



Quartz Tile Installation Guide

Revision date: April 1, 2019

As changes occur in our installation systems, we will publish a new edition.

For the most up-to-date information, go to:

www.rikett.net

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1. BEFORE STARTING THE JOB - MOISTURE

TESTING CONCRETE MOISTURE AND pH TESTING

Before beginning the installation: Test all concrete slabs for moisture and alkali regardless of the slab's age or grade level. New concrete slabs must be properly cured and dried before installation of our RQT. *Drying time before slabs are ready for moisture testing will vary depending on atmospheric conditions and mix design.*

Conduct all concrete moisture tests following procedures outlined in **ASTM F 2170-18** (Relative Humidity *in situ* Probe Test Method) and **ASTM F1869-16a**. For additional information about these procedures, contact the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) at (610) 832-9585 or www.astm.org.

Rikett America requires that the concrete substrate must pass the internal Relative Humidity Test before a successful installation should proceed and can be accomplished.

Note: It is the floor covering installer's responsibility to ensure that these tests have been conducted and that the test results are acceptable before starting the installation.

CONCRETE MOISTURE & pH REQUIREMENTS

<u>Type of Test</u>	<u>Maximum Result</u>
F 2170 Relative Humidity <i>in situ</i> Probe Test	RH must not exceed 90%
pH readings	Must not exceed 11
ASTM F1869-16a Calcium Chloride Test	up to 8 lbs. MVER



Wagner Rapid RH® 4.0EX Test Kit
Wagner Rapid RH® 5.0 Test Kit

Photo courtesy of Wagner



pH Testing Kit

Photo courtesy of Vaprecision

ASTM F 2170 RELATIVE HUMIDITY CONCRETE MOISTURE TESTING USING *IN SITU* PROBES

- Perform the required concrete moisture testing only after the building is fully-enclosed and the HVAC system is fully-operational for at least one week.
- Perform three (3) RH tests for the first 1,000 feet and at least one (1) additional RH test for each additional 1,000 square feet.
- Select your test probe locations to provide information about moisture in areas of potential high moisture. For slabs on-grade and below-grade, include a test location within 3 feet of each exterior wall.
- Follow the procedures as described in the most recent ASTM publication of Test Method F 2170. Failure to follow the detailed procedures in F2170 can lead to a moisture-related installation failure.
- Field testing has found that the **Wagner Rapid RH® 4.0EX or 5.0 Systems** provide consistent RH results. For more information, visit the Wagner website at www.rapidrh.com.

pH Testing – Concrete floors must be tested for alkalinity prior to the installation of our RQT. To test for pH at the surface of a concrete slab, use wide range pH paper, its associated pH chart, and distilled or de-ionized water. Place several drops of water on a clean concrete surface, forming a puddle 1 inch in diameter. Allow the puddle to set for 1 minute, and then dip the pH paper in the water. Remove immediately and compare to the chart to determine the pH reading¹. Readings in excess of 10.0 will cause acrylic adhesive bond failure.

Document All Test Results – Moisture and pH test results need to be documented by the person conducting the testing and submitted to the general contractor/architect/building owner at the time of testing. This is important, as moisture and/or excess pH conditions that occur after the floor covering installation is completed are not the responsibility of the installer or Rikett

2) MATERIAL HANDLING AND STORAGE – RQTs is composed of more than 70% natural quartz. It is extremely tough, durable and easy to maintain. The high quartz content provides exceptional durability and superior wear resistance.

- Store all cartons of tile flat and squarely on top of one another. Do not lie on edge.
- Store all flooring products, adhesives, and maintenance products in a dry, temperature-controlled interior area at **65 – 80°F**. Avoid temperature extremes.
- Acclimate all materials to job site conditions. Deliver the material to the job site **at least 48 hours** prior to installation.

3) JOB SITE CONDITIONS

- Visit the jobsite to confirm site conditions & floor measurements.
- The jobsite needs to be well-lighted so that the installers can properly prepare the substrate and install the floor.

- Allow other finishing trades, especially the overhead trades, to complete their work before beginning the flooring installation. During spackling and painting, cover the substrate to prevent contamination or staining. Such stains can cause adhesion failures and product discoloration.
- Close working spaces to traffic for 12 hours before installation and at least 12 hours after installation. This will minimize the chance of damaging the new floor.
- The building's heating and air conditioning system needs to be in full operation for at least one week prior to moisture testing and floor installation.
- Portable heaters are not acceptable.
- Kerosene heaters should never be used where floor covering products will be installed. They heat the air, not the substrate. They also leave a residue on the substrate.
- **Ambient Jobsite Conditions** - For 48 hours before installation, during the installation, and for 48 hours after installation, keep the temperature of the flooring material, the adhesive, the space to receive flooring, and the subfloor between **65°-80°F or the conditions expected during normal occupancy**. Thereafter, the minimum temperature needs to be **55°F**. Be sure the adhesive and the flooring acclimate to the job site conditions by delivering all materials to the job at least two days prior to installation.

4) SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

RQT can be installed on wood substrates and concrete substrates that are

- On grade
- Above grade
- Below grade

Wood substrates: Use **APA approved** underlayment type plywood such as APA Underlayment EXT.

Wood subfloors should be:

- a) Double layer construction.
- b) Minimum one-inch total thickness.
- c) Minimum 18 inches of well-ventilated air space beneath the wood substrate.
- d) All crawl spaces must be insulated with a vapor retarder.
- e) The top layer of the wood substrate must be completely free of knots or other voids in its surface.
- f) Caution - Do not install over 'sleeper' floors or plywood floors that have been installed directly over a concrete slab.

Unacceptable wood surfaces include, but are not limited to, Luan, plywood with knots, underlayments made of pine or other soft woods, particle board, chipboard, flake board, oriented strand board (OSB), Masonite or other hardboard underlayments, hardwood flooring, textured or cushioned flooring, or other uneven or unstable substrates.

Cover unacceptable wood surfaces using a 1/4-inch or thicker wood panel underlayment system such as TECPLY® (www.tecply.com). Follow the panel underlayment manufacturer's written instructions for spacing, nailing, and seam treatment for underlayment panels.

Concrete Substrates: **Responsibility for the concrete warranty** - Regardless of the type of concrete or cement-like material that is used as a substrate, in the event of any underlayment failure, the responsibility for warranty guarantees rests with the concrete or cement-like manufacturer and not with the manufacturer of the resilient flooring.

Concrete Slab Construction: New and existing concrete substrates must meet the requirements of the latest edition of **ASTM F710 *Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring***. **ASTM F710 and its appendix** contain guidelines regarding concrete slab construction, and specific information regarding lightweight concrete, water- cement ratio, curing procedures, alkalinity, moisture retarders, flatness and levelness, and additional reference documents. (As of this writing, the latest version is F710-17)

Minimum Concrete Substrate Requirements: To ensure a successful RQT installation, concrete substrates must be structurally sound to receive resilient flooring material and must meet these minimum requirements:

- A minimum compressive strength of 3000 psi
- A concrete mix water/cement ratio of less than 0.45
- A minimum density of 115 lb./cubic foot

Lightweight concrete (concrete with a density of less than 115 lb/cubic foot) may not be a suitable substrate for RQT. Lightweight concrete suffers from fundamental problems that include, but are not limited to:

- Low compressive strength
- Surface porosity and breakdown
- High moisture content
- Excessively long drying times
- Surface indentation due to its low compressive strength

ASTM F 710 clearly states: *Lightweight concrete, less than 115 lb./cubic foot, may have such low strength that it is unsuitable for covering with resilient flooring... In addition, floors containing lightweight aggregate or excess water and those that can dry from only one side, such as concrete on metal deck construction, may need a much longer drying time.*¹

Contact Rikett America Technical Support at **855-745-3887 XT 2** before installing our Quartz Tile on lightweight concrete.

Flatness and Levelness – Concrete substrates need to be smooth to prevent irregularities and roughness from telegraphing through the new RQT. The surface of the concrete needs to be *flat within the equivalent of 3/16 inch in 10 feet and within the equivalent of 1/32 inch in 12 inches*. For more information on flatness and levelness, consult **ASTM F710-11** Section 4.6 and X 1.7.

Concrete Surface Preparation - ASTM F710 -17 *Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring* states: *All substrates to receive resilient flooring shall be permanently dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound. They shall be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening, or parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation or latience, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials that might prevent adhesive bond.*¹

Concrete floors must be structurally sound and -

- Permanently dry
- Clean
- Smooth
- Free of dust, sealers, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesives, adhesive removers, coatings, finishes, dirt, film-forming curing compounds, silicate penetrating curing compounds, sealing, hardening, or parting compounds and any other substances that will interfere with the adhesion of the new Quartz Flooring or with the rate of moisture dissipation through the top surface of the slab.
- Use only non-chemical methods, such as bead blasting or abrasive cleaning, to remove all bond breakers from the surface of the concrete. Removal procedures need to be completed at least 48 hours before any concrete testing is begun.
- Do a **bond test** on any floor where foreign substances have been removed. Install several tiles in random areas according to the installation instructions described in this guide. Allow the adhesive to set for 24 hours. If the tile and adhesive are easily removed from the substrate, the slab is still contaminated. Additional preparation will need to be done. A second bond test will be needed.

WARNING: *Exceptionally porous, soft, or dusty concrete surfaces may have such low strength that they are not suitable for installation of resilient floor coverings. It may be necessary to mechanically remove the top layer of concrete in such cases. Such surfaces may need to be primed and covered with a latex patching or underlayment compound. Consult with a manufacturer of patching or underlayment compounds or someone with expertise in concrete problems².*

Note: Rikett America does not recommend installation of its RQT over gypsum concrete.

