1. INTRODUCTION
1.1 Decathlon is recommended for indoor use only.
1.2 Decathlon shall be installed by experienced professional installers with a minimum of five years experience installing commercial resilient floor covering products. Training programs such as those offered by International Standards & Training Alliance (INSTALL) are recommended.
1.3 Substrate testing and preparation shall follow industry standards (quoted herein in italics) and the following installation guidelines. For situations that are not covered in this document, contact Mats Inc. directly.

2. MATERIAL HANDLING AND STORAGE
2.1 Upon receipt of floor covering, immediately remove from pallet. If packaging is damaged, mark shipping documents as such before signing for the shipment. Contact shipper and/or Mats Inc. to report damage.
2.2 Decathlon shall be stored horizontally with the weight supported across the entire width and rolled tightly on a suitable cardboard core. The material may be stacked horizontally in a pyramid up to four rolls high flat and parallel. Do not store on roll ends. Avoid export to direct sunlight.
2.3 If material is distorted or otherwise damaged during storage or transportation, do not install.
2.4 Protect all materials, including but not limited to, underlayment panels, patching/leveling compounds, floor covering, adhesive, and maintenance products from extremes of temperature during shipping.
2.5 Store in the material and adhesive on the job site where they are to be installed. Areas shall be enclosed and weather tight, at a minimum uniform temperature of 65°F for a minimum of 48 hours prior to, during and after installation.
2.6 Inspection of materials: Great care is taken to properly label and inspect materials for defects at all phases of manufacturing and handling by Mats Inc. However, in the rare case where the wrong product or material with visible defects is shipped, these products shall not be installed. Careful inspection of the product before installing is the responsibility of the installer. Installation of the product denotes acceptance of the product. Mats Inc. will not honor any warranty complaints for materials installed in the wrong color, with visible defects or other damage.

3. SUBSTRATE PREPARATION AND TESTING
3.1 All substrates must be sound, clean, permanently dry, smooth, and free of cracks and contaminants including paint, old adhesive, curing compounds, oil, grease, wax, asphalt, or other contaminants that could affect the adhesive bond. Any irregularities in the substrate may telegraph (show through) to the finished floor.
3.2 Concrete Substrates:
   3.2.1 Follow guidelines of ASTM F710 Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring*. ASTM F710 includes requirements for moisture testing, smoothness, flatness, concrete strength, and the presence of a vapor retarder beneath the slab.
   3.2.2 The installation of a permanent, effective moisture vapor retarder with a minimum thickness of 0.010 in. and a permeance of 0.1 y, as described in Specification ASTM E1745 is required under all on or below grade concrete floors. The use of such a moisture vapor retarder, provided its integrity has not been compromised, reduces potential severity of water vapor penetration. Every concrete floor slab on or below grade to receive resilient flooring shall have a water vapor retarder (often improperly called a vapor barrier) installed directly below the slab.*
   3.2.3 Joints such as expansion joints, isolation joints, or other moving joints in concrete slabs shall not be filled with patching compound or covered with resilient flooring.*
   3.2.4 All concrete slabs shall be tested for moisture, regardless of age or grade level.* The only acceptable test methods are the Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F1869) and Relative Humidity test (ASTM F2170). Moisture meters, plastic sheet test or other methods are not acceptable for determining the suitability of concrete slabs to receive resilient floor coverings. It is recommended testing be conducted by a qualified independent testing agency with experience conducting ASTM F1869 and ASTM F2170 testing. Test procedures shall be followed exactly in order for test results to be valid. Building shall be at in-service temperature and humidity, concrete shall be properly cleaned, and recommended number of tests shall be conducted. See ASTM standards for details.
   3.2.5 Test methodology and test results shall be documented and provided to the flooring contractor, general contractor, owner and/or architect.
3.2.6 If concrete moisture conditions are outside the adhesive manufacturer’s limits per section 5, do not commence installation. Allow the concrete to fully dry or apply a 100% solids epoxy Moisture Mitigation System. Although Mats Inc. does not endorse or prefer any manufacturer in particular, we provide the following list of leading Moisture Mitigation System manufacturers for information purposes.

- Ardex: 724.203.5000 (www.ardex.com)
- Bostik: 978.777.0100 (www.bostik-us.com)
- Mapei: 800.426.2734 (www.mapei.us)

3.3 Wood Substrates:

3.3.1 For wood subfloor systems, ensure the subfloor conforms to the guidelines of ASTM F1482, Guide to Wood Underlayment Products Available for Use Under Resilient Flooring. A typical wood subfloor system includes a joist spacing of 16” on center with a double layer subfloor/underlayment system - minimum one inch thickness.

3.3.2 Wood subfloor systems shall be suspended at least 18” above the ground. Crawl spaces shall have adequate cross ventilation and a moisture barrier shall be used on the ground to reduce humidity from ground moisture.

