



INSTALLATION SPECIFICATIONS FOR DESIGNER CAREFREE

Designer Carefree has been developed specifically as a floorcovering for use in the Recreational Vehicle Industry. It is a super tough, matte-gloss floorcovering that will reduce in-plant damage and provide easy maintenance. Designer Carefree is easy to install using either the perimeter fastening method, with all its time-saving benefits, or by the more traditional, fully adhered method. Either method will provide a satisfactory installation.

The following instructions and recommendations are provided to help make the installation of Designer Carefree efficient and trouble-free.

Storage

Jumbo rolls of flooring should be warehoused in an area that is protected from the elements and not subject to freezing temperatures. Rolls should be stored on a solid, flat, clean surface stacked no more than two high.

If a rack storage system is utilized, continuous support of the flooring should be provided so the roll does not sag.

- A bearing or pipe roller system is recommended for easy unwinding. This will result in fewer tearoffs and sheet distortions.
- Regular inspection of the rack for loose nails, screws and debris will prevent potential damage to the sheet vinyl flooring.

Handling

Tow Motor Handling: Jumbo rolls should always be loaded, unloaded and transported using a 6' long/3" OD carpet boom. Minimize the distance jumbo rolls are transported on carpet booms. Moving jumbo rolls over rough and uneven surfaces, as well as long distances (e.g. across the yard) may distort sheet vinyl.

Installation Handling: Caution must be exercised so the flooring is not distorted or kinked prior to installation. Pieces cut from a jumbo roll should be rolled FACE OUT onto a rigid straight core. This will eliminate the potential for the material to become crushed, egg-shaped or kinked. A large diameter PVC pipe works well. Rolling face-in may cause premature shrinkage which could result in buckling.

Installation Temperature

For the best and easiest installation, a minimum temperature of 55°F to 60°F is recommended. If extra rolls of flooring are stored in temperatures below 50°F, it is recommended that these rolls are climatized by positioning them in a warmer location close to the unwind rack for at least 48 hours prior to use. If heat is applied to climatize the flooring, it must be distributed evenly at a minimum temperature of 55°F to 60°F. Uneven or excessive heat can result in installation problems. Additionally, it is important to climatize the decking that the floorcovering will be installed over.

For the best installation results, the installation temperature should be maintained for 48 hours prior to and for 48 hours after the completion of the installation.

Sheet vinyl flooring is designed to provide good installation and performance benefits at moderate temperatures (50°F to 90°F). Once temperatures fall out of this range, the vinyl characteristics change.

Writing on Congoleum Floors

Use only lead pencils for writing on flooring. **DO NOT** use ballpoint pens, felt-tipped markers or waxed crayons to write on Congoleum floors. Use caution when marking decking as these writing instruments may transfer onto the floorcovering causing the vinyl to discolor. Additionally, the stamp grading mark on decking may transfer to the back of the sheet vinyl causing discoloration at a later time.

Recommended Adhesive

Congoleum recommends the use of Congoleum 3044 Premium Flooring Adhesive in areas subject to moisture and around openings in the floor or if the floor is fully adhered in recreational vehicles. Congoleum 3044 adhesive is a hard-setting adhesive. It is non-staining, moisture resistant, freeze/thaw stable and has a shelf life of one year, when unopened.

Adhesive Application

A notched steel trowel with notches 1/16" wide, 1/32" deep, separated by 1/32" is recommended for application of Congoleum 3044 adhesive to the subfloor. The adhesive application must be uniform. Avoid skipped areas, ridges, and thick applications.

The trowel notches must be kept clean. Dried adhesive can clog the notches, reducing the amount of adhesive applied to the deck. Storing trowels in a bucket of detergent/water solution will keep the adhesive from hardening and minimize clean-up time.

Through use, trowel notches will wear down. When this occurs, replace the trowel or file the notches to their original size.