Moisture Vapor Retarder – For all RQT installations on grade or below grade, there must be a permanent, effective moisture vapor retarder installed directly below the slab. The retarder must be at least 0.010 inches thick with a permeance of 0.1 y (perms). This retarder is typically incorrectly called a moisture vapor barrier. Provided it has not been ripped or torn, this vapor retarder will reduce the potential severity of water vapor penetration into the concrete slab from groundwater sources.

Alternate approved substrate – RQT can be successfully installed over well-bonded Quartz Tile, VCT or solid vinyl tile. To ensure a successful installation, the tile must be -

- Single-layer of Quartz Tile, VCT, or solid vinyl tile only
- Free of all waxes and floor finishes
- Free of all dirt and debris
- Fully dry
- Securely bonded to the substrate
- Flat with no raised areas

The performance of the finished floor is directly dependent upon the condition and continued bond of the existing floor tile. Any irregularities in the existing flooring (such as bumps, depressions or tile joints) will telegraph through the new floor. If the tile's surface is not sufficiently smooth, it may be preferable to remove the tile before beginning the installation.

Other Substrates - Cement terrazzo or metal may be suitable for RQT. Check with your patching/leveling compound manufacturer for guidelines on preparing these substrates. For metal substrates, remove all dirt, rust, oil or other contaminants. Contact Rikett Technical Support at 855-Rikett 7, (855-745-3887) XT 2, before installing our Quartz Tile on metal.

Unacceptable Substrates - Epoxy terrazzo, rubber, cork, VAT and asphalt tiles are not acceptable substrates on which to install our RQT. To successfully install our RQT, remove these using mechanical means. VAT must be removed according to the most recent Federal and local regulations regarding asbestos abatement.

Patching or Underlayment Compounds - Use a **Portland-based** patching material or underlayment compound to fill all surface cracks, grooves, depressions, control joints or other non-moving joints, and other surface irregularities. Choose a product that is moisture, mildew, and alkali resistant with a minimum of 3000 PSI compressive strength after 28 days.

Note: We do not recommend gypsum-based patching or underlayment products.

Expansion joints - Joints such as expansion joints, isolation joints, or other moving joints in concrete shall not be filled with patching compound or covered with resilient flooring. Use an expansion joint covering system.

Removal of Existing Resilient Floor Coverings - If you decide to remove an existing floor please be aware that existing floors and adhesives may contain asbestos fibers that cannot be easily identified except by laboratory testing. Improper removal of asbestos containing materials (including, but not limited to, vinyl asbestos tile, asphalt tile, felt backed sheet goods, asphalt 'cutback' adhesives and other flooring materials) can create asbestos dust, a known health hazard.

ASBESTOS WARNING! *Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic 'cutback' adhesive, or another adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk*

*of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content². A pamphlet from the **Resilient Floor Covering Institute** entitled **Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings** provides a defined set of instructions for removing all resilient floor-covering structures.*

NOTICE: *Various federal, state and local government agencies have regulations governing the removal of in-place asbestos-containing material. If you contemplate the removal of a resilient floor covering structure that contains, or is presumed to contain asbestos, you must review and comply with all applicable regulations.*

Note: RQT CONTAINS NO ASBESTOS!

Installing on Substrates Contaminated with Adhesive Residue

Asphaltic Adhesive Residue - Do not install RQT directly over adhesive residue or paint. *Do not skim coat over old adhesive using patching compound.* Where existing asphaltic (black) adhesive is present, remove all adhesive residues off the subfloor. No adhesive residue or adhesive trowel ridges should remain. REFER TO THE ASBESTOS WARNING ABOVE.

Water-based Adhesive Residue - This adhesive residue must be thoroughly removed prior to applying a patching or underlayment compound. This includes old carpet and VCT adhesive. *Do not skim coat over water based adhesive residue using patching compound.*

Chemical or Citrus-Based Adhesive Removers – Rikett does not recommend the use of chemical or citrus-based adhesive removers. There are chemical adhesive removal products effective in removing cutback or emulsion adhesives that comply with OSHA requirements. However, these products leave a residue within the subfloor that interferes with the bonding of the new floor’s adhesive. Concrete subfloors contaminated by chemical adhesive removal products will require mechanical abrasion to remove 100% of the residues. Rikett will not recognize claims or complaints for flooring or adhesive failure due to chemical or citrus based adhesive removers.

Radiant heated floors – RQT may be installed over a radiant heated floor if the slab temperature does not exceed 85°F under any condition of use.