3.3.2 Do not install Mats Inc. products over lauan panels, plywood with knots, OSB, hardwood flooring, treated wood (i.e. CCA, fire-rated plywood, or other coated wood), particle board, chipboard, flakeboard, fiberboard, Masonite™, pressboard, or other hardboard underlayment, or other uneven or unstable substrates. To cover unsuitable substrates in a wood subfloor system, use underlayment grade plywood (i.e. arctic birch panels or A/C plywood).

3.3.3 Consult ASTM F1482 or underlayment manufacturer for recommendations regarding plywood thickness, fastener selection and spacing and conditioning of panels.

3.4 Gypsum Substrates:

3.4.1 Do not install over trowel applied gypsum patching compounds.

3.4.2 Do not use poured gypsum underlayment over concrete slabs on or below grade

3.4.3 Compressive Strength: Gypsum underlayment, for commercial installations, shall provide a minimum of 3000 psi compressive strength after 28 days.* If the finished floor will be in a commercial use, this standard must be followed. Underlayment shall be mixed according to manufacturer’s guidelines.

3.4.4 Drying Time: Manufacturer’s recommended drying time and recommended testing method for dryness shall be followed. Usually a specific moisture meter is recommended by the manufacturer. The calcium chloride test method is not acceptable for testing gypsum underlayment.

3.4.5 Sealer/Primer: After drying and prior to installing adhered floor coverings, Gypsum underlayment shall be sealed/primer per the underlayment manufacturer’s instructions for covering the underlayment with adhered floor coverings. If the underlayment is not sealed, the surface will be overly porous and the floor covering adhesive will not work correctly.

3.4.6 Patching or “skimcoating” over gypsum substrates: There are a number of patching compounds that can be used over gypsum underlayment. Follow compound manufacturer’s instructions for doing so. It may be necessary to prime the gypsum substrate prior to patching.

3.5 Do not install over existing resilient floor coverings.

3.5.1 Concrete Subfloors: Existing resilient floor coverings and adhesives over concrete shall be removed and the concrete shall be repaired using a cement based patching or leveling compound per manufacturer’s guidelines. All adhesive residues must be removed prior to installing. Also remove any floor patch below the adhesive layer. DO NOT USE CHEMICAL ADHESIVE REMOVERS. Black asphaltic adhesive can be scraped to a thin, well-bonded residue and encapsulated with an approved patching or leveling compound per manufacturer’s instructions. All other adhesives (carpet adhesive, VCT adhesive, epoxy, etc) shall be completely removed from concrete substrates.

3.5.2 Wood Subfloors: Existing resilient floor coverings and/or adhesive residue over a wood subfloor system shall be covered with a plywood underlayment per section 3.3.

3.5.3 NOTE: If removal of existing resilient flooring or adhesive is required, follow “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” available from the Resilient Floor Covering Institute at 706-882-3833 or www.rfci.com. Also, be aware that existing floors and/or adhesives may contain asbestos or lead. Various federal, state, and local government agencies regulate the removal of lead or asbestos containing material. Review and comply with all applicable regulations.
3.6 Other substrates such as terrazzo, stone, ceramic tile, metal shall be covered with cement based underlayment compound per the manufacturer’s instructions and ensure compliance with ASTM F 710 for use of these compounds.

3.7 Do not install over non-compatible substrates such as asphalt, any bituminous or asphalt-saturated material, or floor coverings made of (or containing) rubber.

4. SITE CONDITIONS

4.1 Install new floor coverings after all other trades have completed their work.

4.2 Protect areas where floor covering shall be installed from all traffic before, during and after installation.

4.3 Extremes of temperature and humidity can affect floor covering products and can alter the proper cure of patching compounds and adhesives. Building shall be between 65°F and 80°F for 48 hours before installation, during installation and for 48 hours after installation. Thereafter maintain minimum 50°F. Maintain relative humidity of 35% - 65%.

NOTE: If a system other than a permanent HVAC system is utilized, it must provide constant temperature and humidity control at specified levels for the specified time frame.

4.4 Maximize fresh air ventilation by using exhaust fans at point of use. Face fans out of the area where flooring is being installed, not into the area. Never force dry adhesives or patching compounds by using fans.

5. ADHESIVES AND ACCESSORIES

5.1 Decathlon products are adhered using Deca-Bond adhesive (see section 5.3). All adhesives require the use of a 100 lb roller (based on the thickness of products) after the tile is set to ensure that the product is firmly set into the adhesive.

NOTE: Do not get adhesive on the top surface of the product as it is virtually impossible to remove. Using mineral spirits or similar products to remove adhesive will alter the surface appearance of the product. Any damage to the product as a result of adhesive removal is solely the responsibility of the installer. Contact Mats Inc. immediately for suggested cleaning methods if this happens.

5.2 Before installing, test for porosity. Plywood substrates and most patching/leveling compounds are considered porous. Most concrete slabs are not porous so test first by sprinkling small amounts of water on the substrate. If the drops are absorbed, follow the instructions for porous substrates. If they remain on the surface, follow instructions for a non-porous substrate.

5.3 Deca-Bond instructions:

5.3.1 Refer to accompanying MSDS sheet for proper handling, storage and shelf life. Do not use adhesive if it has exceeded its shelf life.

