

Johnsonite®

Subfloor Leveler System™

Installation Instructions

Introduction

The Johnsonite Leveler Strip and Leveler Strip Extensions are manufactured from a homogeneous composition of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), high quality additives, and colorants to meet the performance and exceed the design requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 4.5.2 Change of Level and Section 4.8 Ramps.

The unique wedge-shaped design provides a uniform ramping support transition between wide varieties of adjoining flooring products installed at different levels.

This highly resilient material is ideal for high-trafficked workplace interiors and public places such as airports, schools, and shopping malls, as well as, other health care, hospitality, retail and office environment applications.

The highest quality of materials and workmanship are employed in the manufacture of Johnsonite Leveler Strips and careful inspection is made before shipment. However, a quality installation is the responsibility of the installer. It is the installer's responsibility to verify the accuracy of the order and the materials be checked for damage or defects prior to installation. An authorized Johnsonite distributor or Johnsonite representative shall be notified of any nonconformance before final adhesive application proceeds.

Johnsonite cannot accept any responsibility for the loss or damage that may result from the use of this information, due to processing or working conditions and/or workmanship outside our control. Users are advised to confirm the suitability of this product by their own tests.

Johnsonite Leveler Strips are for interior installations only.

Handling and Storage

1. Johnsonite Leveler Strips, finish flooring materials, and adhesives must be site conditioned at room temperature for 24 hours prior to, during, and after the installation. **Room temperature must be maintained between 65° and 70°F. (18° and 21°C)**
2. In rooms that are exposed to intense or direct sunlight, the product must be protected during the conditioning, installation, and adhesive curing periods, by covering the light source.
3. Johnsonite Leveler Strips are not recommended for exterior use.

General Subfloor Preparations

1. **All subfloors** must be clean, smooth, and dry. Dust, scale, and loose particles must be removed. The surface must be free of solvents, paint, grease, oil, wax, alkali, sealing/curing compounds, and any other foreign material, which could affect adhesive bonding.

Do not install Johnsonite Leveler Strips over expansion joints.

2. **Concrete subfloors** must be checked for moisture content. The test shall be in accordance with ASTM F-1869 Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride. One test should be conducted for every 1000 sq. ft. of flooring and the results not exceed 3 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. in 24 hours. If the test results exceed the limitations, the installation must not proceed until the problem has been corrected.

An adhesion bonding test of the actual materials to be installed should be performed, every 1000 sq. ft., utilizing a 12" x 12" piece of product. The test pieces should remain in place for 72 hours and then evaluated for bond strength to the concrete.

Excessive alkali must be removed by mechanical means. (i.e.: bead-blasting, sanding, or grinding.)

Fill all depressions, cracks, and other surface irregularities with good quality cementitious underlayment filler.

3. **Wood subfloors** must have a minimum 18 inches (47 cm) of cross-ventilated space between the bottom of the joist and ground. Exposed earth crawl spaces should be covered with a polyethylene moisture barrier.

Wood joists should be on 16"(41 cm) centers with 1"(2.5 cm) boards installed diagonally and covered with 1/2"(12.7 mm) A.P.A. Approved underlayment plywood. Nail on 4"(10.2 cm) centers around perimeter and across field. Countersink nail heads. Fill all depressions, joints, cracks, gouges, and chipped edges with a good quality latex patching compound and sand entire surface smooth.

Single Wood and Tongue and Groove subfloors should be covered with 1/2" (12.7 mm) or 3/4" (19 mm) A.P.A. Approved underlayment plywood.

Johnsonite does not warranty installations over "particle board or chipboard" type underlayments.

Johnsonite does not recommend nor warrant installations over existing resilient floors. All resilient flooring and adhesives must be removed prior to installation.

Caution: Some resilient flooring products and adhesives contain "asbestos fibers" and special handling of this material is required.

4. **Terrazzo and Ceramic Floors** - The floor surface must be thoroughly sanded to remove all glaze and waxes. Remove all loose tiles and clean the grout lines. Fill all grout lines and other depressions with a cementitious leveling compound.
5. **Steel floors** - The floor surface must be thoroughly cleaned by sandblasting, wire brush or other mechanical method to remove all rust and other contaminants. Paint the surface with an anti-corrosive coating (i.e.: Sherwin Williams "Kromik Metal Primer" or equivalent) to prevent rust from recurring.
6. **Concrete floors equipped with a radiant heating system**, care must be taken that the floor surface temperature does not exceed 85⁰ F (30⁰ C) during normal operation.

Leveler Strip and Leveler Strip Extension (s) Installation

1. **Johnsonite Leveler Strips** should be trimmed to fit, dry laid, and inspected prior to adhesive application.
2. Leveler Strip Extensions (LS-40-B and C) must be installed prior to the LS-40 Leveler Strip. Where the elevation requires the LS-40-B [3/8" (9.52 mm) by 1/4" (6.35 mm)] extension, install the 3/8" (9.52 mm) side of the extension firmly against the existing flooring material or starting point and then abut the Leveler Strip (LS-40) to the exposed 1/4" (6.35 mm) side of the leveler strip extension.

When the elevation requires the LS-40-C [1/2" (12.7 mm) by 3/8" (9.52 mm)] extension, install the 1/2" (12.7 mm) side of the extension firmly against the existing flooring or starting point, then install the LS-40-B and the LS-40 leveler strip, as previously outlined above.

