

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR INTERLOCKING RUBBER FLOORING

### **IMPORTANT!**

#### **PLEASE READ BEFORE INSTALLATION**

**This notice pertains to Brava Recycled Rubber Flooring and Surfacing.**

1. Inspect your shipment for damage. Verify packing slip ensuring that the style, color, and quantity are correct.
2. Adhesives must not be exposed to freezing temperatures. Read technical data sheets and material safety data sheets for adhesive if applicable.
3. The products in front of you have gone through quality checks to ensure correct product, number of pieces, and that the physical properties, dimensions and visual appearance have passed our standards. However, for your own protection, we ask you to inspect this shipment for any apparent shortcomings before starting the installation by laying out ALL of the tiles for thorough visual inspection and complete acclimation (see also point 6 below). Do not install product if there are any such shortcomings. Brava is not responsible for installation costs and will not be liable for material or labor if defective product is installed.
4. Store Brava material in a clean, dry, temperature controlled area. Recover with packaging provided after inspection has been complete to protect from dust and dirt prior to installation.
5. Install same side up as received. All square cut tiles are marked with stickers showing "THIS SIDE DOWN". These stickers will always be placed in the same corner of each tile as it goes through our slicing station. This will also assist the installer in ensuring that the tiles are not rotated during installation  
**DO NOT FLIP TILES DURING INSTALLATION!**
6. Rubber expands and contracts with changes in temperature and humidity. Therefore, it is very important that all Brava products be allowed to adjust to ambient temperature of the floor prior to starting installation. Acclimation time will depend upon storage time. Do not install the tiles if they are not square and the appropriate thickness has not been reached.
7. It is important to keep a clean working surface at all times. Protect rubber flooring from construction dust and debris.
8. Keep Brava rubber flooring dry prior to and during installation.
9. **DO NOT USE TAPE** of any kind to help secure seams during glue down installation. Tape residue cannot be removed from the top surface.
10. **DO NOT GET ADHESIVE ON THE TOP SURFACE OF THE RUBBER FLOORING AS IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE. CONTACT YOUR BRAVA SUPPLIER IMMEDIATELY FOR SUGGESTED CLEANING METHODS IF THIS HAPPENS.** Brava will not be responsible for the replacement or cleaning of rubber tiles that have adhesive on the surface!

## SECTION I

### MATERIAL STORAGE & HANDLING

#### General packaging information:

These Brava products are packaged on wooden pallets, covered with a plastic hood, and secured by steel strapping.

#### On receipt of merchandise:

**A)** The product in front of you has gone through several quality assurance checks. However, we recommend that you double-check that your order is correct, that no damage occurred during transport, and for any other possible shortcomings. For your own protection, ensure that defective product is identified prior to the start of the installation. Please note that we are not responsible for any installation costs that occur as a result of defective product being installed.

**B) Storage:** Store tiles in a dry and clean area. Temperature and humidity changes will cause the rubber to expand or contract.

**C) Installation after short term storage:** At least 24 hours before starting the installation lay out all tiles on the sub-surface to allow them to acclimate. A tile laid in the morning hours at 32°F (0°C) would be a different size than a tile laid at 68°F (20°C) later in the day. Acclimation is complete when the products have reached their specified dimensions. Refer to the Weights and Measures chart at the back of these guidelines. Short term storage should be considered as two weeks or less.

**D) Installation after prolonged storage:** During prolonged storage, the tiles in the lower portion of the stack will compress to a greater degree than those in the upper portion. This will show as thickness variations in the products taken from the top of the pallet as compared to those on the bottom. Product dimensions (length and width) may also be affected. A longer acclimation time will be required for product that has had a longer storage time. Exactly how long is very difficult to predict but can take upwards of 48 – 72 hours. The product should be taken off the pallet and distributed throughout the installation area in small piles consisting of three or less tiles. Acclimation is complete when the products have reached their specified dimensions; check length, width, and thickness periodically until the right dimensions have been reached (see the Weights & Measures chart at the back of these guidelines).

