

## LokDots for EcoWorx® Tile

### Notice!

For best results, review the following guidelines prior to installation. Shaw will not be responsible for improper installation and failure to follow these guidelines may result in limiting your warranty coverage.

These installation procedures are intended for indoor use to assist in the installation Shaw modular carpet under most job conditions. Specific questions regarding installation not covered within must be referred to Shaw Product Support at 1.800.471.7429. Any variance from these procedures will become the responsibility of the installer and not the manufacturer. Additional information regarding LokDots can be found at [www.LokDots.com](http://www.LokDots.com).

### 1. CONDITION YOUR SITE AND TEST

A proper installation depends on the proper site conditions and product storage. Do not store LokDots at temperatures exceeding 120°F. LokDots are freeze-thaw stable; however LokDots must be allowed to acclimate to site conditions of 65°F prior to application. The following conditions must be maintained for 24 hours prior to, during and after installation:

- HVAC System: Must be operational maintaining the following conditions.
- Temperature: The installation site, carpet and adhesive must be between 65°F and 95°F. Do not begin the installation if the subfloor temperature is below 50°F.
- Humidity: The installation site's ambient relative humidity must not exceed 65%.
- Moisture: Conduct relative humidity testing. Results must be below 95% (ASTM F-2170) or the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride test must not exceed 10.0 lbs. per 1000 SF per 24 hours ASTM F-1869 test). (2.27 kg/92.9m<sup>2</sup>/24 hours). Shaw recognizes RH as the qualifying standard.
- Alkalinity: Conduct pH testing on the floor in several locations. A reading below 5.0 or above 12.0 (ASTM F-710) requires corrective measures.

Do not begin the installation if an unacceptable moisture level is detected. Contact Shaw Product Support for additional recommendations. If excessive moisture is present, the general contractor or building owner must be advised and a decision made if the installation is to begin. Shaw Industries will not be responsible for any moisture related installation failures if these guidelines are not strictly followed. **Carpet tiles and LokDots are not intended to be a moisture barrier against hydrostatic pressure in concrete.**

### 2. PREPARE THE FLOOR

The floor must be smooth and level reducing any remaining adhesive ridges in order for the LokDots to bond the carpet tile securely to the subfloor. Fill depressions or cracks with liquid latex additive Portland cement-based patching compound. Do not use oil-based (red) sweeping compounds; they leave oily deposits. You may use wax-based (green) sweeping compounds if you sweep and remove them immediately.

The substrates must be structurally sound, clean, level and dry. The substrate must be free of dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint, curing agents, concrete sealers, loosely bonded toppings, loose particles and any other substance or condition that may prevent or reduce adhesion.

**NOTE:** Do not sand or scrape Vinyl Asbestos Tile (VAT) without proper attention to abatement procedures and precautions in accordance with all state and local codes. Shaw Industries makes no claims as to the acceptability of this procedure as a mitigation method in lieu of asbestos removal; and accepts no responsibility if any loose asbestos-containing floorings are affected upon removal of a Shaw Industries product.

**CAUTION:** Cutback asphaltic adhesive or any other non-approved adhesives must never be allowed to come into contact with new adhesives. Installation failure could result and we would advise sealing the cutback with a sealer such as Shaw 9000. If this situation arises, contact Shaw Product Support at 1.800.471.7429.

### 3. PREPARE EXISTING ADHESIVE

**Existing Non Active Multipurpose Adhesive:** Remove ridges, sweep or vacuum debris and damp mop.

**Existing Active Multipurpose Adhesive:** Remove ridges then eliminate the adhesive tack with a product such as Shaw 6200.

**Pressure Sensitive Adhesive Affected by Plasticizer Migration:** If the previous carpet tile had a PVC backing and the plasticizer in the backing has transferred to the adhesive, you must thoroughly remove adhesive by wet scraping.

**Existing Pressure Sensitive Adhesive:** Install LokDots over existing pressure sensitive adhesive provided that the adhesive surface is smooth and level.

**Active Cutback Adhesive:** Wet scrape adhesive, reduce to a well-bonded residue and encapsulate with a product such as Shaw 9000.

**Non Active Cutback Adhesive:** Wet scrape adhesive and reduce to a well-bonded residue.

**Dusting/Powdering of Concrete:** Damp mop the subfloor as dusting and powdering will interfere with the adhesion. As water becomes contaminated, make sure to exchange with clean water as needed.