3. Install the Johnsonite Leveler Strips with Johnsonite #965 Flooring and Tread Adhesive.

Important: This adhesive is substrate porosity sensitive. Determine if the substrate is porous or non-porous prior to application of adhesive and installation of flooring products and follow the appropriate instructions.

Determining substrate porosity: Place a few drops of water on the surface. If the water is absorbed into the substrate within a few seconds, the surface is porous; if it beads up, the surface is non-porous.

Installation To Porous Surfaces: Using a 1/16" square notch trowel, apply the adhesive onto the substrate surface only and allow the adhesive to dry or gas-off for 5 to 10 minutes prior to installing the leveler strip into the wet adhesive layer. (Approximate coverage 125 sq. ft./gallon).

Note: If finish flooring material is to be immediately applied to the leveler strip surface, roll finish flooring and leveler strip together after installation. If finish flooring is not to be installed within 4 hours after leveler strip installation, roll leveler strip with a 100 lb. 3-section roller 45 to 60 minutes after installation.)

Non-Porous Surfaces: Using a 1/16" V-notch trowel, apply the adhesive onto the substrate surface only and allow the adhesive to dry to the touch with little or no transfer to the finger. Once the adhesive reaches the "dry-to-touch" state, the leveler strip must be installed within 45 minutes and immediately rolled with a 100 lb. 3 section roller (Approximate coverage 145 sq. ft. /gallon).

Important: If adhesive is allowed to remain uncovered, after the initial drying period, for periods longer than 45 minutes, a loss of adhesion strength will occur. Care should be taken by the installer not to spread more adhesive than can be worked within the 45 minute time frame.

Finish Flooring Installation

1. Finish flooring materials can be installed immediately after the proper installation of the Johnsonite Leveler Strip, as outlined in the previous section.

Note: We recommend feather edging any irregularities between leveler strip sections and the transition area between the leveler strip and the substrate with a cementitious patching compound to minimize the possibility of premature cracking of finish flooring material or telegraphing of the level change through the finish flooring material.

2. Finish flooring materials shall be installed utilizing Johnsonite #965 Flooring and Tread Adhesive. Apply the adhesive with the recommended trowel (see chart below) **onto the leveler strip surface only** and allow the adhesive to dry to the touch with little or no transfer to the finger. Once the adhesive reaches the “dry-to-touch” state, the finish flooring material must be installed within 45 minutes and rolled immediately after installation with the sectional roller indicated in the chart below.

Important: If adhesive is allowed to remain uncovered, after the initial drying period, for periods longer than 45 minutes, a loss of adhesion strength will occur. Care should be taken by the installer not to spread more adhesive than can be worked within the 45 minute time frame.

Finish Flooring Trowel and Roller Recommendations

Finish Flooring	Trowel Size	Roller Size
Rubber Floor Tiles	1/16" V-notch	100 lb.
Rubber Sheet w/o Backing	1/16" V-notch	100 lb.
Rubber Sheet w/foam backing	1/16" V-notch	100 lb.
Rubber Sheet w/fibrous backing	1/8" x 1/16" x 1/8" V-notch	100 lb.
Homogeneous Sheet Vinyl (Vinyl Backed - All Gauges)	1/32" x 1/16" x 1/32" U-notch	100 lb.
PVC Backed Carpet & Carpet Tiles (All Products)	1/16" V-notch	75 lb.
Vinyl Tile and Vinyl Plank:		
.050" to .080"	1/32" x 1/16" x 1/32" U-notch	100 lb.
Greater than .080"	1/16" V-notch	100 lb.
Vinyl Composition Tile	1/32" x 1/16" x 1/32" U-notch	100 lb.
Linoleum & Linoleum Tile:		
less than or equal to .080"	1/16" V-notch	100 lb.
greater than .080"	1/16" square notch	100 lb.
Vinyl Skin Backed Resilient Sheet	1/32" x 1/16" x 1/32" U-notch	100 lb.

3. Avoid all traffic for at least 12 hours and only limited traffic for a period of 24 hours after installation.

Caution: Do not use carpet, multipurpose or thin spread type adhesives to install finish flooring materials over the leveler strip.

Special Elevation Applications

The Johnsonite Leveler Strip and Leveler Strip Extensions are designed to provide a smooth 1/4" (6.35 mm), 3/8" (9.53 mm), or 1/2" (12.7 mm) transitional surface to adjoining materials. If the difference between the adjoining materials is greater than the 1/2" (12.7 mm) provided by the LS-40-C Leveler Strip extension, it may be necessary to build up the substrate surface with a cementitious leveling material or adhere two (2) leveler strips together.

If using a cementitious leveling compound, apply the compound to the substrate to the desired level, compensating for the finish flooring and leveler strip thicknesses. Allow the compound to thoroughly dry

prior to installing the leveler strip and finish floor.

If two leveler strips can satisfy the higher elevation, install the first leveler strip to the substrate, following the Leveler Strip Installation instructions, outlined in the previous section. Next, apply Johnsonite #965 Flooring and Tread Adhesive to the installed leveler strip surface using a 1/16" V-notch trowel and allow the adhesive to dry to the touch, and then install the second leveler strip.

If questions arise that have not been addressed in this brochure, contact your local Johnsonite distributor for assistance or Johnsonite Customer Service at 1-800-899-8916.

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