburban Collection Stair Systems (Type TS, TP & TV) Installation Guidelines

GENERAL INFORMATION

All recommendations are based on the most recent available information. The information in this sheet provides general guidelines. All instructions and recommendations must be followed for satisfactory installation. These installation specifications address the installation of Suburban Solid, Suburban Speckled, Horizon Stair Treads, Risers, and Visually Impaired Treads.

Good preparation is essential for a trouble-free installation. Do NOT install Suburban Collection Stair Systems until job site testing and subfloor preparations are finished and the work of all other trades is complete. Site conditions must comply with relevant building codes and local, state and national regulations.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These products should be installed by a professional. There are practices in the application of these products that require professional expertise.

ESSENTIAL FIRST STEPS

- Products must be inspected prior to installation for proper style, color and potential defects.
- No claims will be honored if treads, risers or nosing are installed with visible defects. Report discrepancies immediately to technical@mycommunitydesign.com
- Read instructions. Read all instructions prior to beginning installation
- **If storing for more than 2 days prior to installation, store all material in a weather-tight enclosure.** Do not stack higher than you received, keep tile face to face and back to back as packaged. Do not lean the package of treads up against the walls, or other surfaces, this can cause warpage in the nose. Leave them flat.
- **Direct Sunlight. Protect the materials from the sunlight during storage, conditioning before and after installation.**
- Suburban Collection Stair Systems are recommended for use over properly prepared concrete, suspended wood, metal and other suitable substrates.
- Never install over residual asphalt type (cut back) adhesive.
- **DO NOT** install over old resilient flooring, or adhesives.
- Suburban Collection Stair Systems are not suitable for external installation or unheated locations.
- Job site and subfloor must be acclimated to a stable condition before installation.
- Stair Systems products and adhesives should remain at a temperature between 65°-85°F with ambient humidity between 50-80% for 48-72 hours before, during installation and at least 48-72 hours after installation. Step surface temperature should be between 63°-72°F during the installation and curing time.

STEP PREPARATION

Careful step preparation is vital for excellent appearance and good adhesion. ALL steps must be smooth, firm, flat, clean, dry, free from defects, oil, paint, old adhesive, drywall compound, old covering and any other foreign matter, and fit for purpose. A suitable smoothing compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. Before proceeding with installation on any step, please make sure:

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Wood steps

Must be smooth, flat, clean and dry. They must be securely nailed and stable. Fill all cracks, deformations and depressions with a cement base patching compound. Clean all steps thoroughly before installation of new material. Remove old adhesives by mechanical means only to no use any chemicals or solvents

Concrete steps

A bond test is recommended. Fill all cracks, depressions etc. with a cement-based patching compound. Power troweled, slick finished concrete steps need to be sanded and roughened up before installing. Curing compounds are mechanically removed. Many concrete curing agents can prevent adhesives or sealers from forming a proper bond.

Steel steps

Should be carefully cleaned by physical means of wire brush, sandblasting, etc. Removing all rust, sealers coatings, and contaminants. Use MN531 Epoxy adhesive only on this type staircase. Sand painted stair pan noses down to the metal for best adhesion.

Note: In all cases, the steps must meet the moisture and pH requirements before installation.

CONDITIONS

- Ambient temperature is important during installation. Slab temperature should be between temperature between 65°-85°F (18.3°C-29.5°C) for 48 hours before, during and for 48 hours after installation. Use a thermometer. If the temperature is too cold, it will retard the curing of the adhesive considerably. The colder the surface is, the slower the adhesive cures. If the temperature is above 85°F (29.5°C), the adhesive will set-up rapidly, you will have less working time, and will have to roll very soon. When these temperature conditions exist outside of the recommended range, it causes issues with the adhesives ability to work normally. This in turn causes treads and steps to be rolled too soon, leaving gaps, or rolled too late so that thickness differences occur on the floor, because the adhesive cured before it was rolled down flat on the substrate.
- Proper ventilation and adequate lighting should be available. Check steps for conformance to the recommendations above. All materials (flooring product, adhesive, patching or leveling compounds, and the sub floor itself) need to be conditioned to 65°-85°F (18.3°C-29.5°C) for 48 hours prior to installation, during installation, and for 48 hours after installation.
- Porosity test - If using ML260 adhesive you will need to test your substrate for porosity. NOTE: Do not assume that wood or concrete are porous, you must test. Test by dropping a few drops of water on the substrate, if they readily absorb within 30 seconds, it is porous, if not, then your substrate should be considered non-porous. The application of the stair treads depends on the porosity of the floor with this adhesive.