**Patch, Leveler, Gypcrete:** Prime the surface with a paint roll application of liquid latex such as Shaw 9050.

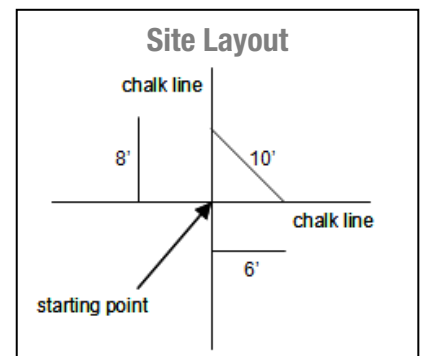
**VCT and VAT:** All tiles must be secure to the subfloor. Existing surface wax does not need to be removed.

**Wood Subfloors:** Floors must be Wood Association Approved and primed with a paint roll application of liquid latex such as Shaw 9050.

**Raised Access Flooring:** All panels must be smooth, level, secure and free of any material that will affect the adhesive bond. Carpet tiles must be installed offset from access panel seams. Gaps between panels must not exceed 1/16" (1.6 mm).

### 4. LAY OUT YOUR SITE

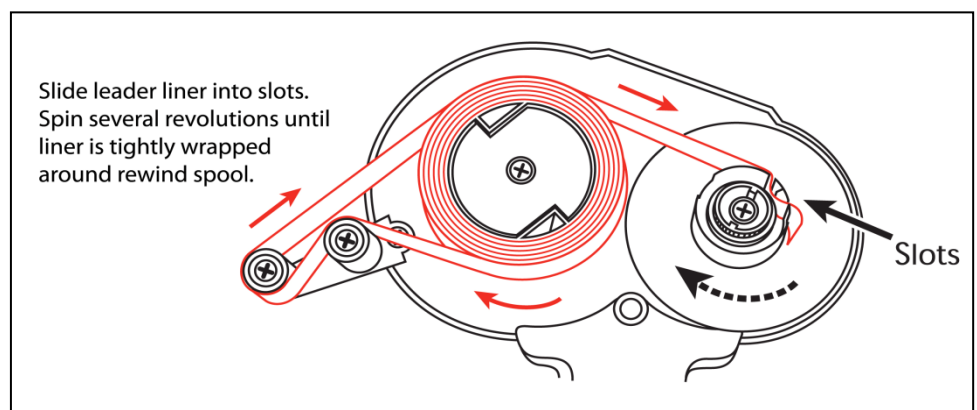
- Start the modular installation as near to the center of the room as possible and position it to use the largest perimeter cut module size.
- Snap a chalk line parallel to one major wall bisecting the starting point. It may be necessary to offset the center chalk line to assure perimeter modules will be at least half size.
- Snap a second chalk line from the starting point at 90° to the first line. Use a 3-4-5, 6-8-10, or larger triangle depending on the room size. Meters or feet may be used to lay out the triangle in these proportions.



### 5. SET UP THE LOKDOTS APPLICATOR

Load applicator.

- Open cover and place LokDots roll onto the larger applicator wheel so that it unwinds in a clockwise direction. Use the bar in the center of the wheel to lock into place.
- Pull leader liner forward winding over the first roller and under the second roller. Pull tightly over top of roll.



Use applicator.

- Place the nose roller on the back of the tile in the area for adhesive.
- Using a slow, controlled application speed, pull the dispenser toward you. Apply the amount of adhesives that fit the application.

Applicator troubleshooting.

- The applicator came apart.

The dispenser is very robust. If the cover separates from the dispenser when dropped, snap it back on!

- Removing adhesive from carpet face or other material.

Using a few dots, blot the adhesive stuck to the undesired surface to pull the adhesive up. Dots can also be removed from the face of the carpet by freezing the dot with ice then removing the adhesive.

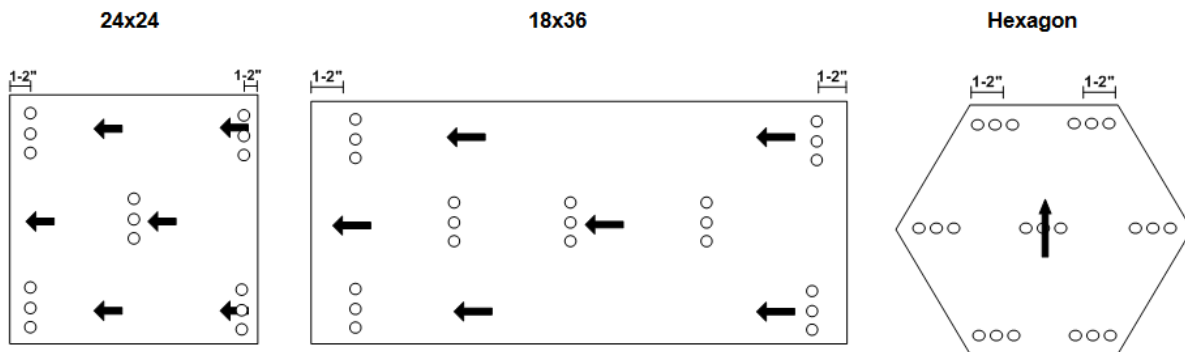
Rubbing alcohol may also be applied to release adhesive.

