Floor Covering & Maintenance

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE USE OF STICKERS AND TAPE ON YOUR FLOOR COVERING.

EF Contract®

In response to the coronavirus, many building managers are providing visual cues to support physical distancing in indoor environments with the use of short-term measures such as stickers and tape on floors.

While this may seem like a sound short-term solution, please bear in mind that some of these stickers and tape may leave an adhesive residue that could have long-term effects on the floor covering. Many adhesives are going to be difficult to completely remove, even after the floor covering is cleaned. The remaining residue is going to attract soil which will become easily visible.

WE COMMISSIONED TESTING OF SEVERAL STICKERS AND TAPE ON CARPET, LVT AND KINETEX FROM AN INDEPENDENT LABORATORY.

Stickers made with two different types of 3M printed film were removed from modular carpet, Kinetex and LVT after 10,000 foot passes (per ASTM D6119). The floor covering samples were soiled and cleaned (per ASTM D6540).

THE MODULAR CARPET, KINETEX AND LVT WERE ABLE TO BE CLEANED WITH NO DETECTABLE ADHESIVE RESIDUE REMAINING.

The results with various types of gaffer's tape were mixed. The adhesive was able to be removed from the LVT. However, various amounts of residue remained on the modular carpet and Kinetex. In some cases, the residue was noticeable and did not release soil.

TIPS

1

Be extra cautious if placing tape or stickers on broadloom carpet. The modular format of carpet tile and Kinetex with the ability to selectively replace damaged modules lessens the risks for those installations.

2

If hot-water extraction is not removing adhesive residue left on your floor covering, you can try a light alcohol-based solvent. Do not use harsh solvents as they can permanently damage the face fiber of carpet and Kinetex and finish of the LVT.

3

For a more long-term solution, consider incorporating wayfinding (and other messaging) into your overall flooring design with inserts and/or contrasting patterns and colors.