

## XII. REPAIRING CONGOLEUM FLOORING PRODUCTS

REFER TO THE WARNING STATEMENT IN THE FRONT OF THIS MANUAL. UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY KNOWN THAT THE FLOORING BEING REPAIRED DOES NOT CONTAIN ASBESTOS, **ALL PRECAUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE WARNING STATEMENT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.**

**CONGOLEUM SEAM SEALERS AND MINERAL SPIRITS ARE REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION FOR MAKING REPAIRS. THESE PRODUCTS ARE FLAMMABLE. REFER TO PAGE 22 FOR WARNING AND CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS.**

Repairs to Congoleum floor coverings should be made from material left over from the original installation, whenever possible, to minimize a color variance. Many consumers will save scrap pieces of sheet flooring and extra pieces of tile from when the flooring was originally installed which can be used for repairs. If leftover flooring was not saved, other places where material may be acquired is from under appliances and from the inside of closets.

### A. TOOLS AND MATERIALS NEEDED FOR REPAIRS

#### 1. FOR SMALL CUTS, PUNCTURES, AND GOUGES

- Clean cloth
- Mineral spirits
- Stiff, bristle brush or razor blade
- Appropriate seam sealer

#### 2. FOR REPAIRING SEAMS

- Sandpaper or emery cloth
- Clean cloth
- Mineral spirits
- Stiff, bristle brush or razor
- Artist paint brush
- 2" masking tape
- Steel, hand roller
- Appropriate seam sealer
- Adhesive (if necessary)

#### 3. FOR REPAIRING LARGE AREAS

- Utility knife with sharp blade
- Stiff-blade, putty knife
- Straightedge
- Clean cloth
- Mineral spirits
- 2" masking tape
- Steel, hand roller
- Congoleum recommended adhesive
- Appropriate seam sealer

#### 4. FOR REPLACING TILES

- Utility knife with sharp blade
- Heat gun
- Stiff-blade, putty knife

- Razor-scrapers
- Congoleum recommended adhesive (if dry back)

### B. REPAIR PROCEDURE FOR RESILIENT SHEET FLOORING PRODUCTS

#### 1. SMALL CUTS, PUNCTURES, AND GOUGES

To repair small cuts, punctures, and gouges where the wearlayer is intact;

- Remove soil from the opening with a cloth dampened with mineral spirits. Use a short, stiff, bristle brush, like a toothbrush, or gently scrape with a razor blade, if necessary.
- Allow the spot to dry and then seal the wearlayer together with the appropriate seam sealer, following the label's instructions.
- On small punctures and gouges, apply the seam sealer topically to cover the damaged area.
- Protect the area from foot traffic for 16 hours.

#### 2. REPAIRING SEAMS

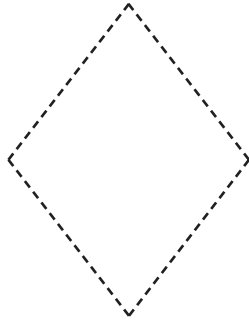
- Remove old seam sealer if necessary.
  - Tape off the surrounding area.
  - Use a fine, wet, sandpaper or emery cloth to remove excess seam sealer if necessary.
- Clean the seam.
  - Remove all adhesive and soil from the seam cut with a cloth dampened with mineral spirits.
  - Soil and adhesive embedded in the cut can be cleaned with a short, stiff, bristle brush, like a toothbrush or gently scraped with a razor blade.
- Adhere the seam.
  - If the seam edges have lifted, re-adhered them. Use an artist's paint brush to coat the backing of the material and subfloor with the recommended adhesive. (Allow a few minutes for the adhesive to tack up.)
  - Press down on the seam edges and place 2" masking tape across the seam to pull the material together.
  - Roll the material with a steel hand roller.
  - Apply weight to keep edges flat and allow to dry overnight. Remove the tape then clean the seam surface with mineral spirits.
- Seal the seams.
  - Apply the appropriate seam sealer. (Remember to cover the entire area where the old seam sealer was removed.)
  - Protect the area from foot traffic for 16 hours.

#### 3. REPLACING SMALL SECTIONS

There are two ways to make repairs in White Shield backed products depending on the repair material available:

- Leftover material* with the backing intact makes the most inconspicuous repair. Follow these steps:
  - Determine the best area in the design to place seam cuts to remove the damaged spot. Then, cut out a slightly larger corresponding section

(about 1/4" (6.4mm) oversize on all edges) of the design on the material to be used for repair. Use a diamond-shaped repair piece when repairing floors with overall designs (Figure 175).



**Fig. 175.** Make diamond shaped repairs in overall designs.

2. Position the repair material over the spot to be removed and carefully match the design. Use masking tape on all four (4) sides to hold the repair piece in place (Figure 176).



**Fig. 176.** Match the design and fasten in place with masking tape.

3. Cut through both layers of flooring with one firm pass of a sharp utility knife, using a straight-edge as a guide (Figure 177).
4. Insert the knife tip in one of the cut edges and lift the material to remove the damaged area (Figure 178).
5. Use a razor scrapper to completely remove the backing residue from the subfloor, if necessary (Figure 179).



