



Designation: F1482 – 15

Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayments to Receive Resilient Flooring¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice includes recommendations for the installation of panel type underlayments including wood based, fiber reinforced gypsum and fiber-cement panel underlayment/subfloor assemblies upon which resilient flooring may be installed.

1.2 The structural integrity of subfloor assemblies is governed by local building codes.

1.3 This practice does not supersede in any manner the resilient flooring, underlayment or adhesive manufacturer's written instructions. Consult the individual resilient flooring, underlayment or adhesive manufacturer for specific recommendations. Manufacturer's instructions supercede the recommendations included in this practice.

1.4 See Supplementary Requirements for "Select Warnings" that have been provided.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[C1278/C1278M Specification for Fiber-Reinforced Gypsum Panel](#)

[C1288 Specification for Discrete Non-Asbestos Fiber-Cement Interior Substrate Sheets](#)

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F06 on Resilient Floor Coverings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F06.40 on Practices.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

[F141 Terminology Relating to Resilient Floor Coverings](#)

2.2 *ANSI Standards:*³

[ANSI/A208.1 Particleboard](#)

[ANSI/AHA A135.4 Basic Hardboard](#)

2.3 *NIST Standards:*⁴

[Voluntary Product Standard PS 1-09 for Structural Plywood](#)

[Voluntary Product Standard PS 2-10 for Performance Standard Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels](#)

2.4 *Other Documents:*

[APA Engineered Wood Construction Guide, Form E30](#)⁵

[APA Data File: Selection, Installation and Preparation of Plywood Underlayment Form L335](#)⁵

[Resilient Floor Covering Institute \(RFCI\) Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings \(January 1998\)](#)⁶

[Lead-Based Paint: Interim Guidelines for Hazard Identification and Abatement in Public and Indian housing \(1991 revised\)](#)⁷

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions used in this standard shall be in accordance with Terminology [F141](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *fully adhered flooring*—resilient flooring which has adhesive under the entire product, bonding it to the underlayment surface.

3.2.2 *non fully adhered flooring*—resilient flooring that may be loose laid, in which no adhesive is utilized, or partially bonded to the surface of the underlayment, typically at seams or the surrounding perimeter, or both, of the product.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁴ Available from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 1070, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1070, <http://www.nist.gov>.

⁵ Available from APA—The Engineered Wood Association, 7011 S. 19th St., Tacoma, WA 98466-5399, www.apawood.org.

⁶ Resilient Floor Covering Institute, 401 E. Jefferson Suite 102 Rockville, MD 20850, www.rfci.com.

⁷ U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Washington, DC, www.hud.gov.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice provides minimum recommendations for the installation and preparation of wood-based, fiber-reinforced gypsum and fiber-cement panel underlayments suitable to receive resilient floor coverings. Actual requirements for materials to be used, mixtures, and other details are generally included as part of project plans or specification detail and may vary from the minimum recommendations set forth in this practice.

5. Underlayments

5.1 There are several types of panel underlayment available over which selective resilient flooring products may be installed.

5.2 *Plywood*, underlayment grade plywood, complying with PS 1-10, is composed of veneer plies and layers that are glued together with adhesive. The grain orientation of the face veneers has grain running in the long direction of the panel. The inner veneers often alternate in grain direction, but may be oriented in the same direction as adjacent inner veneers. Other sanded plywood grades are suitable for underlayment applications. APA Form E30 and Form L335 provide additional information.

5.3 *Oriented Strand Board (OSB)*, complying with PS 2-10, is made of thin narrow strands of hardwoods and softwoods that are longer than they are wide. The strands are dried, screened, blended with adhesive and formed into a multi-layered mat. In the surface layer, the long axes of the strands are oriented so that they are in general parallel with the long direction of the panel. The strands in the inner layers may not be oriented in any particular direction or may be generally oriented perpendicular to the long direction of the panel. OSB is not generally recommended as underlayment for fully adhered resilient floor systems but is permitted for some underlayment applications. APA form E30 provides additional information.

5.4 *Fiber-Cement Underlayment*, complying with Specification **C1288**, is a discrete non-asbestos fiber-reinforced cement flat sheet consisting essentially of an inorganic hydraulic binder formed by the chemical reaction of a siliceous material and a calcareous material reinforced by organic fibers, non-asbestos inorganic fibers, or both.

5.5 *Gypsum Fiber Panel*, underlayment, complying with Specification **C1278/C1278M**.

5.6 *Particleboard*, complying with ANSI/A208.1, is manufactured from lignocellulosic materials (usually wood) primarily in the form of discrete pieces or particles, combined with a synthetic resin or other suitable binder and bonded together under heat and pressure in a hot press.

5.7 *Hardboard*, complying with ANSI/AHA A135.4, is a panel manufactured primarily from inter-felted lignocellulosic fibers, which are consolidated under heat and pressure in a heated press. Hardboards are not generally recommended as an underlayment for resilient floors.

6. Selection of Panel Underlayment

6.1 *General Consideration:*

6.2 Lifestyle, cost constraints, desired pattern aesthetics, and so forth, can affect which resilient product and panel underlayment should be selected. The resilient manufacturer's product information and installation recommendations should be reviewed prior to purchase. Some resilient manufacturer's literature offers specific recommendations or prohibitions as to types of underlayments for use under their flooring products.

6.3 There are two major categories of resilient flooring installation techniques:

6.3.1 Fully adhered, and

6.3.2 Non fully adhered (perimeter or loose laid).

6.4 Fully adhered floors, constituting the majority of resilient floors installed, generally have more limitations or restrictions regarding underlayment suitability of use, than perimeter or loose laid floors.

6.5 Non fully adhered floors are ones that because of their product construction are designed to be free or loose laid over the underlayment or partially bonded; that is, at the seam or perimeter areas, or both. Non fully adhered resilient flooring products may permit a wider selection of underlayments to be utilized.

6.6 The panel underlayment shall be smooth enough so that the texture of the graining or particle placement in the panel will not show through the finished resilient flooring. The underlayment panels shall not contain any foreign substance or markings that may stain the resilient flooring after installation. Protective coatings that may be used on underlayment panels shall be non-staining and be compatible with adhesives used for installing the finished flooring. Panels should not contain preservatives (pressure treated).

6.7 Responsibility for appearance or performance related issues that arise from use of panel underlayment outside the resilient manufacturer's recommendations, typically fall back to the underlayment panel manufacturer or whoever selected or specified the panel underlayment to be used. Following the resilient flooring manufacturer's published guidelines is recommended.

6.8 Responsibility for appearance or performance related issues that arise from patching, leveling or adhesive compounds outside the resilient manufacturer's recommendations, typically fall back to the supplier of those materials or whoever selected or specified those materials. Following the resilient manufacturer's published guidelines is recommended.

7. Material Acceptance

7.1 *Delivery*—All materials shall be delivered in packages, containers, or bundles with the identification and markings intact.

7.2 *Inspection*—Inspection of the materials shall be agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier as part of the purchase agreement.

7.3 *Rejection*—Materials that are damaged, wet, frozen or in any way defective shall not be used. Rejection of materials shall be promptly reported verbally to the producer and