

TRAXXSHIELD99™

ROLLED MOISTURE BARRIER™

INSTALLATIONS OVER CONCRETE FLOORS

Installation Instructions

TraxxShield99™ rolled moisture barrier is a superior underlayment for use over concrete floors where high Relative Humidity (RH) or high PH readings are present. It is designed to suppress the upward movement of water vapor and alkalinity from the concrete slab into the finished flooring, which can cause floorcovering damage, re-emulsification of the floorcovering adhesive, and mold/fungal conditions.

TraxxShield99™ can be installed over on-grade and below-grade concrete slabs, as well as elevated precast slabs, slabs on metal decks, elevated structural concrete, lightweight concrete, and gypsum floors.

Note: TraxxShield99™ is not designed or warranted for use in resisting liquid water pressure, a condition referred to as Hydrostatic Pressure.

I. Moisture Testing is Required on Concrete Slabs

- Before TraxxShield99™ is installed, Relative Humidity (RH) testing is required to understand the moisture conditions of the concrete. This testing must be conducted in accordance with the latest version of ASTM F2170, *Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes*. It is recommended to use a reputable RH Test Kit, such as the Wagner Rapid RH kit.



*****TRAXXSHIELD99™ CAN BE USED UP TO A MAXIMUM READING OF 99.0% RH (PER THE ASTM F2170 STANDARD)*****

- If your RH probe indicates 99.1% through 100.0%, then TraxxShield99™ is not warranted. Be sure to use an RH probe that measures in tenths/% when readings are at this high level.
- The RH readings for the various floor locations must be documented and retained in your files in order to be in compliance with the TraxxShield99™ Limited Warranty.
- Calcium Chloride testing is not an approved test method as it gives false readings of the actual moisture condition of the concrete slab.

II. Preparing the Concrete Slab

- 1) It is required that the concrete slab is smooth and level so that imperfections do not telegraph through the finished flooring. Be sure to patch all cracks and joints which are 1/8" or greater. Use a high-quality patch/leveling compound which is warranted by the manufacturer for high moisture applications. All patching materials must be cured and surface-dry before installing TraxxShield99™.
- 2) A water-based latex primer **MUST** be applied over the concrete slab with a 3-hour drying time in order to provide a compatible surface for accepting the adhesive backing of the TraxxShield99™. **TraxxShield99™ Primer** has been specifically formulated for this use. Also approved are Ardex P51 Primer, Mapei Primer 'L' or W.F. Taylor 2025, or equivalent. Note: Curing agents added to the slab may create a non-porous concrete surface, which may require a different primer to be compatible, such as Ardex P-82 or Mapei WE Primer. Be sure curing compounds are removed before applying the primer, so that the primer adheres properly. **TraxxShield99™ Primer is approved for both POROUS and NON-POROUS concrete.**
- 3) In cases where residual adhesive is present, the concrete surface must be scraped and the adhesive removed. TraxxShield99™ Primer can be used over cutback adhesive residue after scraping. Do not use solvent-based adhesive remover chemicals, as they could contaminate the concrete surface.
- 4) In cases where an existing concrete slab is contaminated with oils or solvents, this condition may cause damage to TraxxShield99™. These oils and/or solvents must be removed before installation of TraxxShield99™. Please contact TRAXX Corporation if contaminants are suspected.
- 5) Upon completion of preparing the concrete slab surface, it should be dry, smooth, clean, and structurally sound within the finished flooring manufacturer's specifications.
- 6) In certain ceramic tile installations when you are dealing with major cracks in the concrete, TraxxShield99™ can be used as an Anti-Fracture Membrane bridging horizontal cracks up to 3/8" in full floor thin-set applications.

III. Installing TraxxShield99™ - Acclimation

- Acclimate the rolls of TraxxShield99™ for 24 hours at the job location. The Room Temperature and Slab Temperature must be greater than 65° (F) in order to ensure good adhesive bonding of TraxxShield99™ to the concrete slab. It is recommended to lay out several pre-cut pieces of TraxxShield99™ to your desired lengths for 15 minutes to allow each piece to relax and acclimate to room temperature.
- Per the floorcovering manufacturers' Instructions, finished floorcovering requires several days of acclimation in order to minimize expansion and contraction after installation. Do not install floorcovering until proper acclimation occurs.
- In planning your laydown of TraxxShield99™, keep in mind that rolls are 3 feet wide X 66.6 feet long (200 sq. ft. per roll).
- The black adhesive backing of TraxxShield99™ has a grey Release Liner. This side should be **FACING DOWN** on the concrete slab.

(The next page illustrates a step-by-step peel & stick installation method for TraxxShield99™)

III. Installing TraxxShield99™ — Peel & Stick Method



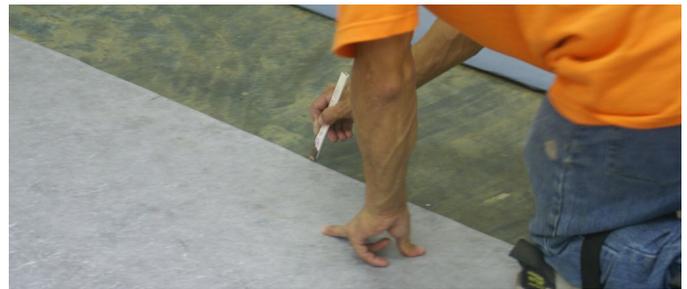
STEP 1: Starting at one corner of the room roll out TraxxShield99™ up to 1/8" from the wall and cut ends to the exact length using a utility knife. You may find that it is easier to handle a piece no greater than 15–20 feet in length.