**E)** It is important to keep a clean working surface at all times. Protect tiles from dust and dirt.

**F)** Keep Brava rubber surfacing dry. Moisture will cause adhesion problems.

**G)** Petroleum distillates (e.g. solvents) as well as liquid animal fats may cause the surface bonding to fail. Test results for other harmful chemicals and compounds are available on request.

The installation of any resilient rubber flooring is only as good as the sub-floor it is laid upon. This is especially true when the flooring is glued down. Rough and uneven sub-floors can diminish the appearance, cause uneven top surfaces and shorten the life span of such flooring. We therefore recommend proper preparation of such sub-floors as follows:

**H)** Install rubber tile flooring same side up as received. Reversing tiles may result in visible shade differences in finished surface. **DO NOT FLIP TILES DURING INSTALLATION.**

## SECTION II

### TOOLS & ACCESSORIES

**A) Tools and safety equipment required:**

- Brava Installation Guidelines
- Safety glasses
- Heavy duty utility knife - Suggested product: CH Hanson Speed Rocker SS, 3 position, fixed blade knife ([www.chhanson.com](http://www.chhanson.com))
- Measuring tape
- Transit level and Straight edge
- Chalk snap-line
- Carpenter's square

**B) Reducer strips**

Sizes:

- 5/16" – 3/8" (8 mm – 10 mm)
- 1/2" (12 mm)

All are available in black solid core and 12ft lengths. Attach reducer strip to mats with compatible, non-solvent based adhesive or caulking, e.g. Bull Dog Adhesive PL400.

**SECTION III****BEFORE STARTING THE INSTALLATION**

During storage, rubber tiles must be kept dry, and protected from dust and dirt.

**SECTION IV****PREPARATION OF THE SUB-SURFACE**

Interlocking rubber tiles should not be installed on top of carpet as the tiles will shift apart. The sub-surface must be level, clean, and dry.

**A) Concrete sub-surfaces**

New concrete sub-floors must be thoroughly cured and free from hydrostatic pressure before rubber tiles are installed (a minimum of 28 days after pour).

Sub floor must be smooth and level to a tolerance not exceeding 1/8" in 10 lineal feet. If existing sub-floor is rough or does not meet above criteria, apply a Portland based leveling compound to smooth and level the surface. Follow all leveling compound manufacturers' instructions.

**B) Wooden sub-surfaces**

- New plywood should be acclimatized for a 48-hour period prior to installation of the rubber flooring.
- CDX exterior smooth one side suggested for new wood substrates.
- Secure all nails to prevent future protrusion.
- All wood sub floors must be clean and dry of all dust, dirt, and other materials.
- Any cracks, holes, and rough or uneven areas should be patched with good quality cement based leveling compound.

**SECTION V****INSTALLATION OF INTERLOCKING TILES**

**Important:** See Section I, (D) and (E) regarding acclimation of tiles.

Visually inspect all mats for visible defects. Ensure that defective product is identified prior to the start of the installation, set these aside and notify dealer immediately with information of any defects found.

### **Loose Lay, No Glue Installation**

This installation method is for indoor, completely dry areas only.

### **1. ARRANGING THE TILES**

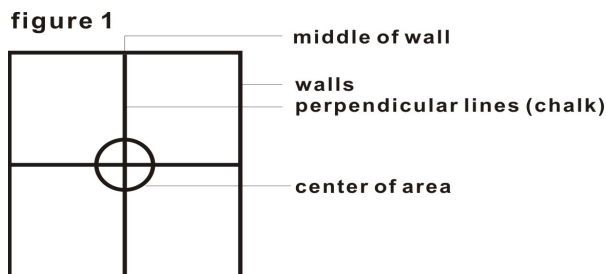
The installer should have all relevant information about the tile arrangement from the owner.

Occasionally, uneven distribution of color granules may appear in a tile. This can be rectified by installing it in a less visible area. Install tiles same side up as received, do not flip over.