5) ADHESIVES

Rikett has invested much time and research in testing the best adhesives for use with its RQT. We recommend only three adhesives to install our tile on concrete and wood substrates:

- 1) **Mapei Ultrabond ECO® 360** Hard Setting Adhesive - www.mapei.us
- 2) **Mapei Ultrabond ECO® 373** – Universal, Pressure-Sensitive Multi-Flooring Adhesive
- 3) **Spray-Lock® 6500 or 9500** as an alternate to trowel adhesives – www.spraylock.com.
- 4) **Aquaflex Water-Proof Adhesive System** from Formulators – www.formulators.com

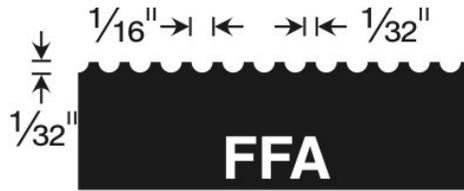
Use of Alternate Adhesives - Should RQT be installed with adhesives other than **Mapei ECO 360 or 373, Spray-Lock 6500 or 9500 or Aquaflex** all adhesive related performance problems are the responsibility of the manufacturer of the alternate adhesive used. Potential problems include, but are not limited to: *indentation, shrinkage, shifting, bubbling, edge swelling, adhesive oozing, moisture related failures, etc.*

IMPORTANT: It is the responsibility of the installer to use the recommended adhesive. If you have any questions or concerns about which is the right adhesive, please do not install the floor. Contact Rikett Technical Service at 855-Rikett-7 or visit www.rikett.net to download current installation instructions.

The Gundlach FFA Trowel

Spreading adhesive with the wrong trowel is the cause of many installation failures!

If you don't have the FFA Trowel, don't start the installation!



The Gundlach FFA Trowel is the correct trowel for applying **Mapei Ultrabond ECO 360 or Eco 373**. Adhesive when installing RQT. The trowel acts as a measuring device. The FFA Blade is a fine notch (1/16"x1/32"x 1/32") professional trowel that is available either with a wooden handle or as part of the Versablade System.

- Periodically check your trowel for wear.
- Do not re-notch the Gundlach trowel blade by hand.
- Replace the trowel every 1,000-2,000 s/f.
- Clean old adhesive from your tools using warm water and detergent or mineral spirits.

Troweled Acrylic Adhesive Specifics – Mapei Ultrabond Eco 360:

- 4-gallon container – coverage is approximately **500 - 700 square feet for Eco 360**, per 4 gal. container when using the Gundlach FFA Trowel (1/16" x 1/32" x 1/32" notch)
- Minimum set up time 20 – 35 minutes; dependent on temperature, humidity & airflow
- Adhesive open (working) time - **1 ½ to 2 hours**
- Shelf life: Mapei ECO 360 – Two (2) years. (Shelf Life is defined as from the date of adhesive manufacturing, not the date of purchase)

Instructions for spreading Mapei Ultrabond Eco 360

- Spread the adhesive using the Gundlach FFA trowel blade
- Spread evenly. Avoid leaving any puddles of adhesive.
- After spreading, allow the adhesive to dry to the touch before laying tile into the adhesive bed. Minimum set up time is 30 minutes.
- Adhesive is ready when a fingertip touched to the adhesive bed shows only the ridges from the trowel notching.
- If installing over an existing tile floor, the adhesive will require more set up time.
- Roll the tile within an hour after placing the flooring into the adhesive bed.
- Roll the floor in both directions, with a 100 lb. Three-section roller. Overlap the previous rolled area by 1/2 of the width of the roller.

Troweled Acrylic Adhesive Specifics – Mapei Ultrabond Eco 373:

- 4-gallon container – coverage is approximately **700 to 900 square feet for Eco 373**, per 4 gal. container when using the Gundlach FFA Trowel (1/16" x 1/32" x 1/32" notch)
- Minimum set up time 30 minutes; dependent on temperature, humidity & airflow
- Adhesive open (working) time - **≤ 12 hours**
- Shelf life: Mapei ECO 373 – Two (2) years. (Shelf Life is defined as from the date of adhesive manufacturing, not the date of purchase)

Instructions for spreading Mapei Ultrabond Eco 373:

- Spread the adhesive using the Gundlach FFA trowel blade
- Spread evenly. Avoid leaving any puddles of adhesive.
- On nonporous substrates, allow the adhesive to remain open for 30 minutes to 1 hour or until dry to the touch and then place the flooring.
- On porous substrates, flooring can be installed into semi-wet adhesive; or, allow the adhesive to remain open for 30 minutes to 1 hour until it is dry and does not transfer to the finger when touched.
- Only apply as much adhesive as can be installed within 12 hours. Protect the open adhesive from dust and debris, which will inhibit proper bond and decrease tack.
- After spreading, allow the adhesive to dry to the touch before laying tile into the adhesive bed. Minimum set up time is 30 minutes.
- Adhesive is ready when a fingertip touched to the adhesive bed shows only the ridges from the trowel notching.
- If installing over an existing tile floor, the adhesive will require more set up time.
- Roll the tile within an hour after placing the flooring into the adhesive bed.
- Roll the floor in both directions, with a 100 lb. Three-section roller. Overlap the previous rolled area by 1/2 of the width of the roller.