Installation Methods

Designer Carefree can be installed using either the Perimeter-Fastened or Fully-Adhered method.

Perimeter Fastened Installation Method for Recreational Vehicles

The primary recommended installation method for products sold into the recreational vehicle industry is perimeter fastening with staples.

Moisture Areas: Areas that are subject to moisture, and all openings such as pipes, heat registers, etc. must have a four inch (4") band of water-resistant adhesive applied around the perimeter. This should be done before the flooring is unrolled onto the deck. It is important that there is a good transfer of adhesive sealing the floorcovering to the decking. This will prevent any migration of water under the floorcovering. Additionally, this will also prevent the billowing of the floorcovering around heat registers. The easiest way to ensure a good transfer is to staple the floorcovering into the wet adhesive. Around heat registers care should be taken so that the staples are covered by the register flange.

Installation Procedures: Unroll the flooring on the deck, making accurate cut outs for pipes or other protrusions. Flooring flaps should be cut away so they do not press against protrusions. This will allow the flooring to relax and flatten. Cut-outs should have rounded corners, not sharp angles. Over-cuts should be avoided. Once the flooring has relaxed, follow the recommended stapling procedure.

- Stapling Procedures Without Wheel Wells: (See page 5 for the stapling procedure diagram without wheel well cut-outs.) Place all staples about 4" apart and in an area where they will be covered by a wall or other flooring material. (**NOTE:** Minimum staple size 1/2" crown and 1/2" legs.) The staple gauge must be heavy enough to penetrate the decking material without bending.

Step 1.

Start at one corner of the flooring and secure it in place using two or three staples.

Step 2.

Next, pull the flooring taut at the longest side and staple the corner in place.

Step 3.

Then apply staples along the entire side.

Step 4.

After the first side has been fastened, go to the opposite side (start in the middle) and pull the floor taut. Fasten this side with staples working toward the corners.

Steps 5. & 6.

Staple along the entire edge for the third and fourth sides.

To complete the installation, make accurate net cut-outs for the heat registers and other floor openings. Cut-outs should have rounded corners, not sharp angles. Overcuts should be avoided. Place staples approximately every three inches (3") around all cut-outs, close enough to the edge so the crowns are covered with the heat register flange or molding. Any minor surface looseness in the floorcovering will flatten and disappear in a few hours. Workmen should be cautious when placing interior walls on the floor to avoid creating buckles in the floorcovering.

- Stapling Procedures With Wheel Wells: If the perimeter installation method is used on decks with wheel well cut-outs, a slightly different stapling procedure is recommended. It is also recommended that a 4" band of adhesive be spread around wheel wells. (See page 6 for stapling procedure diagram with wheel well cut-outs.)

Step 1.

Instead of starting in the corner, move away from the corner and fasten the flooring on the same plane as the inside edge of the wheel well.

Step 2.

Pull the flooring taut at the opposite end of the starting point and staple.

Step 3.

Staple the remaining edge following the contour of the deck.

Step 4.

After the first side has been fastened, go to the opposite side (start in the middle) and pull the floor taut. Fasten this side with staples working toward the corners.

