



CONSTRUCTION

Adhesives

Adhesive Options That Enhance Performance

Adhesives are a critical but often overlooked part of flooring performance. Choosing the correct adhesive for the flooring type determines how well the floor bonds to the subfloor, how it resists wear, and how it holds up to moisture and foot traffic over time. It can also affect warranty coverage, which may depend on using the recommended adhesive.

At Mannington Commercial, our adhesive solutions are crafted with the same precision and quality controls as our flooring. We're also committed to helping customers find the right combination of adhesive and flooring product to ensure every installation performs as designed and stands the test of time. That's why we created this guide—to help you understand how adhesive selection impacts flooring performance and what to consider when choosing the right solution for your space.



Mannington
COMMERCIAL

Choosing the Right Adhesive for Every Space

Every flooring installation has unique requirements. Adhesives vary in chemistry, strength, and application method, and choosing the wrong one can shorten the life and impact the performance of the floor.

Types of Adhesives

- **Latex** – Designed for high tack strength and durability needed for all latex and felt backed broadloom carpets. Well versed for pattern alignment and moisture resistance.
- **Acrylics** – The industry standard for versatility and ease of use. Pressure sensitive creates a tacky bond that performs well in many high-traffic environments. Modified/Transitional is designed for permanent bonding of most resilient products. Can be used in the majority of application with great moisture resistance, but can be displaced under the wrong conditions.
- **Tapes & Sprays** – Fast, convenient solutions that are typically acrylic-based. Ideal for modular carpet tile and resilient flooring especially in occupied spaces where installation speed and minimal disruption are critical.
- **Urethanes & Epoxies** – Two-part systems that cure to a harder finish than acrylics. Best for spaces with heavy, stationary loads, like hospital beds, where a hard-set adhesive is needed to prevent indentations and areas with topical moisture, like bathrooms.

	WET-SET ADHESIVE	PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVE
Bond Strength	Hard-set, permanent once cured	Strong but allows adjustments during install
Repositioning	Not possible after adhesive dries	Flooring can be repositioned during install
Cure Time	24 hours to 72 hours for full cure	Tack develops in ~30-45 minutes
Ease of Installation	Requires precision during placement	Easier for modular placement and alignment
Clean-Up	Risk of adhesive squeezing through seams; more cleanup	Less risk of adhesive bleed, minimal cleanup
Best For	Areas needing maximum durability under heavy loads	Installations with modular carpet



What to Consider When Selecting Adhesives

Not every adhesive is right for every space. Performance depends on how the floor will be used, the moisture profile of the slab, and the compatibility between product and adhesive. Understanding these factors helps prevent failures, protect warranties, and ensure your floor performs as designed.

- **Use Case** – Adhesives should be chosen to match the type of stress the floor will endure.
 - **Foot Traffic:** Acrylic adhesives perform well in busy corridors, lobbies, and offices.
 - **Rolling Loads:** Urethanes or epoxies prevent shearing when carts, dollies, or heavy equipment move across the surface.
 - **Heavy Point Loads:** In patient rooms or labs where heavy beds or equipment remain stationary, urethanes or epoxies prevent indentations and preserve appearance.
 - **Areas with Topical Moisture:** In bathrooms, locker rooms, or other areas that may experience topical moisture, epoxy adhesives will perform the best.



DURABILITY

Moisture Factor – Concrete slab moisture (vs. topical or ambient) is the leading cause of adhesive failures, and testing the slab is critical to preventing costly problems.

- **Why It Matters:** Excess moisture is the leading cause of flooring failures, breaking down bonds and causing curling, bubbling, odor, and displacement.
- **Testing the Slab:** Industry standards call for testing relative humidity (RH), moisture vapor emission rate (MVER), and pH levels before installation. Together, these readings determine how the slab will interact with the adhesive.
- **New vs. Old Slabs:** New concrete naturally starts with high RH that drops as it cures, but older slabs with high readings often point to secondary issues like hydrostatic pressure, poor drainage, or lack of intact vapor barrier.
- **Risks if Ignored:** Using a standard adhesive on a high-moisture slab can emulsify the bond, ooze at seams, or void warranty coverage.
- **Solutions:**
 - **Moisture Resistant Adhesives:** Engineered to tolerate high moisture applications, often paired with compatible backings. Available in spray, trowel, or peel-and-stick formats.
 - **Moisture Suppressant Systems:** Provide protection for compatible adhesives, but require product compatibility.
 - **Dry Installation Methods:** Tabs or Floating/Interlocking Floor eliminate adhesive entirely and bypass many moisture risks.

- **Compatibility** – Adhesives must match flooring type to perform correctly and maintain warranty coverage.
 - Some adhesives are not designed for rubber, while others may be unnecessary for standard vinyl installs.
 - Manufacturer-recommended pairings ensure long-term performance and protect against costly failures.



Mannington Commercial Adhesive Solutions

While the adhesive market offers many options, Mannington Commercial has developed innovative systems designed to simplify installation, address moisture challenges, and reduce project downtime. These solutions highlight what's possible when adhesives are engineered with performance in mind.

- Traditional troweled adhesives, including Pressure Sensitive Adhesives (Infinity 2), Transitional Adhesives (V-88), and Epoxy Adhesives (V-95)
 - Benefits include superior performance and full warranty coverage for both flooring and bond when Mannington branded adhesives are used as recommended
 - High moisture variations available (MoistureLoc®, Integra 2, Infinity 2, etc.), which allow for installation with no moisture testing required based on slab condition
- Spray adhesives (XpressStep®)
 - Low odor means it can be used in occupied buildings
 - Quick, easy installation that reduces the application requirements associated with conventional adhesives
 - Traffic can resume immediately after installation and sheet vinyl can be heat welded after 1 hour
- Pre-applied adhesive (QuickStix®)
 - Warranted for subfloor moisture levels up to 99%
 - Arrives pre-applied to the back of the flooring and ready to be installed
 - Sticks and sets immediately
 - Allows traffic to resume on the floor with zero wait time
 - Eliminates the need for adhesive pails, trowels, and hours of labor
 - No odor

Learn more about Installation of Mannington Commercial products at [URL](#).

Mannington[®]
COMMERCIAL