ADHESIVES

Community MN531 adhesive: is a two-component, solvent-free epoxy adhesive specifically formulated and most commonly used for the installation of rubber stair treads and risers. It cures to a tough, flexible film. Use on clean porous and non-porous substrates. Suitable for use on staircases above, on and below grade. The maximum moisture level is 8 lbs. MVER, 90% relative humidity and a pH of 10. Trowel size. For most substrates use a 1/16" wide x 1/16" deep x 1/16" square notch trowel. Spread rates approximately 100 sq. ft. per gallon.

Community ML260 adhesive: is an acrylic based adhesive that can be for the installation of rubber stair treads. And risers where there is no threat of moisture. Use on clean porous and non-porous substrates. Suitable for use on staircases above, on and below grade. The maximum moisture level is 8 lbs. MVER, 90% relative humidity and a pH of 10. **Trowel size.** For porous substrate use a 1/16" wide x 1/16" deep x 1/16" square notch trowel. Spread rates

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approximately 125-150 sq. ft. per gallon. For non-porous substrate use 1/16" wide x 1/16" deep x 1/16" "V" notch trowel. Spread rates approximately 150-185 sq. ft. per gallon. See Spec sheet and/or note above for Porosity test when using ML260

Community KL463 adhesive: is an acrylic based adhesive that can be used on the risers, skirting/stringers or any wall base needed for the stairwell stair treads and riser only. Use on clean porous wall surfaces except for vinyl wall covering, wallpaper, laminates, tile, metal and other similar non-porous materials. Suitable for use on staircases above, on and below grade. The maximum moisture level is 8 lbs. MVER, 90% relative humidity and a pH of 10. Trowel size. For porous substrate use a 1/8" wide x 1/8" deep x 1/8" V trowel. Spread rate approximately 250 sq. ft. per gallon.

Community Double-Sided Tape: is a high strength, reinforced, double adhesive tape system designed to minimize installation expense and to allow immediate foot traffic for treads and risers. There is a 1" wide roll for use with the stair tread nose, and 6" wide rolls for the step part of the tread and the riser. Use 2-6" wide strips for stair treads and 1-6" wide strips for riser. This product requires a very clean substrate. The tape is supplied in rolls, 164 Linear ft./per roll.

NOTE: Not to be used to install landing tile.

Community TD315 (Nose Filler): is a two-component epoxy stair tread nose filler (caulk) designed specifically for use with rubber type TP and vinyl type TV stair treads. Nose filler is not required for rubber type TS stair treads.

WARNING: ANY EXCESS ADHESIVE THAT COMES UP BETWEEN SEAMS OR AROUND THE PERIMETER, MUST BE CLEANED UP IMMEDIATELY WITH WATER OR RUBBING ALCOHOL AND A RAG. IF THE EXCESS ADHESIVE HARDENS ON YOUR FLOORING IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CLEAN OR REMOVE IT WITHOUT DAMAGE TO PRODUCTS.

FITTING

Stair treads, risers, and skirting/stringers must be scribed and/or measured on each step and trimmed to fit each step and dry laid on each step prior to installing. Leave a 1/16" (1.6mm) gap at either side of the tread to allow for some expansion against the stringer.

IT IS THE INSTALLERS RESPONSIBILITY TO INSPECT THE DRY LAID INSTALLATION AND NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY OF ANY IMPERFECTION, OR IRREGULARITIES PRIOR TO FINAL ADHESIVE INSTALLATION.