#### **Method 1) Center room start**

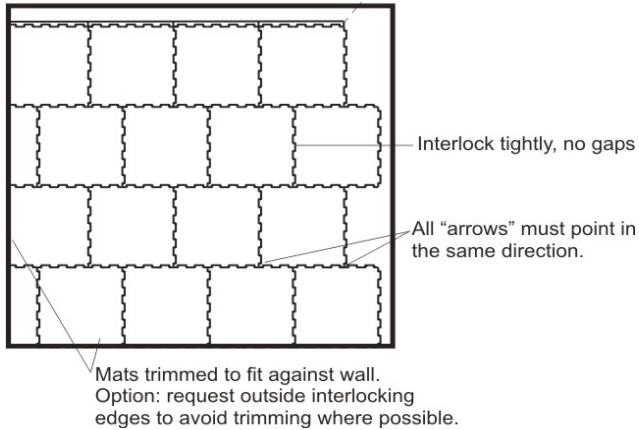
Locate the mid point of the room, and chalk a start line down the centre. Chalk another similar start line 90 degrees and square to the first one. Begin mat installation from the point where the two chalk lines intersect. Work outwards in both directions.

(See figure 1).



It is not necessary to stagger the interlocking tiles. However, the staggered method is recommended to avoid four corners from meeting in the same spot. Assure a tight fit by tapping tiles as they are being installed (see figure 2).

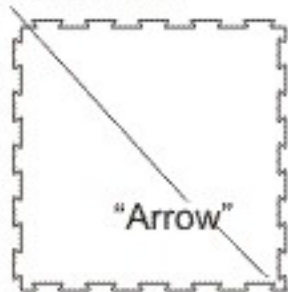
**figure 2**



- Make sure that all tiles are laid down with the "arrow" pointing in the same direction (see figure 2b).

**figure 2B**

All "arrows" must point in the same direction.



### Method 2) Corner of room start

This method may be used for smaller projects.

## 2. MEASURING & CUTTING

Lay tile on a flat surface, hold the metal straight edge on the cut line, and cut with sharp utility knife. Keep scoring the cut until separated. Change or snap off blades frequently to ensure clean cuts. For odd angles, circular patterns, etc. a cardboard template is suggested. Join water cut edges together. Hand cut edges should be used against walls wherever possible.

Make sure that you measure carefully so that the tile will fit properly and does not leave gaps, resulting in the installation being out of alignment.

## 3. SEALER

Sealer is not required for all applications, and may not be suitable for use with interlocking tiles. Please contact your sales representative for details.

## SECTION VII

### WEIGHTS & MEASURES

#### GENERAL PACKAGING INFORMATION

These Brava products are packaged on wooden pallets, covered with a plastic hood, and secured by steel strapping.

#### Product Information - Rubber Flooring Tiles:

Thickness tolerance of  $\pm 0.5$  mm

Dimensions: 37" x 37" = 9.5 ft<sup>2</sup> (94 cm x 94 cm = 0.88 m<sup>2</sup>)

	0-29% Color		30-50% Color		51-70% Color		71-100% Color	
Thickness	lbs (kg) each	# per pallet	lbs (kg) each	# per pallet	lbs (kg) each	# per pallet	lbs (kg) each	# per pallet
1/4" (6mm)	16 (7.3)	150	16.5 (7.5)	150	17 (7.7)	<b>140</b>	18 (8.2)	130
5/16" (8mm)	20 (9)	120	21 (9.5)	110	22 (10)	<b>110</b>	24 (10.9)	100
3/8" (10mm)	23 (10.5)	100	25 (11.3)	100	27 (12)	<b>90</b>	30 (13.6)	80
1/2" (12mm)	27 (12)	80	29 (13.2)	80	32 (14.5)	<b>75</b>	36 (16.3)	65

**Pallet (net weight) 65 lbs (29.5 kg)**

#### Conversion Chart:

1 in	=	2.54 cm
1ft	=	30.5 cm
39.4 in	=	1.00 m
2.2 lbs	=	1.0 kg

Weights and measures may change without notice. All measurements are nominal and subject to variation.

### DISCLAIMER

The installation guidelines in this manual represent typical installation work procedures. Every site is different and Brava does not claim to have covered all possible circumstances. Brava does not warrant installation work and specifically disclaims liability for any direct or indirect personal injury, property damage, and other costs or losses resulting from installations or applications by third parties. Please, see the Brava Limited Warranty for the particulars of warranty coverage relating to Brava's products.