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Installation of Vina-Coir (Poona Walk-Off Mats)

There are other factors regarding the installation procedures of Vina-Coir material that should be taken into consideration. These factors are handled by the installers and are beyond the manufacturer control. These factors are:

1.) Preparation

During the manufacturing process it is rolled up under tension so as to eliminate roll telescope and resultant handling problems. This results in some stretching of the backing from its original manufactured “un-stretched” size. Upon unrolling of the material some initial shrinkage may occur (similar to return of a stretched rubber band). This return or stabilization process, however, is not immediate but happens slowly and is somewhat dependent on the material temperature. The material should be unrolled, laid flat with face yarn down and allowed to stabilize at room temperature (approx. 70 degrees F or greater) for a period of 18-24 hours before cutting to size.

2.) Seaming

In large installations where seaming is desired it is often necessary that the seaming be done on the job site because of shipping and handling problems with the heavy material. Although we recommend using our own seaming method, utilizing thin vinyl tape and the “solvent system” for its application, many installers prefer their own methods that they are familiar with such as used in carpet installations. These may include heat welding with special equipment, or use of the various methods used to join carpeting. Some of these installations may prove satisfactory but again we have no control over these installation procedures and results may vary with different installations. Improper seaming could conceivably cause bubbling problems. Also scorching of the pile yarns is possible when heat welding causing the base of the yarns to break out where high heat is applied to the backing.

3.) Glue Down

In regards to using an adhesive to “glue” the material down solid, we do not normally recommend or suggest that this be done because: (1) In many installations a preferred method of removing deeply embedded sand and dirt from mats is to remove the mats and turn them upside down to shake or beat the dirt from them. Doing this often will considerably extend the life and usefulness of the mat. When the material is glued down, this method of cleaning is not possible. (2) Problems may occur with permanent adhesive bonds with vinyl if proper adhesives are not used. The nature of all flexible vinyl is to excrete oil like plasticizer from itself. This will, over a period of time, break the bonds between most adhesives and the vinyl. Additional pressures on the backing due to the expansion by high moisture conditions and contraction when drying also tends to break these adhesive bonds and although many adhesive bonded installations may appear to be satisfactory, the long term results are in some cases unsatisfactory.

If adhesives are to be used it is advisable to choose an adhesive which is specifically formulated for vinyl backings such as for vinyl backed carpet tiles and one that also has high water resistance.