



eximlink is a European **Production, Trading** and **Consulting** Company specialised in ecologically sustainable and profitable product cycles.

# eximSafe



## Installation Guide





## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INSTALLATION

1. Read product and sub-floor preparation instructions, warranty and other disclaimers carefully and completely before beginning any installation.
2. Both, installation surface and products have to be clean and dry prior to installation.
3. Moisture acts as a catalyst to the polyurethane adhesive if used, so dry products and surfaces are essential. In case of need, dry the surface by a hot-air tool or LPG prior to the installation.
4. Temperature variations will also affect the products as they will contract in cold weather and expand in warm weather. This is a natural effect of the rubber and is to be expected. Rubber surfaces are recommended to be enclosed from at least three sides whether by walls, curbs or other dividing elements.
5. The same products laid in the morning hours at 5°C would be a different size than products laid at 25°C later in the day. Therefore, before starting the installation, lay out all the products you will be installing on the next day on, or near the sub-surface and allow them to equalize to ambient temperature. When installing, the whole surface should be covered by sunlight or be in shade, to prevent breaks caused by uneven temperatures of different parts of the installed area.
6. Store products and adhesives in a clean, dry environment with adhesive storage temperatures ranging between 5°C and 25°C. Do not subject adhesive to freezing temperatures under any circumstances. When stored in a dry place, products are able to withstand long-standing temperatures in the range of -40°C to 80°C.
7. When laid in place, single **eximlink** products are recommended to be glued together for a better result by universal polyurethane-based glue that hardens when reacting with the air humidity. The glued surfaces have to be dry, clean, and free from any grease. The alternative is the usage of connector pins when applicable.

**Warning:** Do not use recycled rubber products in conjunction with any petroleum-based products. This includes solvents, adhesives or sealants.  
All substrates (especially new concrete) must be fully cured for 45 to 60 days prior to installing rubber products. Improper installation will void warranty.

## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR INSTALLATION

1. Work clothes
2. Rubber gloves
3. Safety glasses
4. Knee pads
5. Razor knife with extra blades
6. Chalk line
7. Carpenter's square
8. Paint roller frames, roller extensions and fluffy rollers
9. Paint roller trays
10. Water spray bottles (mist, if polyurethane-based adhesive is used)
11. Rubber hammer
12. Measuring tape
13. Serrated filet knife
14. Compass with marker pen (to mark diameter of equipment supports)
15. Bandsaw or jigsaw with coarse blades

## SUB SURFACE REQUIREMENTS FOR A PRODUCT INSTALLATION

1. Products may be applied on concrete, asphalt, wooden or sand/gravel surface.
2. All sub-surfaces should be properly excavated and applied to ensure:
  - a. Subsurface drainage.
  - b. Non-separation of concrete layers.
  - c. Prevention of heaving due to freeze/thaw or unstable ground conditions.

The stabilization of the subsurface is the sole responsibility of the installer and/or owner.



## CONCRETE SUB SURFACES

1. Concrete surfaces must be thoroughly cured, free from hydrostatic pressure, leveled and cleaned from any foreign materials such as dust, dirt, paint, oil and water prior to the product installation.
2. Surfaces should be reasonably smooth to reduce the amount of adhesive required.
3. Any separation of concrete layers, heaving, etc. is the sole responsibility of the installer and/or owner.
4. Rubber products are porous and will allow water to leak - so allow for good drainage of the area by either a well-defined gradient of the surface or well-placed drainage pipe in lower spots of the area.
5. Existing surface shall be free of significant cracks or gaps prior to the installation.

## ASPHALT SUB SURFACES

1. Asphalt sub surfaces must be hard enough not to melt during the hot summer days, leveled, and free from any foreign materials such as grease, oil, dust, pain and other contaminants. Avoid product installation on new asphalt until surface oil has had time to dissipate (30 days after compacting) and drainage can be evaluated.
2. Any separation of asphalt or blacktop layers, heaving etc. is the sole responsibility of the installer and/or owner.
3. Rubber products are porous and will allow water to leak - so allow for good drainage of the area by either a well-defined gradient of the surface or well-placed drainage pipe in lower spots of the area.
4. Existing surface shall be free of significant cracks or gaps prior to the installation.

## WOODEN SUB SURFACES

1. The wooden sub surfaces should be in a good condition, properly secured to ground to avoid any ground shifting and subsequent sub floor movement. The sub floor should be protected and sealed from moisture prior to installation while the sealer should be completely dry before the product installation. The sealer is to be compatible with the used product adhesive (avoid use of surface treatments that leave oil residues on surface).
2. The wood surface should be clean and free from any foreign materials such as dust, dirt, paint or protruding nails and screws. All damaged wood should be replaced on old surfaces.
3. The surface should be leveled, clean and dry before application, as trapped moisture may cause deterioration and premature rotting of the wood.
4. Rubber products are porous and will allow water to leak - so allow for good drainage of the area by either a well-defined gradient of the surface or well-placed drainage pipe in lower spots of the area.
5. Existing wooden surface shall be free of significant cracks or gaps prior to the installation.

## SAND / CRUSHED GRAVEL SUB SURFACES

1. Sand/crushed gravel sub surfaces must be densified enough, leveled, and free from any foreign materials such as leaves and alike prior to the product installation.
2. Compacted gravel surfaces are the sole responsibility of the installer/owner in order to provide a stable sub surface with proper drainage.
3. When crushed gravel is used, medium grain size sand should be applied on top to smooth the surface. A geotextile cloth in minimal thickness of 3mm should be then put over the top of the compacted surface with an overlap on all joints required. Secure joints with duct tape or mono compound adhesive. The usage of a geotextile is recommended for safety mats installations with raster depth 28mm and more.