Limitations of Mapei Ultrabond Eco 360 and 373

- Do not install over substrates containing asbestos.
- For interior installations only
- Install flooring only in areas recommended by the flooring manufacturer.
- Do not install into wet adhesive over nonporous substrates.
- Do not use to install luxury vinyl tile or plank with known dimensional stability issues.
- Do not use to install luxury vinyl tile or plank in areas subject to high heat or direct sunlight.
- Do not apply over any adhesive residues, including cutback adhesive.

Spray-Lock Adhesives: Please follow the manufacturer's most current instructions for installing with Spray-Lock 6500 and 9500 spray adhesives. These can be downloaded at www.spraylock.com.

Aquaflex Adhesive: Please refer to the manufacturer's most current instructions for installing with Spray-Lock 6500 and 9500 spray adhesives. These can be downloaded at www.aquaflexinc.com

Rikett America currently does not market nor is it an authorized reseller of any adhesive system. Consequently, Rikett America does not provide the warranty coverage for adhesive systems. Support for product performance claims and warranty coverage for **all approved adhesive systems** is provided solely by the adhesive manufacturers.

6) PRODUCT SIZE AND PACKAGING INFORMATION

Standard Tile Size:

- **24 inch x 24 inch** (609.6 mm x 609.6 mm) x **2 .0 mm**, (0.080 in) thickness
- 60.0 ft.² per carton (15 tiles per carton) 48.06 lbs. per carton.
- 2,760 ft.² per pallet (46 cartons and 690 tiles per pallet) 2,443 lbs. per pallet.

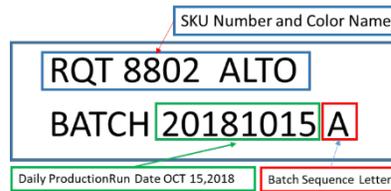
Special Order Tile Sizes:

- **12 inch x 12 inch** (304.8 mm x 304.8 mm) x **2.0 mm** (0.080 in) thickness
40.0 ft.² per carton (40 tiles per carton) 32.03 lbs. per carton.
2,880 ft.² per pallet (72 cartons and 2,880 tiles per pallet) 2,356 lbs. per pallet
- **12 inch x 24 inch** (304.8 mm x 609.6 mm) x **2.0 mm** (0.080 in) thickness
60.0 ft.² per carton (30 tiles per carton) 48.06 lbs. per carton.
2,760 ft.² per pallet (46 cartons and 1,380 tiles per pallet) 2810 lbs. per pallet

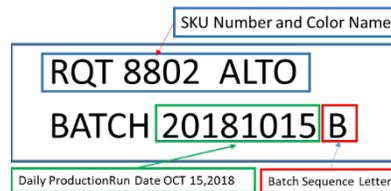
RQT Carton Label: All cartons are labelled with daily production runs and batches. Daily production run numbers are numeric and correspond with specific dates of manufacture. Batches are Alpha codes indicating the sequence of manufacture in a specific daily production run. Example: 20181015A and 20181015B are sequential batches made on October 15, 2018.

Diagram 1:

RQT Label for a production run on 10/15/2018 **Batch A**



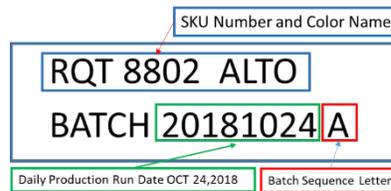
RQT Label for a production run on 10/15/2018 **Batch B**



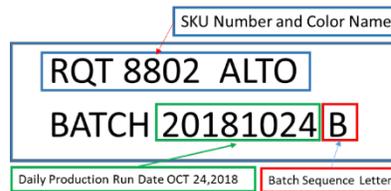
An example of a separate daily production run and batch numbers is shown in Diagram 2:

Diagram 2:

RQT Label for a production run on 10/24/2018 **Batch A**



RQT Label for a production run on 10/24/2018 **Batch B**



7) INSTALLATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RIKETT QUARTZ TILE – Follow Rikett’s recommendations.

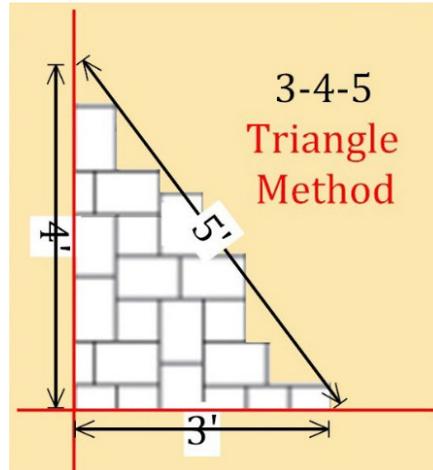
RQT features a unique visual shading effect created by its manufacturing process. *RQT must be installed with the directional markings on the tile back aligned as required in the following instructions.*

1. Sweep and/or vacuum the substrate before spreading adhesive.
2. Use one wall as a guide. Place the tiles with the lines on the tile back running parallel toward the wall.