**Fig. 177.** Apply enough pressure to cut through both layers of flooring.



**Fig. 178.** Remove damaged spot.



**Fig. 179.** Remove backing from repair area down to subfloor.

6. Apply a thin coat of Congoleum 3044 Adhesive to the back of the repair piece with a notched trowel or paint brush (Figure 180). However, if the floor covering was perimeter fastened, and the repair is in an area without adhesive, the adhesive should be supplied to the subfloor and about 1" under the edges of the installed floor covering.
7. Insert the replacement piece in place in the exact way the seams were cut and roll with a steel hand roller to bring the wearlayers even.
8. Clean the seam to remove adhesive and pull any minor gaps together by placing masking tape across the seam.



**Fig. 180.** Apply a thin coat of adhesive.

9. Remove masking tape after 30 minutes and apply the appropriate seam sealer following the label's instructions (Figure 181).



**Fig. 181.** Seal seams with the recommended seam sealer.

10. Protect the area from foot traffic for 16 hours.
- b. *Delaminated material* (top half of the material removed; backing left in place) can be used if leftover material is unavailable:
  1. Take material from an inconspicuous area such as underneath an appliance or from a closet.
  2. Follow the repair method above, replacing step 5 with the following step: *Allow the backing residue to remain on the subfloor.* **NOTE:** This repair piece may appear more textured than the surrounding areas, particularly if the flooring has little or no texture.

#### 4. REPAIRING SMALL GOUGES AND BURNS IN SPECIFICATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

Small gouges or burns in Specifications and Foundations can be easily repaired with a small triangular-shaped section. Follow these steps:

- Apply a piece of double-faced tape to the back of the material to be used for the repair.
- Trim the repair piece with a sharp utility knife following a straightedge into a “V” shape. Remove the paper backing from the double-faced tape and position the repair piece over the spot to be removed.
- Carefully follow the edges of the “V” and cut the flooring below.
- To cut the last side, place a straightedge over the desired seam location and cut through both layers of flooring.
- Remove the repair piece and save. Remove the damaged area with the tip of the utility knife. If the felt splits, remove the layer of felt from the repair piece so it fits flush with the flooring surface.
- The repair piece should fit tightly. Apply a thin coat of Congoleum 3044 Adhesive to the back of the repair piece with a paintbrush. If the size of the repair is 3/8” (9.5mm) or under on all sides, no adhesive will be required. After leveling the repair piece with a steel hand roller, apply a bead of SU80 or SU92 seam sealer on all seam cuts.

#### C. REPAIR PROCEDURES FOR DURACERAMIC

DuraCeramic DuraCeramic Options and DuraPlank can be repaired easily if it is necessary to replace a tile or plank.

#### 1. GROUTED FLOORS AND WALLS

- Use a heat gun to warm the grout along one edge of the tile. The grout will soften when heated.
- Place a straightedge over the center of the grout line and cut the grout with a sharp utility knife (Figure 182).



**Fig. 182.** Cut along the center of the grout line after heating it.

- Remove as much of the grout as possible using care to avoid cutting into the edge of the adjacent tile. Repeat this process on all four sides of the damaged tile.
- Next, heat the tile a few inches in from the corner. While the tile is warm, drive a putty knife or screwdriver into the heated area with a hammer (Figure 183).



**Fig. 183.** Drive a putty knife into the heated area and pry upward.

- Then, pry upward to release the tile from the adhesive. Continue lifting the tile as you heat it until it is completely removed.
- To install the new tile, re-apply DS100 DuraSet Adhesive over the exposed subfloor using the flat side of a trowel; it is not necessary to remove the old adhesive.
- Allow the adhesive to dry completely to a tack and then reinstall the new tile using spacers to maintain the grout line width.
- Roll the tile with a 100 lb., three-section roller.
- Re-grout the tile with DuraCeramic Grout following label instructions. Allow grout to dry for 24 hours and remove any remaining grout haze.
  - Then, pry upward to release the tile from the adhesive. Continue lifting the tile as you heat it until it is completely removed.

- To install a new tile, re-apply DS100 DuraSet Adhesive over the exposed subfloor using the flat side of a trowel; it is not necessary to remove the old adhesive.
- Allow the adhesive to dry completely to a tack and then install a new tile using spacers to maintain the grout line width.
- Roll the tile with a 100-pound, three-section roller.
- Re-grout the tile with DuraCeramic Grout following label instructions. Allow grout to dry for 24 hours and remove any remaining grout haze.

## 2. UNGROUTED FLOORS

- Use a utility knife and carefully cut through the joint sealer using care to avoid cutting into the adjacent tiles.
- Follow the same procedure for Grouted Floors to remove the tile and re-adhere the replacement tile.
- Re-apply DuraCeramic DS200 Joint Sealer along all four sides of the tile to seal the joints.