- The liner is wrapping back around on itself.

The liner usually wraps back on itself if the used release liner doesn't remain tight. To ensure that the liner has tension during application, thread the used liner through the slot in the take up wheel.

## 6. APPLY LOKDOTS.

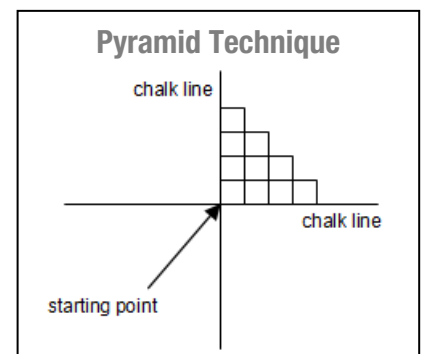
Directional arrows are featured on the back of the tile. Numbers within the arrows are for manufacturing purposes and are not related to installation.



## 7. INSTALL YOUR TILES

Install each full carton and complete an entire pallet before starting another pallet to minimize product variation. Each tile has directional arrows on the back. These arrows allow for one-directional or multi-directional installation. Some styles may be large scale or linear in design and require quarter turning. If you are unsure about whether or not your product requires a quarter turned installation, please call 1.877.502.7429.

- Begin installation at the intersection of two chalk lines. Continue until you complete one quadrant. Proceed to an adjoining quadrant until all four quadrants are completed. Larger areas may require chalk lines bisecting the original four quadrants.
- Install modules using the pyramid technique. This gives you multiple alignment checks. If the edges do not align and the misalignment increases with progression of the installation, find and correct the source of the problem.



- Carpet tiles come in various sizes. Shaw's EcoWorx tiles are offered in 24" squares, 18" x 36" rectangles and hexagon. All Shaw tiles have directional arrows on the back of the tile. This facilitates the installation method which is based on the requirements of the product, or the preference of the customer.
- Apply LokDots adhesive tabs to the back of each tile in the pattern shown above. Start approximately 2" from the edge of the tile and move down the tile perpendicular to the directional arrows. Apply adhesive tabs in a series of 3 tabs in each corner, and in the middle for 24" tiles for an average of 15 per tile. The 18 x 36 tile has 3 rows in the middle due to its longer length for a total of 21 tabs per tile. The hexagon shape needs 21 dots per angle and in the center.
- Slide modules into position to prevent yarn from being trapped between the modules. Trapped yarn will adversely affect the appearance of the installation and will cause alignment problems.
- Modules must fit snugly, but not be compressed. Press the entire surface of the tile to ensure adhesion. Check for fit by measuring the length of ten full modules after installation. The measurement must not be less than, or exceed by more than 1/4 inch, the length of the modules being multiplied by ten. For example: if 24" X 24" modules are being installed, the measurement should be between 240 and 240 1/4 inches.
- Roll the entire installation with a 75 lb. or greater roller to assure the proper adhesion to the substrate.

### Flatwire Cable Systems

- Flatwire cables should be installed on top of the adhesive and centered underneath the carpet tile for better seam quality.

## 8. CUT YOUR TILES

- A performance feature of LokDots is its ability to secure the perimeter and any cut tiles in the installation. For ease of installation to secure the perimeter, LokDots may be applied to the floor to facilitate cutting the tile from the face side. We recommend properly securing the perimeter as well as field cuts as this prevents shifting over the life of the installation.
- Modules may be cut by measuring and cutting from the back using a straight edge. Care must be taken to assure the arrows are pointing in the correct direction. Once cut, dots may be applied to the trimmed module then put into place.
- Modules may also be cut by letting them cove up the wall and cutting with a carpet knife, wall trimmer or similar tool. **Do not compress.**

## 9. POST INSTALLATION CARE AND PROTECTION

- Place plywood over the carpet when heavy objects are moved within 24 hours after installation.
- Use protective chair mats under chairs with casters. This will prevent excessive wear to the face and possible transfer of the pressure sensitive adhesive to the back of the carpet.
- Place a non-staining building material paper over the carpet to protect it when additional construction activity is to take place. Do not use plastic sheeting as it will trap moisture.

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