



## *Installation Instructions*

# SELF-LEVELING METHOD OVER WOOD

## Best Installation Practice Over Wood Substrates: Use Self-Leveling Compounds

We highly suggest finishing the application of the self-leveler before leaving the jobsite. It is the best way to produce the best results and minimize the risk of damaging the heating cable.

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### DISCLAIMERS

- ENSURE THAT ALL SUBSTRATES MEET OR EXCEED INTEGRITY LEVELS DEFINED IN THE TILE COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA (TCNA) HANDBOOK.
- ALL APPLICABLE ELECTRICAL WORK SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN PRIOR TO THE INSTALLATION OF **HOTTROK**. BUILDING CODES MAY APPLY.
- DO NOT EDGE GROUT PERIMETER OF THE TILE! COPY EXPANSION JOINTS THROUGH THE FINISHED FLOORING.
- **HOTTROK** has been tested with 8" x 8" Porcelain/Ceramic tile. We recommend this size as a minimum.
- **HOTTROK** has a preset wire pattern of 3" on center: using the correct heating cable LENGTH is imperative. As a rule of thumb, heating cable linear length in feet (not area) should not exceed 90% of heated area (in sf) x 4. For example: 100sf heated = (90 x 4) lf = 360 linear feet of heating cable.
- If you plan on using leveling spacers, we highly recommend following the "Self-Leveling Method Over Wood" installation instructions.

## 1. BEGIN INSTALLATION

- Substrates must meet TCNA specifications for tile: minimum load requirements, minimum deflection rating, etc.
- Rectify all plane variations appropriately to TCNA specifications BEFORE installing **HOTTROK**.
- Rectify any issues that could compromise adhesion.
- Rectify any issues that may compromise structural integrity of finished flooring.
- Screw subfloor to joist system with appropriate exterior grade structural screws.
- Belt sand the entire surface and all seams.
- Vacuum clean the entire subfloor and remove all dust, contaminants and debris.
- Prime the entire flooring surface with appropriate self-leveling primer or equivalent. Allow the dry time specified by the manufacturer of the self-leveling product or equivalent used.
- Determine appropriate layout for **HOTTROK**. Dry install panels, cutting the perimeters only using a clean, sharp utility knife: avoid using power saws. Ensure that all channels line up to channels of adjacent panels (Offset rows if possible. Do not use pieces with any one side less than 4").
- Paying close attention to placement and channels, attach **HOTTROK** to the subfloor with roofing nails or crown staples, approximately 4-6 fasteners per square foot.
- Maintain a tile-like pattern keeping factory edges together. The entire tiling surface should be covered with **HOTTROK**.

## 2. INSTALL TEMPERATURE SENSORS

- Install temperature sensors (we always recommend setting at least two (2) per thermostat). Using a router and 1/8" or 3/32" bit, set the depth at 1/4" and cut a separate channel across tower holes for each sensor wire. Also, mortise out a larger pocket for each sensor end to fit in between two channels.
- Bed the sensor wires and ends into **HOTTROK**. Ensure that all parts of the wire and sensor sit below the surface of the panels.

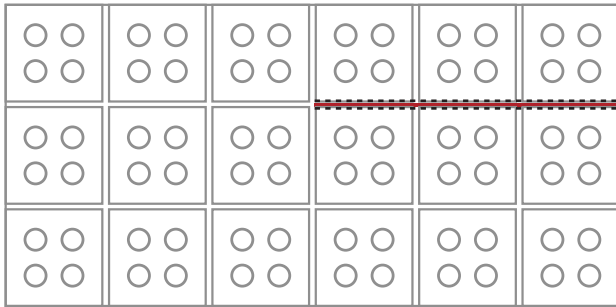
## 3. INSTALL THE HEATING CABLE

*Refer to heating cable manufacturer's guidelines for cold lead installation and length to embed into flooring situations.*

- **NEVER overlap any wires whatsoever.**
- **NEVER run two wires in one channel.**
- **NEVER cut or shorten any heating cable.**
- Using a fiche or string, run temp sensor leads and heating cable cold leads through the conduit opening at the floor to the electrical box.
- Test the heating cables and sensors as per manufacturer's instructions. Record the results. Hook up and test a LoudMouth Sensor before installation.

### 3. INSTALL THE HEATING CABLE (CONTINUED)

- Using a utility knife, cut out and remove the lower portion of one channel (usually 12" in length or more) allowing more depth for the larger sized cold lead.



- Set the cold lead in this space and start placing the heating cable into the channels. The lead should stay by friction, however, hot glue may be used minimally to secure lead if necessary.
- Bed heating cable evenly around temperature sensors and then continue to bed in the field. Long runs work best. Carefully place cable around corners. The foam will keep the cable in place securely. Finish setting all the heating cable. Keep clear of any present or future plumbing locations, toilet flanges etc.

### 4. CONTINUE INSTALLATION

- Cover the entire **HOTTROK** area with supplied mesh, overlapping mesh edges at least 1". It is best to start at the entrance and work inward. This will help you avoid wrinkling the mesh at the seams while dragging the leveler outward.



**BE CAREFUL CUTTING THE MESH! IT IS BEST TO USE SCISSORS! DO NOT CUT OR GRAZE THE HEATING CABLES OR SENSOR WIRES!**

- Test the heating cables and sensor wires again. Record the results.
- Dam or block off all holes, vents, doorways and perimeters of **HOTTROK** so that self-levelers will not escape or travel to unintended areas. Block off expansion joints (make sure they are copied through the finished flooring during the installation process.)
- Mix self-leveler according to manufacturer's instructions. Apply the self-leveler over the mesh surface and work gently back and forth into all the towers and channels in the **HOTTROK**. A rubber squeegee works well for large areas. Use a flat blade or trowel for smaller, more complicated areas. Apply the leveler in a consistent manner to achieve a flat surface consistent with the mesh layer. Backfill completely. Avoid cold joints by overlapping consecutive batches while wet and troweling smooth. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for dry times before walking on or applying finished flooring.