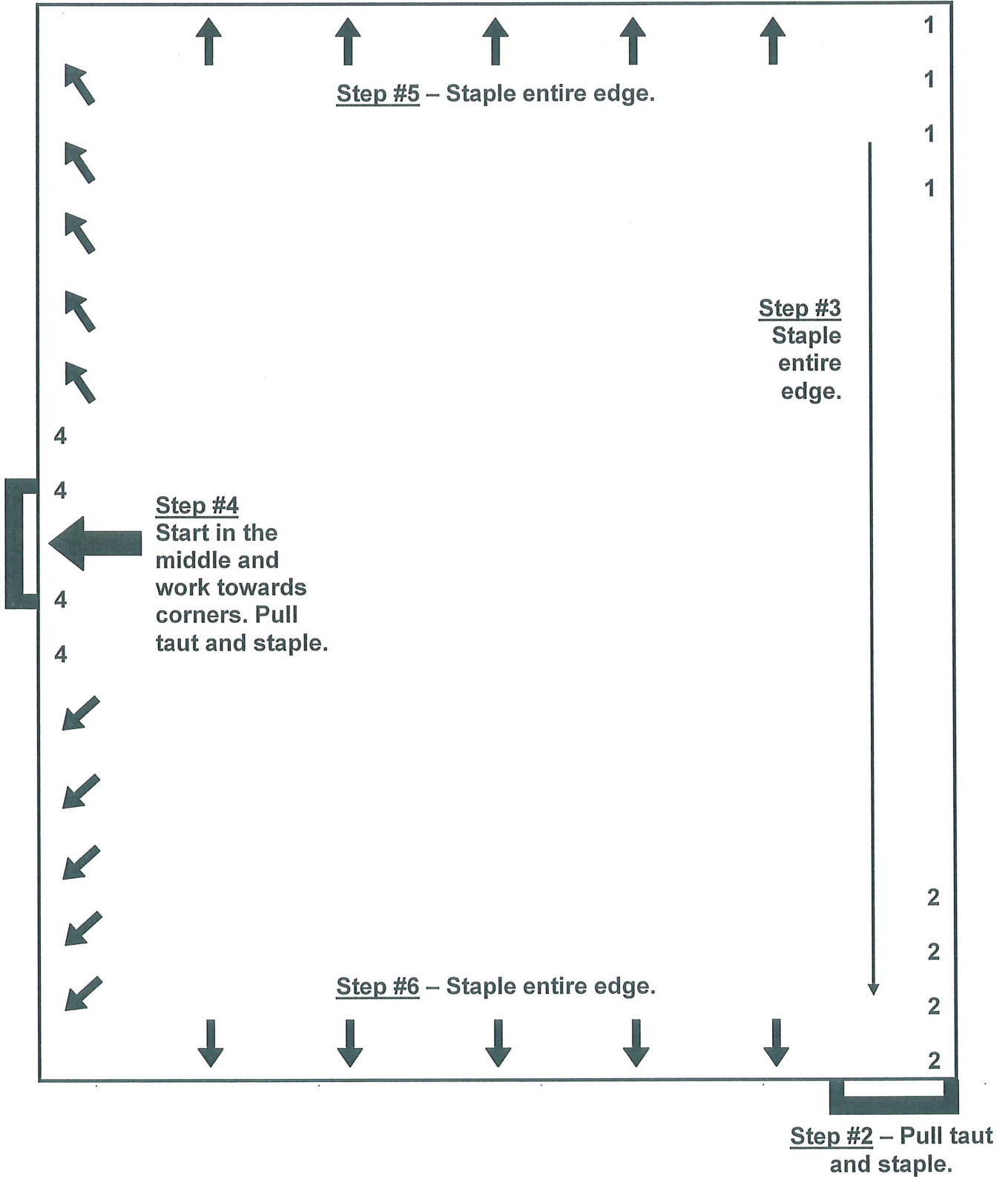
Steps 5. & 6.

Staple along the entire edge for the third and fourth sides.

