

Please read this entire document before starting the installation.

### SUMMARY

Temperature Range	60°F to 80°F
Relative Humidity Range	35% to 55% RH
Acclimation Time	1 week minimum
Expansion Gaps, Perimeter	5/8" / 16mm
Subfloor Flatness	1/8" in 10'
Adhesive	Sika T55
Trowel	P4
Roller (required)	70 to 100#
Care & Maintenance	Rubio-branded products only

### **CHECK HUMIDITY**

With a reliable hygrometer check the humidity in the space where the flooring is to be installed. Humidity should read between 35%-55% and the temperature should be between 60°F and 80°F. If humidity or temperature are not within this range, postpone installation until conditions are correct. If humidity is expected to be outside of this range for extended periods of time, please call Thomas Benjamin to discuss installation modifications including extended acclimation and internal expansion.

### **CONDITIONING**

Do not install unless heating, air conditioning, and humidity controls are in full operation and room conditions are normal.

Pavés de Paris should be stored in the same environment in which it is expected to perform. HVAC systems should be operating so that the flooring is being acclimated in normal living conditions (between 35%-55% relative humidity and between 60° and 80° F). Acclimate the product for a minimum of one week. Opening of the cartons will help to better acclimate material. Material is acclimated once it has reached moisture equilibrium consistent with

the temperature and relative humidity of the job site and normal living conditions. Do not deliver material in inclement weather. Always store material in a dry place.

Wood flooring should not be delivered until all wet-work is completed.

### **CHECK CONCRETE SUB-FLOOR**

A vapor barrier or reliable water-resistant concrete sealer should be used when moisture from below is of concern. New concrete slabs must be cured at least 50 days and dry. Below grade installations are not recommended. Be sure the concrete sub-floor is smooth and level. Tolerance should not exceed 1/8" on a 10 ft. straight edge in any direction. Check floor level with straight metal strip on edge, double check edges and corners. Eliminate any washboard irregularity. All rough spots or gravel protruding must be ground smooth, and low areas filled/flushed. We recommend low areas be filled with the chosen mastic, and not with a cementitious material. If tolerance is not as specified, flooring contractor shall INSIST masonry contractor make necessary corrections. Concrete should be tested for moisture content and be no greater than 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours (ASTM F-1869), or 75% RH (ASTM 2170).

We recommend a bond test before spreading mastic and installing Pavés de Paris. A test should be made with your chosen adhesive and several of our blocks before beginning the installation.

### **WOOD SUB-FLOOR**

Pavés de Paris may be installed directly over wood or plywood sub-floors, which are solid, level, and well ventilated below. There should not be any cupped area, or projecting nails. If blocks are to be installed on an existing synthetic floor or raised computer floor system, 1/2" minimum plywood or hardboard underlayment should be added, glued and screwed to the synthetic surface.

## EXPANSION VOID

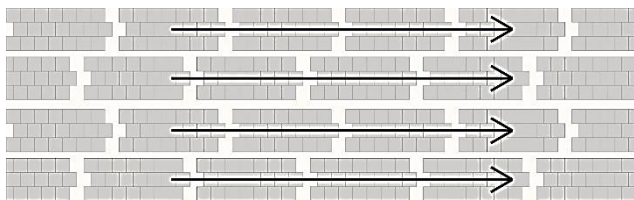
5/8" wide expansion gaps must be left around the entire perimeter of the floor and around all rigid obstructions. If there is no baseboard or trim to conceal the expansion gaps then they may be filled with cork strips. Place temporary wooden strips along the walls and columns equal to the width of the void to be created. Install blocks flush to the strips, and at the end of the day remove the temporary strips, leaving a uniform void for expansion. Schluter strips should be used at block edges against carpet or other adjacent flooring materials.

## INSTALLING PAVÉS DE PARIS

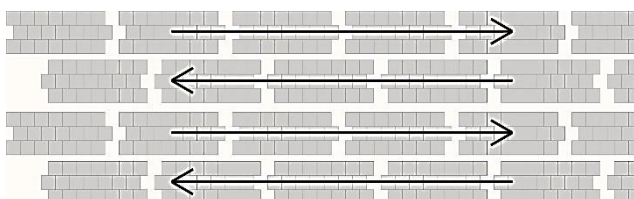
Panels are installed using a full-spread application of SIKA T55 adhesive with a P4 trowel.

Be sure panels are well mixed before beginning installation. If panels are not mixed some clustering may result. Spread adhesive according to SIKA guidelines using a P4 trowel, and place panels into fresh adhesive. **TAKE CARE NOT TO SLIDE PANELS IN ADHESIVE.** Panels must be "dropped down" in as nearly a vertical motion as possible. Place the first panel in a corner parallel and tight to a temporary lumber filler. Precision manufacturing will allow placement of adjoining panels as close as possible to the next panel. The lines created from each panel must be kept straight and parallel, and an effort should be made to create a lap of at least 3-4 blocks.

NOTE: Floor tiles are directional, and must all be installed in the same "direction", as determined by the keyway tab on the end of the tiles.



Correct – all installed in the same direction



Incorrect – all not installed in same direction

If slight gapping or separation is noticed, apply pressure lengthwise to the panels to close up the gaps. Wedges and straps may be used to maintain pressure until adhesive cures. Glued rows of panels should be rolled with a 70-100 lb. wood floor roller during installation. Please check the surface of the roller for debris or defects prior to rolling.

## AFTER INSTALLATION

Pavés de Paris arrives from Thomas Benjamin fully-finished, and no further oiling or finishing is normally required. Please take care to cover installed floors with ram-board or similar product until all other trades are finished working. Special care should be taken to avoid having plaster dust accumulate on the floor, as this can be very difficult to remove. Small gaps can be addressed using appropriately-colored Mohawk Fill Sticks.

## CARE & MAINTENANCE

Keep the surface free from dirt and abrasive particles by daily sweeping, using a treated flat mop or regular dust mop. Under no circumstances should water be permitted to remain on the flooring more than 10 minutes, either from spills or from washing. Routine cleaning is best accomplished with a mop dampened with the proper mixture of Rubio Monocoat Soap and water. Be sure no puddles are created or left on the surface. Stubborn stains may be addressed with Rubio Monocoat Refresh Eco, Rubio Monocoat Tannin Remover and/or Rubio Monocoat Grease Spot Remover.