

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™

MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™ is designed and manufactured to deliver a lifetime of unwavering performance. To ensure that your flooring installation takes full advantage of the features of MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™, you must precisely follow these installation instructions as well as the flooring manufacturer's Installation instructions included with your selected flooring material. TRAXX Corporation warrants MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™ only if these Instructions are thoroughly adhered to.

The Installation of MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™ is summarized as follows:

1. Properly prepare the sub-floor;
2. Acclimate the MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™ Panels;
3. Arrange and layout the individual panels to determine final fit;
4. Cut-to-size the underlayment;
5. Properly select the fasteners;
6. Fasten the underlayment;
7. Finish the underlayment;
8. Install your flooring.

### How to Install MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™

Properly prepare the sub-floor.

Before installing MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™, your sub-floor must be completely dry, structurally sound and smooth. To this end, you must reset any protruding nail-heads and replace any area of the sub-floor that is soft, decayed or delaminated. If the sub-floor squeaks, is warped, cupped or has any vertical movement, use ring shank nails to eliminate these problems. Any unsound sub-floor panels must be replaced. Fill and sand low spots with patching compound until the patched areas are smooth and completely dry. Remove drywall joint compound from the sub-floor. For new construction, moisture checks of your sub-floor and underlayment are recommended.

DO NOT install underlayment without thoroughly preparing your sub-floor. Merely covering inconsistencies and other problems with MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™, without resolving them in advance of your underlayment installation, will compromise the appearance of your finished floor and void your underlayment warranty.

### Acclimate The Underlayment Panels

MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™ panels must be acclimated for 48-hours prior to installation. To properly acclimate your underlayment, separate and stand panels vertically on end in each room where they will be installed. Be sure to lean each panel in such manner as to permit air circulation on both sides.

Arrange and layout the underlayment before fastening to predetermine final fit.

MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™ panels install perpendicular to the sub-floor grain. Underlayment edges should be offset a minimum of 8-inches from your sub-floor joints.

Place all full panels in position, lightly butting panel edges together. Do not leave a gap. Panels should be staggered at roughly half-panel intervals to ensure that 4 panel comers never meet. Measure and mark partial panels for cutting. Leave a ¼-inch to ½-inch gap between the panel edge and the wall to allow for expansion. Fit factory-cut edges to factory-cut edges. Job site cuts should always face the wall and never abut to factory cuts.

### Cut-To-Size The Underlayment

Panels should be cut from the backside using a circular saw with a fine tooth blade. To minimize splintering, adjust the saw blade so that it extends no more than ⅜-inch through the underlayment. For irregular cuts, cut from the backside using a jigsaw with a fine tooth blade. Drilling should be done from the face side through the backside.

### Property Select The Fasteners

To securely fasten MATRIX Engineered Underlayment™ panels to the sub-floor, use plated ring shank underlayment nails with a ⅜ diameter head. For air-staple installation, use double coated chisel or divergent point staples with a ¼-inch maximum crown. Be sure your fastener length is shallow enough so that the fastener does not penetrate the bottom of your sub-floor surface. To prevent staining of your flooring, do not use uncoated, cement coated or rosin coated fasteners.

### Fasten The Underlayment

Using each panel's printed nail pattern as a guide, nail or staple at 2-inch intervals along the edge of each panel and at 4-inch intervals throughout the panel interior. Before fastening, place your full body weight on the panel being installed. All fasteners must be slightly countersunk.

Do not fasten the four comers first; this may cause the center of the panel to rise. Instead, begin fastening from one comer and work across the panel, fastening the farthest corner last.

### Finish The Underlayment

Once you have completed fastening, you must finish the underlayment surface to ensure the smooth Installation of your flooring.

Using a belt sander, sand all panel edge joints to a smooth finish. Avoid over-sanding.

Patch all voids, chipped edges, gouges and gaps with a patching compound approved by the flooring material manufacturer. Allow patching to dry overnight. Once dry, re-sand and re-patch if necessary providing additional lime for a complete dry cycle. Re-sand to a smooth finish.

### Install Your Flooring

You may now install your flooring material in accordance with the flooring manufacturer's instructions. Prior to installation and as appropriate, cover the underlayment with protective paper to maintain cleanliness and to avoid damage. Use an adhesive recommended by the flooring manufacturer.