INSTALLATION - Stringer / Skirting

- If stringer/skirting are required, they must be installed first.
- Make a template of cardboard or other suitable material, measuring the height and depth of each step, and transferring that data to your template.
- Rough cut the template, set in place and then trim to form a snug fit to the stairwell.
- Lay the template over the stinger/skirting and transfer the pattern using an awl.
- Cut the stringer/skirting material and check the fit. Trim to form a snug.
- If the wall is porous, use Community KL463 wall base adhesive.
- If the wall is non-porous, use Community ML260 and follow the instructions on the label for non-porous applications.
- Roll with the hand roller to insure good adhesive contact.

INSTALLATION - Stair Treads (Type TV/TP/TS)

- Rubber Type TP, Vinyl Type TV stair treads require the use of TD315, a two-part Epoxy Nose Filler. This prevents subsequent nose flexing when there is a gap between the stair step and the stair tread nose. **Nose Filler is not required for Rubber Type TS stair tread.**

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- Using an Epoxy Caulking Gun or knife place an adequate amount (about a 1/4" diameter bead) of Community TD315 two-part Epoxy Nose Filler into the nose of the stair tread. Completely fill the void between the stair step and stair tread nose.
- Be sure to keep the adhesive used for the installation back about 1/2" from the area you applied the two-part Epoxy Nose Filler. This will prevent interference between the two adhesives.

Caution: Insufficient application of the Nose Filler can result in nose cracking and breaking once the stair treads are subjected to commercial traffic.

- Spread adhesive on the tread and riser. Use Community KL463 on the riser, if substrate is porous, or use same adhesive as the tread otherwise. If using the tape, then lay the 1"(25.4mm) wide strip on the nose (leaving the peel paper in place) and the 6"(0.15m) strips across the step (leaving peel paper in place), until it is covered. Apply 2 pieces of 6" wide tape to the stair step and one 6" wide tape to the riser. Overlapping the pieces of tape or leaving a gap between the tape is acceptable. This depends on the stair step depth and the height of the riser.
- For Community ML260, remember to test for porosity, and use adhesive according to whether it is porous. If porous, let adhesive sit for 5-10 minutes, then lay into it wet. If non-porous, let the adhesive dry to the state where nothing comes off on your finger from touching it. At that point, start installing, you have 45 minutes to work. Only apply enough adhesive to allow for 45 minutes of application. If you allow the dry-state to sit open longer than 45 minutes, you lose bond-strength and prevent adhesive transfer between the step and the stair tread.
- Position and place tread onto step, starting at the nose, and pushing back and pressing down until it is all in place. Roll tread and riser immediately after application with the hand roller to ensure good adhesion. If using the tape, peel the paper from the nose and set your nose first, while holding back the rest of the tread. Peel the paper off strips as you lay the tread back into place from the nose, being careful to keep the tread in proper position. Roll immediately with the hand roller. Make sure that each tread is fit tight to the nose and is adhered to the nose. Once the installation is complete, roll the treads again, firmly.

CAUTION: Cleanup any excess adhesive on the flooring surface while its wet with water, or rubbing alcohol, and a rag. Do not allow it to harden, it cannot be cleaned or removed without damage to the stair treads, if hardened.

FINISHING THE JOB

- Ensure that all areas are securely bonded. Sandbag any areas where needed to insure bond in seams, edges, or any potential problem area.
- Keep traffic off for at least 12 hours, and do not allow heavy foot traffic for a minimum of 24 hours
- No heavy equipment or rolling loads for 72 hours.
- Do not perform maintenance for 72 hours. (Utilize minimal wet cleaning for 5 days)
- Protect from other construction by covering until construction is complete.
- Maintain 65°- 85°F (18.3°C-29.5°C), for the life of the flooring or stair system product.
- Inspect the floor 2.5 hours after installation; roll a 3rd time if necessary.