



**FIBEROCK®**  
**Underlayment**

**AQUA™  
TOUGH**



## Everywhere, Every Floor.

FIBEROCK® AQUA-TOUGH™ Underlayment is a fiber-reinforced panel for use in residential construction as a floor underlayment for ceramics, vinyl, carpeting, hardwood and laminate flooring.



### Water, Mould and Moisture Resistant.

The AQUA-TOUGH™ technology provides superior water, mould and moisture resistance throughout the panel. Ideal for bathroom and kitchen.



### Easy to Install.

Simply score and snap with minimal effort.



### Superior Strength.

Offers up to 60% more resistance to dents than wood based products when used under vinyl flooring.



### Environmentally Friendly.

Panels have a certified 95% recycled content.



### Warranty.

20-year comprehensive transferable warranty.  
30-year limited warranty.

For detailed instructions on installation, please see over.



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**Underlayment**



**TOOLS AND MATERIALS**

Dust mask, T-Square, Mortar, Staple gun and staples (6.4 mm [1/4"] only) or hammer and nails, Tape measure, Utility knife or power saw, Wide-blade taping knife (100-150 mm [4"-6"]) or trowel

**PREPARATION**

**Over Wood Subfloor**

1. For a ceramic tile floor, subfloor should be minimum 15.9 mm (5/8")-thick exterior-grade plywood.
2. Sand all uneven subfloor joints.
3. Reset any protruding fasteners. All fasteners should be flush with or slightly below subfloor surface.
4. Fill any voids or depressions with patching compound. Subfloor must be flat and well secured.
5. Remove all debris from subfloor and vacuum carefully to eliminate dust and dirt.
6. Ensure that subfloor is dry (maximum 12% moisture) before installing FIBEROCK® Underlayment. Excess moisture may cause underlayment joints to show through floor covering.

**Over Existing Vinyl Floor**

1. Make sure that back of existing vinyl covering is fully adhered and bonded.
2. Repair any missing or broken vinyl tiles, curling seams, severe gouges, or protrusions by filling with floor leveler.

**INSTALLATION**

**Cutting Underlayment**

For most cuts, use "score and snap" method. Score one side of panel twice with utility knife, then snap upward along score line. Smooth rough edges with rasp. For more difficult cuts, combine "score and snap" method with use of a handsaw or low-RPM power saw. To cut holes in panels (for plumbing, etc.) use a holesaw, keyhole saw, or variable-speed jigsaw. A power saw should be used only if equipped with a dust-collection device. Always wear a dust mask when cutting FIBEROCK panels with a power saw.

**Positioning Panels**

1. Place panels smooth side up. Avoid construction traffic and abuse. Panels should be installed at normal room temperature and humidity conditions.
2. Lay panels so that cut edges are against walls, with factory edges meeting (see diagram). Leave 3 mm (1/8") space between panel & wall.
3. Lightly butt panels together; do not force.
4. Offset panel joints 200-300 mm (8-12") from subfloor joints.
5. Stagger joints a minimum of 400 mm (16") on-center (o.c.) so that four panel corners never meet.

**Base for Vinyl Flooring**

Be sure to follow application procedures and use fasteners described below. Improper fastening of underlayment panels is a primary cause of joint and fastener-head showthrough in vinyl flooring.

1. Use ring-shank nails or chisel-point staples with 6 mm (1/4")-minimum crown for attachment. Avoid resin, rosin, and cement-coated fasteners, which can discolor vinyl flooring.
2. Fastener length should approximately equal combined thickness of underlayment and subfloor.
3. Space fasteners as follows: 13 mm (1/2") from panel edges; every 50 mm (2") or less around perimeter, and every 100 mm (4") in field. Do not tack corners.

4. Install cut edges against walls. Only factory edges should be joined.
5. Hold panels flat and tight against subfloor while fastening. If using a pneumatic tool, press gun tightly against panel before shooting in the fastener; do not allow tool to bounce.
6. Fasten one panel at a time. Begin at one end and fan out across panel.
7. Ensure that all fasteners are flush with or slightly below underlayment surface. Avoid countersinking too deeply, which can cause panel movement and joint show-through.
8. Sand uneven panel joints. Prefill all joints with floor patch only.
9. Sweep all debris from underlayment and vacuum carefully to eliminate dust and dirt.
10. Install vinyl flooring.

**Base for a Ceramic Tile Floor**

Place underlayment with joints staggered from subfloor joints. Fit ends and edges together closely but do not force together.

1. Laminate FIBEROCK Underlayment to subfloor with Type I organic adhesive, latex portland cement mortar, or dryset mortar. Apply adhesive with 5 mm (5/32") V-notched trowel, mortar with 6 mm (1/4") square notched trowel.
2. Fasten underlayment to subfloor with hot-dipped ring-shank nails or Durock screws. Fasteners should be spaced 200 mm (8") o.c.
3. Sand uneven panel joints. Prefill all joints with tile-setting mortar or adhesive, then immediately embed Durock Interior Tape over joints. Strike joints flush. Additional fill coats may be required.
4. Sweep all debris from underlayment and vacuum carefully to eliminate dust and dirt.

**Base for Wood Flooring**

Install underlayment as described previously under "Base for Vinyl Flooring."

1. With mechanically-fastened wood flooring, fasteners must be long enough to penetrate through underlayment and into subfloor. Determine appropriate fastener length by adding thickness of underlayment to length of fastener recommended by flooring manufacturer.
2. Glued-down engineered or solid hardwood flooring must be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**Countertops with Ceramic Tile**

1. Install minimum 19 mm (3/4") exterior-grade plywood base across top of cabinets, spaced maximum 400 mm (16") on-center (o.c.) Staple-attach 7 kg (15 lb.) felt to plywood with 6 mm (1/4") galvanized staples.
2. Laminate underlayment to felt membrane with latex-fortified mortar, using a 6 mm (1/4") square notched trowel.
3. Fasten underlayment to plywood base with hotdipped ring-shank nails or Durock screws, spaced 200 mm (8") o.c. in both directions and around perimeter.
4. Sand uneven panel joints. Prefill all joints with tile-setting mortar or adhesive, then immediately embed Durock Interior Tape over joints. Strike joints flush. Additional fill coats may be required.

**LIMITATION AND RECOMMENDATION**

For limitations and recommendation please refer to FIBEROCK data sheet EWB-0W72.



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