## 3. PLANK FLOORS

- Follow the same procedure that is used for UngROUTed Floor Tiles to remove the plank and re-adhere the replacement plank.

## D. CONGOLEUM UNDERFLOR REPAIR TECHNIQUES

Repair techniques are very easy on Congoleum UnderFlor installations. Use these procedures for repairs for DuraCeramic, DuraCeramic Options or DuraPlank installed over Congoleum UnderFlor.

### 1. UNGROUTED REPAIR

- Carefully score the tile or plank to be removed across the corner edge about 1 inch from the corner.
- Apply heat to the area.
- Using a putty knife and hammer, position the putty knife over the scored edge and tap it until the corner is released.
- Apply heat as you go and carefully begin to pry up the piece from the Congoleum UnderFlor using a putty knife. If you keep the tile or plank heated, it should release without damaging the UnderFlor.
- When the piece has been removed, check the adhesive tack. If it is still tacky to the touch, simply position the new piece in place.
- If the adhesive is not tacky, reapply adhesive with the flat side of the trowel and let it tack up. Then set the replacement piece into place.
- Roll the replacement piece with a roller.

### 2. GROUTED REPAIR

- Use a heat gun to warm the grout.
- Using a sharp utility knife, carefully score the joint, cutting through the grout. Make sure that

you do not apply a lot of pressure because you do not want to cut into the Congoleum UnderFlor. Carefully score the tile or plank to be removed across the corner edge about 1 inch from the corner.

- Apply heat to the area.
- Using a putty knife and hammer, position the putty knife over the scored edge and tap it until the corner is released.
- Apply heat as you go and carefully begin to pry up the piece from the Congoleum UnderFlor using a utility knife. If you keep the tile or plank heated, it should release without damaging the UnderFlor.
- When the piece has been removed, check the adhesive tack. If it is still tacky to the touch, simply position the new piece in place.
- If the adhesive is not tacky, reapply adhesive with the flat side of the trowel and let it tack up. Then set the replacement piece into place.
- Roll the replacement piece with a roller.
- Re-grout the tile with DuraCeramic grout following label instructions. Allow grout to dry for 24 hours and remove any remaining grout haze.

### 3. REPLACING THE CONGOLEUM UNDERFLOR

If the Congoleum UnderFlor is cut or damaged during the repair procedure and needs to be replaced, follow these procedures.

- Using the piece that was removed as a template, cut a fill piece of Congoleum UnderFlor.
- Slide pieces of thin, clear, sticky, one-sided packaging tape centered under the cut out edges.
- **Tip: Here's a tip to make it easier to slide the tape under the edges. Cut the piece of Dura product that was removed to make it about 1" shorter. Cut the thin packaging tape to that dimension. Carefully fasten the tape along the edge of the product overlapping it about 1/4". Turn the piece over so that the tape is now sticky side up and slide it under the cut out edge. Firmly press down on the edge and pull the replacement piece away to release the tape.**
- Carefully lay in the new cut piece of UnderFlor pressing it firmly onto the tape.
- Apply a thin layer of DS100 adhesive to the Congoleum UnderFlor and allow it to tack up.
- Lay in the replacement flooring and roll it to set it in place.
- Roll the replacement piece with a roller to set it.
- If necessary, re-grout the tile or reapply DS200 joint sealer to finish the repair.

## E. REPAIR PROCEDURES FOR TILE PRODUCTS

For damaged spots in tile, the best method of repair is to replace a complete tile with another of the same

design and color. Whenever possible, use tile left over from the original installation to minimize color variance. The procedure for removal of the damaged tile will vary depending on the adhesive that was used to install the tile.

### 1. AD72 WET-SET ADHESIVE

- a. Start by making a cut in the middle of the tile with a sharp utility knife. Then, use a stiff-blade putty knife to remove the tile from the center out. Use caution to avoid damaging the edges of the surrounding tile or the subfloor. Scrape the subfloor clean and smooth with a chisel or razor-scraper.
- b. After the area has been made ready to receive the replacement tile, spread the adhesive on the subfloor with the recommended, notched trowel. Insert the tile and roll with a steel hand roller.

### 2. AD42 AND DS100 PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVES

- a. Tile installed with pressure-sensitive adhesives can usually be removed fairly easily by prying it

up from the subfloor with a stiff-blade putty knife. Start by warming the tile with a heat gun, puncturing the center with a sharp, utility knife, and prying it up. This method allows the damaged tile to be removed without damaging the edges of the surrounding tiles.

- b. Clean the existing adhesive from the subfloor using a razor-scraper. Spread the appropriate adhesive on the subfloor with the recommended notched trowel or brush. Allow the adhesive to tack-up according to directions and insert the new tile in place. Roll the replacement tile with a steel hand roller.

### 3. ZIPSTIK ADHERED TILE

- a. Use the same method to remove the damaged tile as described for tile adhered with AD42 and DS100 adhesives.
- b. Remove the paper from the back of the tile and insert the new tile in place. Roll the replaced tile with a steel hand roller to complete the repair.