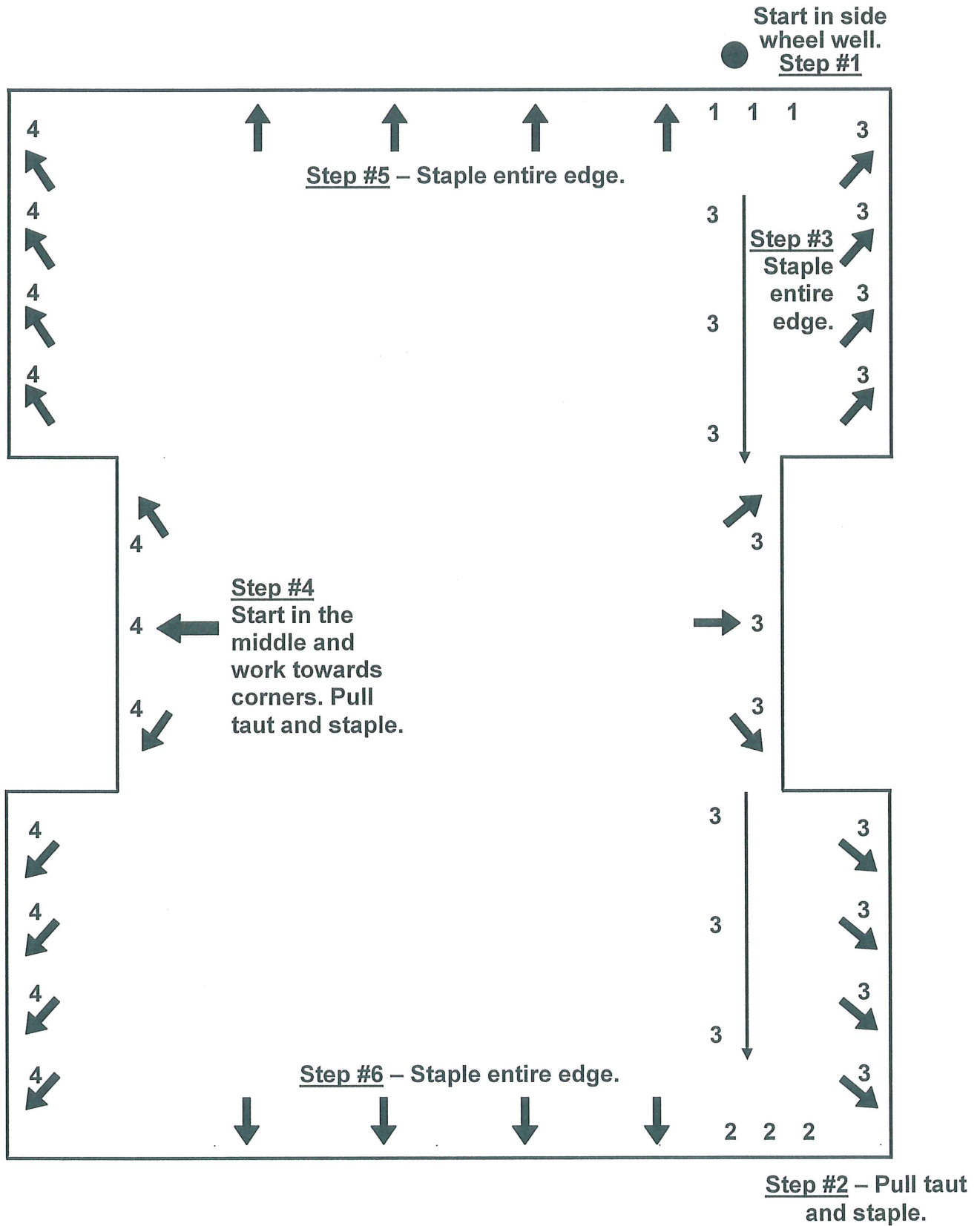
Stapling Procedure for Perimeter Installation in Recreational Vehicles

START
HERE.

● Step #1



Stapling Procedure for Perimeter Installation in Recreational Vehicles with Wheel Wells



Fully Adhered Installation Method for Recreational Vehicles

All Congoleum floor products developed for the Recreational Vehicle Industry can be installed by the fully adhered method. If this method of installation is used to install the floorcovering, the following procedures are recommended:

Subfloor Preparation: Proper subfloor preparation is important because the finished floor will reflect imperfections and irregularities if the deck is not smooth. The following are examples of subfloor conditions which can telegraph through the flooring: uneven joints, open joints, high staples, underlayment material displaced by staples around staple holes, foreign material such as dirt, debris, and grit.