STEP 2: Fold back half the piece as illustrated. Continuously tear away the Release Liner at the midpoint perforation to expose the black adhesive. Then fold it back down and affix the TraxxShield99™ to the slab by pressing firmly with your hands. Allow the other half of the piece TO REST WITH THE LINER STILL ON.



STEP 3: Proceed to line up the second piece of TraxxShield99™ and overlap the seam of the first piece by about 1-inch. Double-cut a new seam line through the overlapped pieces, and discard the cuttings. You have now created a tight seam line.



STEP 4: Open the seam back to allow for the application of the special 2" moisture tape. Draw a straight guide line for the tape.



STEP 5: Then attach the tape to the slab and run along THE BOTTOM OF THE SEAM. Use a hand roller to ensure a good bond. The tape is specially formulated to support the moisture vapor suppression system, so it is imperative to use only TraxxShield99™ Seam Tape.



STEP 6: Proceed to remove the remaining Release Liner from the first piece and press down firmly over your tape line.



STEP 7: Then remove the Release Liner from one half of the second piece and press it down firmly as well. Be sure that the seam line is tight by using a hand roller.

STEP 8: Proceed to roll out each row of TraxxShield99™ and tape accordingly until the room is completely covered. Then secure the entire floor with a 100-lb. roller.

STEP 9: TraxxShield99™ is easily cut to fit around pillars and irregular objects. Use TraxxShield99™ Seam Tape to secure the seams in these areas, as well as beneath all crosscut seams.

Installing TraxxShield99™ – Loose-Lay Method (see website bulletin)

If it is specified to install TraxxShield99™ in a loose-lay method:

1. Leave the Nylon Release Liner on the backing so that TraxxShield99™ does not stick to the concrete slab.
2. Double-cut your seam line as described earlier.
3. Tape the seams AT THE BOTTOM with the special TraxxShield99™ double-sided Seam Tape. Also use this tape to hold down thresholds.
4. Roll entire TraxxShield99™ installation with 100-lb roller.
5. The loose-lay method is not recommended for vinyl sheet products, and not recommended for any floorcovering that has a propensity to cup, curl, or vertically move.

IV. Installing the Finished Flooring

- 1) Follow the finished flooring manufacturer's acclimation and installation instructions.
- 2) Apply the floorcovering adhesive directly onto the TraxxShield99™ surface. Although TraxxShield99™ is a non-porous membrane, **BE SURE TO TREAT THE FABRIC SURFACE AS 'POROUS' BECAUSE THERE WILL BE SOME ABSORPTION OF ADHESIVE.** Select a trowel notching that provides a pronounced ridge line as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. The 1/16"x 1/16"x 1/16" V-notch is the recommended minimum. This absorption creates a strong bond between the TraxxShield99/adhesive/floorcovering system.

NOTE: IT IS RECOMMENDED TO DO A 3-FT. SQUARE TEST OF THE ADHESIVE APPLIED TO THE TRAXXSHIELD99 TO TEST THE ADHESIVE COVERAGE AND BONDING OF THE FLOORCOVERING.

- Always use a new trowel.
 - Do not use a 1/32" trowel, as the ridge line may be too small with insufficient adhesive.
- 3) When applying rolled adhesive, use a heavier nap roller (3/8" – 1/2" nap).
 - 4) Spray adhesives are not approved.
 - 5) Not approved for Wet-Set applications under vinyl or vinyl-backed floorcoverings.
 - 6) Do not use solvent-based adhesives.
 - 7) Do not tear or damage the TraxxShield99™ during the finished flooring installation.
 - 8) Ensure that the seams of TraxxShield99™ are offset from the seams of VCT, LVT, or SVT tiles. Vinyl planks should be installed at 90 degrees to the TraxxShield99™ seam pattern.

Approved Floor Coverings for use with TraxxShield99™ Moisture Barrier

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|------------------------------|--|
| Carpet Tile | Broadloom Carpet |
| Vinyl Composition Tile (VCT) | Engineered Wood (Nail-Down or Floating Only) |
| Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) | Solid Wood (Nail-Down Only) |
| Luxury Vinyl Planks (LVP) | Laminates |
| Solid Vinyl Tile (SVT) | Porcelain/Natural Stone |
| Ceramic Tile | Sheet Vinyl (approved on job-by-job basis) |

TraxxShield99™ has been approved for use with the large variety of floorcoverings stated above to suppress moisture vapor in concrete slabs. It is the responsibility of the contractor or architect to ensure that the specified floorcovering is dimensionally stable. If you have a floorcovering not on this list, please contact TRAXX Corporation with questions at 909-623-8032.

Initial Maintenance & Cleaning of the Finished Floor

Upon completion of finished flooring installation, TRAXX Corporation requires a minimum of 5 days (120 hours) before any cleaning or maintenance. Failure to do so may result in improper drying and curing of the floorcovering adhesive. TRAXX Corporation is not responsible for improper installation of the finished floor, nor cleaning/maintenance performed before curing of the floorcovering adhesive.

Warranty

TraxxShield99™ is warranted for 10 years to suppress Relative Humidity up to 99.0% over that period. See our TRAXX Corporation Limited Warranty at www.traxxcorp.com.

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