3. Drop two chalk lines to square the room. Use the 3-4-5 squaring method to determine the starting point. Do not mix tiles from different batches, boxes or pallets. Install tiles from the last produced tiles sequentially to the first produced tiles, using daily production run numbers and batch letters on the carton labels as a guide, to insure proper shade distribution. Start by laying all tiles from one carton. Then start a new carton from the same batch. Follow this sequence throughout the installation.
4. **3-4-5 squaring rule** - At the intersection of the two chalk lines, measure along one line and place a mark at 3 feet. On the opposite side of the intersection, measure and place a mark at 4 feet. Measure the distance from the two marks. If the intersection is square, the distance will be 5 feet. Adjust the chalk lines as needed so that the border tiles are the same size on each side of the area. Be sure to also consider the tiles in the doorways or additional design criteria when adjusting the lines. Dry lay several tiles to determine the best layout.

3-4-5 right angle

Diagram courtesy of diamondpavers.com



5. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for spreading adhesive. Spread the adhesive in one quadrant at a time to control runoff.
6. Once the adhesive is fully set, lay tiles following the standard point-to-point installation method. Use a pyramid layout beginning at the intersection of the two chalk lines.
7. Tungsten carbide-tipped scribing knives are recommended for scoring and snapping straight cuts - 24 inch tile cutters may be used, although the blade life may be reduced
8. Allow 3/16-inch expansion space at the perimeter and around all stationary objects.
9. Terminate flooring at centerline under doors or where adjacent floor finish is different.
10. Install reducer strips at unprotected or exposed edges where flooring stops.
11. Scribe flooring to walls, columns, cabinets, floor outlets and other stationary objects to produce tight joints.
12. Install flooring under movable partitions and under open cabinets without interrupting tile pattern.
13. Roll and cross roll entire flooring with a 100 lb. floor roller. Failure to do so may result in trowel ridge telegraphing and poor adhesive bond.

INSTALLATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RIKETT QUARTZ TILE – TILE ALIGNMENT:

Quartz is a naturally occurring mineral and it can be challenging, at times, to achieve consistent color matching during the manufacturing of quartz floor tiles, especially in lighter color tiles. Therefore, Rikett recommends installing Rikett Quartz Tile, (RQT), using a specific tile pattern layout in areas where color consistency is a concern.

When installing Rikett Quartz Tile, (RQT), in a monolithic layout please be sure to follow the most recent version of the *Rikett Quartz Tile Installation Recommendations*. Special attention should be paid to Rikett’s recommended tile layouts. Using the directional lines found on the back of the tiles, layout the lines in a either:

- a Traditional tile layout for tiles made before January 1, 2018
- a “face to face” fashion for tiles made between January 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019
- a “light to HEAVY” fashion for tiles made after April 1, 2019, with the directional lines laid in an alternating sequence from tile to tile, as seen in diagram 1, below.

Diagram 1 – for batches manufactured before January 2018, (batches before 20180101A) – Traditional Alignment.

Install tiles using lines on back of tiles as a directional guide. Align lines as shown in Diagram 1. Directional Lines are all the same thickness.

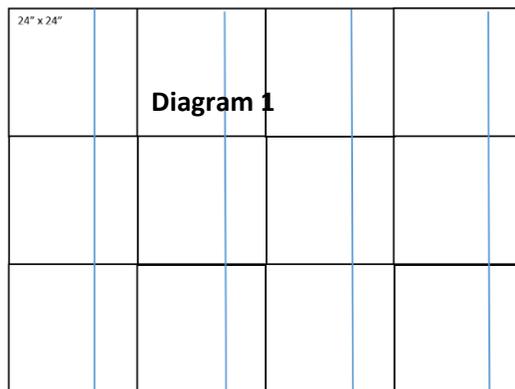
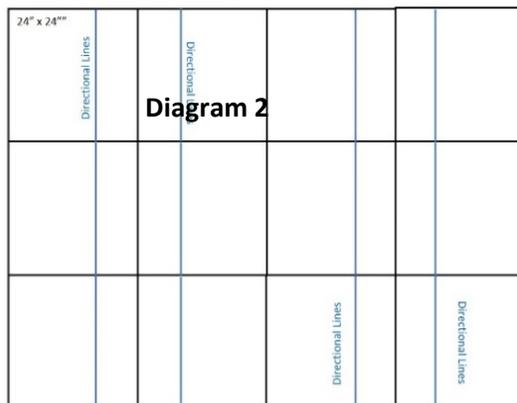


Diagram 2 – for batches manufactured January 2018 thru March 2019, (batches 20180101A to 20180331A). “Face to Face” alignment

Install tiles using lines on back of tiles as a directional guide. Align lines “line-to-line”. Directional Lines are all the same thickness.