5.3.2 Use a 1/16” square-notch trowel. The final determination of trowel size and coverage will be determined by the substrate porosity and is the responsibility of the flooring installer.

5.3.3 Concrete test requirements for installations using Deca-Bond adhesive:
   - ASTM F1869: maximum MVER of 5.5 lbs/1000 sq ft/24 hrs
   - ASTM F2170: internal relative humidity of 85% or less
   - pH test: pH 9.0 or less

5.3.4 **If concrete moisture conditions are outside the above limits, do not commence installation.**

Contact your Mats Inc. salesperson or Product Specialist at 1.800.MATS. INC to discuss the best options for your installation.

5.4 Tools: sharp utility knife and extra blades, carpenter’s square and straight edge, measuring tape, chalk line for layout, 2” masking tape, markers to indicate cut measurements, safety glasses, 1/16” square-notched trowel, 100 lbs. roller.

6. INSTALLATION

6.1 24 hours prior to installation, unroll the material on the subfloor under normal, occupied lighting conditions in the configuration required for installation. This step will ensure the material acclimates to the climate properly. This step will also assist the installer in identifying any shade variations and allow the installer to move them to a less visible area. Shade variations are natural for rubber flooring and in no way compromise the quality of the flooring.

6.2 All Decathlon rolls must be unrolled and installed in the same direction. Laying the rolls in the opposite direction will cause color variations between rolls.
6.3 Decathlon is stretched slightly during the manufacturing process. The installer must allow all cuts to relax for a minimum of 2 hours before installation, 24 hours is preferred. Shaking the material once it is unrolled can help it relax.

6.4 It is the installer's responsibility to inspect the dry laid installation and notify the appropriate authority of any imperfections or irregularities prior to final adhesive installation.

6.5 Begin the installation on the side opposite the room entrance. Assume that the walls you are butting against are not straight or square. Using a chalk line, make a starting point the edge of the flooring to follow.

6.6 Place the edge of the first roll along the chalk line.

6.7 Position the second roll with no more than a 1/16" overlap over the first roll at the seam. Work the material back to eliminate the overlap. This procedure will leave tight seams and eliminate any gaps.

6.8 Repeat step 6.7 for each consecutive roll necessary to complete the area.

6.9 After the material is rolled out, cut and allowed to relax, begin the application of the adhesive.

6.10 Fold over one half of the width of the first roll of material starting with the edge running along the wall.

6.11 Apply the adhesive to the substrate with a 1/16" square-notch trowel. Do not spread more adhesive than can be covered with flooring within 30 minutes.

6.11.1 The open time of the adhesive is 30 - 40 minutes at 75°F and 50% relative humidity. Temperatures above 75°F and/or relative humidity above 50% will cause the adhesive to set up more quickly. Temperatures below 75°F and/or relative humidity below 50% will cause the adhesive to set up more slowly.

6.11.2 Never leave adhesive ridges or puddles. They will telegraph through the material.

6.12 Lay the flooring into the wet adhesive. Do not allow the material to "flop" into place; this may cause air entrapment and bubbles beneath the flooring.

6.13 Immediately roll the floor with a 100 lbs. roller to ensure proper adhesive transfer. Overlap each pass of the roller by 50% of the previous pass to ensure the floor is properly rolled. Roll the width first and then the length.

6.14 Fold over the second half of the first roll and half of the second roll. Spread the adhesive at a right angle to the seam to prevent the adhesive from leaking through the seam.

6.15 Lay the flooring into the wet adhesive. Do not allow the material to "flop" into place; this may cause air entrapment and bubbles beneath the flooring.

6.16 All seams should be secured to prevent gaps by applying masking tape across the seam onto the next roll of material. Do not use duct tape. Duct tape adhesive chemically reacts with the flooring surface and leaves a permanent residue.

6.17 Immediately roll the floor with a 100 lbs. roller to ensure proper adhesive transfer. Overlap each pass of the roller by 50% of the previous pass to ensure the floor is properly rolled. Roll the width first and then the length.

6.18 Follow steps 6.10 – 6.17 for the remainder of the area. Work at a pace so that the material is always installed into wet adhesive.

6.19 Once finished, smooth the entire floor again with the roller.

7. CLEAN UP AND FINAL FINISH

7.1 Maintain the room temperature between 65°F and 80°F for 48 hours after installation.

7.2 Check appearance of entire installation. Use a white cloth moistened with water to remove any adhesive on the surface of flooring or walls. Mineral spirits and solvents are not recommended. Using mineral spirits or solvents to remove adhesive will alter the surface appearance of the flooring. Any damage to the flooring as a result of adhesive removal is solely the responsibility of the installer.

7.3 Sweep or vacuum the floor to remove all dirt and grit.

7.4 Keep all traffic off flooring for 24 hours to prevent indentation while the adhesive sets.

7.5 Wait 72 hours before doing initial cleaning or allowing rolling traffic or furniture on the floor (Initial cleaning shall follow the latest version of the Maintenance Instructions for Decathlon available from www.matsinc.com).