Resilient Flooring is a stipulated filed sub-bid category under M.G.L. Chapter 149, §44F, if the cumulative estimated value of the work in this section exceeds $20,000 and the projects total cost is over $100,000. It triggers the filed sub-bid requirement.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Resilient Floor Covering Institute http://www.rfci.com

Discuss products with LHA before starting specifications. Some LHAs have material preferences and have developed maintenance programs.

PREPARATION

Proper preparation is essential. Coordinate specifications so that the general contractor levels floor to 1/8 inch in 10 feet; the Resilient Flooring subcontractor levels the floor from where the general contractor stops to 1/16 inch in 10 feet. Be clear about responsibility to avoid loopholes in the specifications.

Sheet Flooring

Materials

Provide a sheet vinyl that is that is .080 inch gauge, through-grained, fully-adhered (preferred) and with inlaid color; no wax may be desirable. Wider rolls (12 feet) make for better installation.

Execution

Do not apply sheet goods to concrete slabs without a bond test to ensure appropriate adhesion.

Sheet vinyl applied in bathrooms must be seamless, if possible. All seams must be sealed.

At bathrooms where the flooring will receive excessive water, such as at a bathroom with a roll in shower, a non-skid flooring with an integral, bacterial inhibitor should be used. If possible, use a product with an integral base. A product such as Altro Aquarius can even be run into the...
shower to avoid the requirements of using a shower base. Provide a waterproof membrane below the sheet flooring.

Rubber sheet products may also be desirable at wet conditions. Linoleum based products should not be used in wet areas as they tend to absorb water and detach from the sub-floor.

Below grade slabs require a sealer before resilient flooring is applied.

**MATERIALS**

Vinyl composition tile: 1/8 inch gauge, 12 x 12 inches, through-grained by Armstrong, Tarket or Azrock are suitable.

Include extra tiles for replacement.

Avoid placing vinyl composition tile over wooden floors because it tends to lift and break; sheet vinyl flooring or refinishing the wood floor is preferred.

Many tiles with recyclable content and bio-based tiles are available and should be considered. If alternate products are to be selected, verify with the Housing Authority that their maintenance plan will accommodate the selected product. On occasion the more sustainable product will not tolerate wax and some cleaners and the cleaning crews are not always accommodating to understanding the specific requirements.

In areas where more durability or a textured surface is desired, such as at entry doors, rubber tiles, which are generally more expensive, may be considered for limited use.

**Execution**

Follow manufacturer’s recommendations for installation procedures over concrete slabs. Inappropriate temperature, humidity, and concrete density lead to tile failure.

**BASE, STAIR TREADS**

**MATERIALS**

Provide a vinyl base that is .080 inch gauge and 4 inches high; rolled stock is preferred because it results in fewer seams and is easier to install corners.

For sheet flooring, consider an integral base (coved sheet flooring) for moisture protection.

Stair treads: rubber treads are preferred over vinyl.

For wood stairs, the wall stringer and skirt at the landing should be wood.

**EXECUTION**

Back cut vinyl base to form corners.