It is recommended to dry-lay tiles and inspect them for color consistency before gluing them to the floor. After laying out the tiles, if the tile-to-tile color match is not as expected, please stop installation and contact Rikett immediately by calling **855-745-3887 xt 1**. Rikett will assist with an available solution. It is the responsibility of the flooring installer to install the product according to Rikett’s most current written recommendations, including its recommended batch sequencing and tile layouts. You can download the most current recommendations from www.rikett.net/tech-data/

New for April 1, 2019 - Every new carton of quartz tile, shipped after April 1, 2019, will contain a sheet with new tile layout diagrams and written instructions in both English and Spanish. This new tile layout applies to quartz tile manufactured **beginning April 1, 2019**. The US market will begin to see these tiles by June 2019.

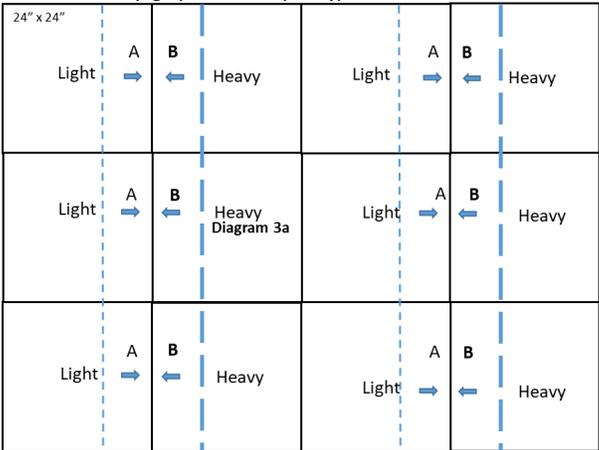
Preferred Layout – Diagram 3a is the preferred layout option. Use this first.

A= Light Line. B = HEAVY Line.

Diagram 3a – Required for batches after April 1, 2019 (batch 20190401A +)

When tile lines are mixed, (light and heavy), align the lines in a sequence of “A - light line to B - HEAVY line”, repeating the sequence as shown in Diagram 3a.

Mixed A & B - A (Light) lines and B (Heavy) lines



Alternate Layouts - Diagram 3b & 3c – required for batches after April 1, 2019, (batch 20190401 +)

Diagram 3b – All Light Lines - for batches after June 1, 2019 (20190601A +)

When tile lines are the same, (all Light), align lines in a repeating sequence as shown in Diagram 3b. Keep this layout separate from other layout combinations for best color consistency.

All A - Light lines

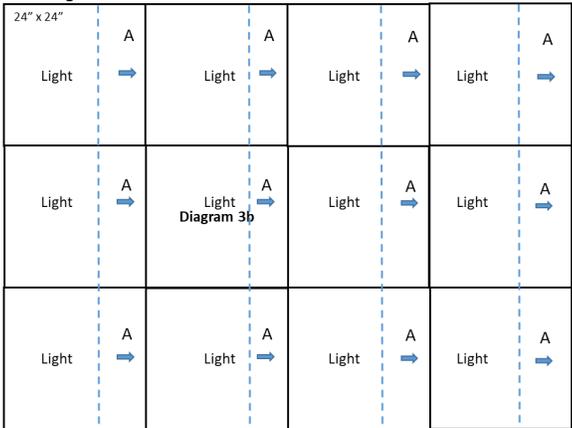
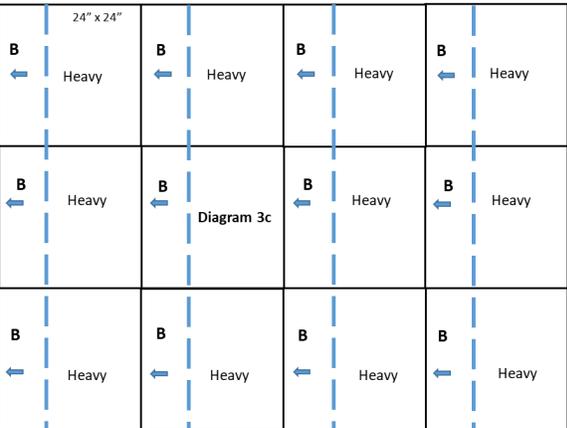


Diagram 3c – All heavy Lines - for batches after June 1, 2019 (20190601A +)

When tile lines are the same, (all thick), align lines in a repeating sequence as shown in Diagram 3c. Keep this layout separate from other layout combinations for best color consistency.