It should be noted that the amount of subfloor show-through can vary by the design selected (for example, designs with an overall texture will hide irregularities to a much greater extent than a smooth floor with little or no texture or embossing). Therefore, the design and amount of texture and embossing should be taken into consideration when the subfloor is being prepared, with more attention being given to designs which have little or no surface texture.

Sanding: Sanding is the key to achieving a smooth subfloor. The entire subfloor should be sanded where the floorcovering is to be applied. The reason for sanding the entire area is that displaced subfloor material at each staple hole must be sanded smooth.

The most effective machine for deck sanding is a 16" diameter or larger rotating disk sander. An open grit paper, 36-40, should be used for sanding. The sandpaper disks should be changed at frequent intervals for best results.

The field areas of the deck panels will require little sanding; just moving the sander over the panels is normally sufficient. At joints however, particularly if they are uneven, more sanding is generally required. The sander should be moved slowly back and forth across any uneven panel joints until they are level.

NOTE: *When sanding decks, the installer should carry a hammer and drive any staples flush.*

After sanding has been completed, the deck should be completely cleaned of all foreign material. Use of a fine-bristle push broom is best because compressed air (commonly used) does not always remove grit particles loosened from sandpaper disks.

Filling Subfloor Joints: Use latex-modified Portland cement-based compounds for filling, smoothing and/or leveling subfloor imperfections. Apply the patching material with a straight blade trowel to the subfloor joints and any other places requiring filling or leveling. Allow the patching material to dry before applying adhesive to the subfloor. Adhesive applied to wet patching material will not bond and buckling of the flooring could occur at these places. **CAUTION:** Check with the decking manufacturer for recommendations on the use of fillers with their products.

Installing the Floorcovering: For easier and quicker installation, it is recommended that the deck be kept clear, with pipes below the subfloor whenever possible. This can usually be worked into the manufacturing cycle so the pipes are exposed after the flooring material is installed.

Follow these steps to install the floorcovering:

Step 1.

Cut the flooring to size and position on the deck.

Step 2.

Start at one end and roll the flooring face-in, exposing the subfloor under one-half of the sheet.

Step 3.

Apply adhesive to the subfloor.

Step 4.

Start at the rolled back floorcovering in the center and unroll about 3' to 4' of flooring into the wet adhesive. Use a three-section steel roller (100 pounds or heavier) to roll the floorcovering. This is an important step because it embeds the floorcovering backing into the adhesive while it is still wet. Rolling should be from side-to-side.

All air under the flooring should be pushed ahead of the roller into the unrolled section. Continue in this manner pushing the flooring into the wet adhesive, 3' to 4' at a time, until the first half of the sheet has been completely rolled.

Step 5.

The same procedure used on the first half of the sheet should be used to complete the other half of the flooring installation.

NOTE: Long lengths of floorcovering should not be unrolled in the wet adhesive because large pockets of air can be trapped in the flooring. These can be difficult, or impossible, to roll out if the adhesive has started to set-up.

NOTE: The floorcovering roller must be kept clean. Any build-up of adhesive and foreign material should be cleaned off regularly. Otherwise, the roller will be ineffective in pushing out trapped air and small air pockets will remain in the flooring

It may be necessary to use a slightly different approach if numerous long pipes are exposed above the deck. In these cases, roll the entire piece of flooring to be installed face-in. Spread adhesive on the subfloor for 6' to 8'. Position the sheet in place at one end being sure the selvage edge of the flooring is unrolled evenly with the edge of the deck. When pipes are reached, cut holes in the floorcovering at the pipe location. Pull the pipes through the holes so they are exposed above the floorcovering. After reaching the end of the spread adhesive, apply adhesive for the balance of the piece being installed. Unroll the flooring into the wet adhesive 3' to 4' at a time and roll with the floorcovering roller. Cut holes for pipes (or other protrusions) and pull through the flooring as required to complete the installation.