SoftPave Installation Instructions

1) General Information

A) SoftPave may be installed over most concrete, wood, tile or carpeted floors. The floor over which SoftPave is installed must be level, in good condition, and clear of dirt and loose debris.

B) If SoftPave is being installed wall to wall, the tile may be doweled together, with the walls serving to contain the outer rows of tile. Tiles which are not contained by walls, either at openings in the wall (i.e. doorways) or free standing, should be contained by adhering the outer tiles and SoftPave ramps around the outer perimeter. The adhered tile and ramps provide a transition from the 1" thick tile to the original floor level.

> NOTE: Dimensional tolerance for tiles is +/- 1/8". From time to time during the installation, it may be necessary to measure and hand select tiles to assure that course lines remain straight. Additionally, color tone and shading may vary to the extent that some hand selection is required to maintain maximum uniformity throughout the site.

2) Preparation of Installation Area

A) Sweep or vacuum area to remove all dirt and loose debris.

B) Measure the width of the room or area to be covered.

C) Mark two points on the floor at half this distance from the walls or perimeter of the intended installation. These points should be located near the opposite ends of the site in the lengthwise direction.

D) Snap a chalk line through these points.

E) Measure the length of the site area and mark a point at half this distance along the chalk line established in step D.

F) Using the 3-4-5 right triangle method or a carpenter's square, snap a chalk line through this point at 90° to the previous established lengthwise course line.

G) Perpendicular reference lines are now available in the center of the area to use in laying the first course of tiles in both the length and width dimensions.

H) Using this approach will ensure that any tiles that require cutting along the perimeters of the installation will be symmetrical on opposite sides.

I) The site is now ready for installation.

J) Dowel Placement – Insert a dowel pin in each of the three dowel holes on two adjacent sides of the tile. Tap the dowel into the molded hole until about half the length of the dowel is showing beyond the edge of the tile or use a dowel setting tool available from Fitness Flooring. Install dowels in enough tiles in this manner to lay one course line.

3) Laying Tile for Starter Course

A) Place the first doweled tile at the intersection of the chalk lines with one doweled side facing inward along the course line.

B) Join the next tile in the starter course to the original tile by pushing against the original tile, engaging the dowel holes in the second tile with the dowels in the original tile.

C) The assembly of tiles using dowels is a two-man job, with one man working always on top of the last tile laid to secure it, while the other worker is applying force to the tile being laid.

D) Continue to assemble tiles in this manner until the row has been completed across the entire course.

E) A small 2-3 lb. hand sledgehammer may be used to aid assembly by striking the tile close to the doweling point while pressure is applied to the tile in the direction of the doweling by the second workman. A sledge and 2 X 4 may be used to tightly dowel several tiles. These techniques will allow the tile edges to be butted tight together.

4) Laying the Second and Subsequent Tile Courses

A) Place dowels in the tile to be used for the second course as done previously. Join the first tile in the second course to the first tile in the first course.

B) The second tile in the second course is now ready for placement. This tile will be doweled on two sides. First, dowel the tile to the original tile in the second course, placing the dowels from the first course of tiles above the tile being doweled.

C) Now dowel the second side of the tile by lifting the tiles to be joined together and inserting one dowel at a time with the appropriate dowel hole.

D) Continue to assemble tiles in this manner until the row has been completed across the entire course. Complete the third and subsequent course in a similar manner.

5) Fitting the Outer Course Tile

A) In most wall-to-wall installations, the tile in the outer course will have to be cut to fit. Tiles may be cut using a heavy-duty utility or carpet knife and a straight-edge. A saber saw utilizing a 7-10 TPI wood cutting blade also works well. A saw with a 3-3.5 amp rated motor having a 1" stroke with variable orbital settings will produce the best results. A cutting table used to support the work is required during cutting. A standard shipping pallet works well for this purpose for field use.

B) The outer course should then be installed as described in item C above, utilizing the remaining dowel holes. The cut edge should face the wall.

6) Adhering the Outer Course and Ramps

A) If required, ramps can be cut in the same manner as tile. If ramps are used at a corner, each ramp should be miter cut at a 45° angle.

B) After ramps have been properly cut, ramps and outer tile, which are not contained by the walls, should be adhered to the existing floor using a multi-purpose adhesive. Set tiles and ramps in the adhesive bed. Tiles being set in the adhesive bed should be doweled to the next inner course of tiles, but need not be doweled to each other. Ramps need not be doweled.

C) If tiles and ramps cannot be adhered to the existing floor, they can be adhered to a polyester mat.

D) Your SoftPave installation is now ready for use and will provide years of reliable, low maintenance performance. If you have questions about installation techniques or anything else regarding SoftPave, call Fitness Flooring toll-free at 1-800-428-5306.