All B - HEAVY lines



3b – All Light lines (If no HEAVY lines available)

3c – All HEAVY lines (If no Light lines available)

It is recommended to dry-lay tiles and inspect them for color consistency before gluing them to the floor. After laying out the tiles, if the tile-to-tile color match is not as expected, please stop installation and contact Rikett immediately by calling **855-745-3887 xt 1**. Rikett will assist with an available solution. It is the responsibility of the flooring installer to install the product according to Rikett’s most current written recommendations, including its recommended batch sequencing and tile layouts. You can download the most current recommendations from www.rikett.net/tech-data/

After the tiles are installed, Roll the tile into the adhesive bed within 1 hour. Roll in both directions

using a 3- section, 100 lb. roller, overlapping each pass by ½ of the width of the roller. Roll a second time in a direction at 90 degrees from the direction of the first roll.

Failure to follow these instructions can result in shading or the appearance of different gloss levels. This out of shade condition will in fact not affect the tiles wear performance, however, it may be a visual complaint of which Rikett cannot take responsibility.

8) AFTER INSTALLATION

- The flooring installer should protect the finished floor from abuse by other trades and traffic by covering it completely with heavy commercial grade Kraft paper.
- Light foot traffic can be permitted 12 hours after installation.
- Keep all heavy traffic, equipment and rolling loads off the floor for 48 hours.
- At all times, luan boards, plywood or equivalent should be used, as required, to protect the new floor from all heavy traffic, equipment and rolling loads.
- Inspect the floor for any damaged or misaligned tiles and replace them.
- Do not slide or drag pallets or heavy equipment across the new floor.
- While the adhesive is still wet: Clean all tools and adhesive spills with a white cloth dampened with water and mild detergent.
- When the adhesive is set: Clean all tools and adhesive spills with a white cloth dampened with mineral spirits. Follow with a water rinse.

Initial Maintenance

- The new floor may be swept with a soft bristle broom or vacuumed and lightly damp mopped.
- RQT does not require a wax or floor finish. Simply scrubbing with a neutral cleaner will clean the floor.
- **Do not heavy wet wash for 72 hours.**
- Follow the current RQT maintenance recommendations at <https://rikett.net/tech-data/>

Recommended Best Practices for the Optimal Performance of Rikett Quartz Tile:

- Sweeping with a soft bristled broom, vacuuming, (with no metal beater bar), and dust mopping – This measure alone will add years to a floor’s life. Once a system is in place that effectively removes dirt and debris, it is easy to develop an ongoing routine. Frequency will depend on a building’s location, amount of foot traffic and equipment. Clean dust mop heads after each use. Replace vacuum bags as needed. Replace worn or broken parts or tools.
- Primary/Secondary matting should be exterior and just inside the entrance. Mats are ideal for heavy soil, water removal and provide slip resistance. Walked in dirt and moisture can be kept out while reducing maintenance. Vacuum often. Exterior mats may be power washed periodically to remove heavy saturation of soil, dirt and debris.
- Anti-microbial safety mats absorb spills in wet areas such as restrooms, water fountains and locker rooms reducing slip and fall incidents and, in some cases, improving hygiene. For indoor use only, anti-microbial Safety mats are often inexpensive and disposable.
- Use Floor Protectors on Furniture and Equipment – Furniture and equipment glides, wheels and casters specifically designed for use on resilient flooring are required. Those designed for carpet should not be used. Exposed metal glides, metal wheels or casters or

broken legs or damaged glides may scratch and cause damage to a resilient floor surface. These items should be repaired or replaced with those specifically designed for hard surface flooring. Rikett's product warranty does not cover scratching or damage caused by furniture or equipment using the wrong, broken or unprotected glides, casters, feet/bases.

- Soft, self-adhering felt protectors applied to furniture or equipment glides, feet or legs on a hard surface floor prevent scratches, gouges and cuts caused by furniture, chair and table movement. Protectors applied to the feet/base of furniture and equipment is an inexpensive way to extend a floor's life. Routinely clean felt pads with a stiff brush or vacuum attachment. Replace every 3-6 months.
- Slip On/Slip Over floor protectors are also recommended for use on furniture and equipment feet/bases, glides.
- Furniture moving aids provide protection to flooring surfaces against heavy items that would otherwise drag on the floor and against heavy carts with hard casters during moves. Most solutions are inexpensive, long lasting, reusable and reduce human strain.

Referenced Documents

This publication includes direct copyrighted quotes from accepted industry practices as follows:

From: **Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings**

1. Adapted, with permission, from ASTM F 710, **Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors To Receive Resilient Flooring**, copyright American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428.
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Complete copies of these standards may be purchased from ASTM, phone (610) 832- 9585, fax: 610-832-9555, e-mail service@astm.org, website www.astm.org, by the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) 401 East Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Rockville, MD 20850. phone: (301) 340-8580

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