4. An edging, made of preferably rubber curbs around the perimeter, is recommended to keep the products in the area
5. For installation in sand, gravel or similar sub surfaces, chosen rubber products has to be in minimal thickness of 40mm to prevent surface deformations.

## INSTALLATION (WITH ADHESIVE)

### 1. Prior to installation:

1. Ensure that the base surface is clean, leveled, and dry. Products must be dry and clean.
2. Check ambient air temperature.
3. Minimum temperature for installation is 10°C, however can vary with the used adhesive.
4. Before using an adhesive, read its installation instructions carefully.

### 2. Installation procedure:

1. Start on the prepared sub-surface at the 90° corner. Lay /glue the first rows of products along the marked straight edge from the further corner along base edge in two directions (in 90 degrees angle), making sure all interlocking holes (if the connector pins are to be used) are facing towards the unfinished area.
2. Lay out the rest of the installation, leaving out any products that must be "cut to fit".
3. Keep edges straight and aligned horizontally and vertically.
4. For best results, a border of lumber should be tapped in front of the first and side rows of tiles, (90° L - shape).

### 3. Adhesive:

1. Adhesive is usually a one-part "glue" and is ready to be used when poured out of a container. Do not open container prior to time for use in installation.
2. A misting of water may be applied to the polyurethane-based adhesive (if used) and will act as a catalyst to decrease curing time (be careful to follow the instructions on an adhesive can).
3. Adhesive is spread in a thick film coat on the base surface.
4. Cure time of the used adhesive is dependent on several factors such as: moisture and temperature of installation surface and the ambient air temperature and relative air humidity. Generally, the higher the temperature, the shorter the cure time.
5. Once the adhesive is in place and has been allowed to penetrate the existing hard surface, prior to a product placement on the surface, a light fine spray of water (catalyst) on the adhesive will shorten the curing time (when polyurethane-based adhesive is used).
6. Higher temperatures will increase the curing rate and reduce the working time (pot-life) of an adhesive. Follow the instructions on label of a can.

## INSTALLATION WITH CONNECTOR PINS

1. The standard connector pins are 80mm long, made of hard black plastic with ferruled edges, which hold them in place inside the product once they have been inserted.
2. If connector pins are required to be used for the installation, products are equipped with holes on two sides and supplied with the appropriate number of connector pins.
3. When installing by using connector pins, products should be laid by using zigzag bond (the way e.g. brick walls are made).
4. To install your products with connector pins, it is easiest to insert the pins on two adjacent sides while they are sitting in a stack (before you put them on the ground). When you set them on the ground, line up the products with pins already in it to the adjacent product without pins. Insert the pins into the holes and push it in to close the gap as best possible. To seal the gap, if necessary, use a rubber hammer to "bang" or "push" the product (without the pin) in over the product with the pin. You hit the product at an angle a few times while trying not to hit the exact same spot more times. If you use standard hammer and hit the same spot more than once, you may damage the product easily.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Tiles with 15 mm thickness ALWAYS need to be glued to a paved base (ideally with a 5 point adhesion approach per tile – so that the rubber can still work within the mat, but the mat would not change size any more).
2. With playgrounds (as the big one) of that size (ca 130m<sup>2</sup>), you should always allow for an expansion joint every 5 to 8 meters.
3. For the round playgrounds an installation in a so called halfpaving style is recommended (how is this done: do one lane, then start with half a meter first and then continue with the 1 meter mats –> optically you achieve the same look, but you have much more stability as you have real and dummy joints)
4. The interlocking paving on the terraces also need to be entirely glued in a 5 point adhesion approach per tile – everything else will cause the tiles to form a peak on the weakest spot.

## DISCLAIMER

The installation guidelines represent a typical installation and generally accepted installation practices should be followed. Use of a trained installation professional is recommended for best results. **eximlink** does not warrant any installation work and specifically disclaims liability for any direct or indirect personal injury, property damage or other costs or losses resulting from incorrect or inadequate installations.

## WARRANTY

**eximlink** offers the following limited warranty for a period of two years from date of sale to the original purchaser of our surfacing product. Products comply with the technical specifications and manufacturer's published technical and promotional materials at the time of sale. The products will be free of defects in materials and workmanship (subject to the limitations set forth below) for a period of two years from the date of purchase from the manufacturer.

This warranty does not extent to:

1. Products that have been improperly installed.
2. Products installed over improperly prepared sub-surfaces or preparation of sub-base not specifically approved by manufacturer.
3. Common wear and tear of products.
4. The surface appearance of the product or color inconsistency.
5. Products subject to misuse, abuse, neglect, chemical cleaning or contact not specifically approved by the manufacturer.

**eximlink**'s sole liability under this limited warranty shall be the repair or replacement, excluding installation and other costs, at its option, of product strictly according to the procedures set forth below. The implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose are hereby specifically disclaimed. In no event shall **eximlink** be liable for any special, indirect or consequential damages, whether arising out of contract, tort or any theory of law. To exercise this limited warranty, **eximlink** must be notified within fifteen days of any occurrence, giving rise to claim and prior to installation, given opportunity to inspect the product, and have issued direction to the original purchaser respecting disposition of product to be replaced under this limited warranty. Purchaser shall comply with all reasonable requests of **eximlink** in the administration of any warranty claim.



exim**link** Ltd.  
Neubaugasse 4 | 7-9  
1070 Wien

**t** +43 1 929 15020

**f** +43 1 929 1503

**mail:** [eximsales@eximlink.com](mailto:eximsales@eximlink.com)

**web:** [www.eximlink.com](http://www.eximlink.com)