



Existing Concrete Base Preparation Instructions for Pickleball Flooring Installation

Step 1 — Inspect the Existing Concrete Base

- Check the slab for cracks, movement, loose concrete, uneven areas, moisture issues, old coatings, and surface contamination.
- The existing concrete must be structurally stable before installation begins.

Step 2 — Check Surface Flatness

- The concrete should be smooth and level across the full playing area.
- Inspect for high spots, low spots, old repair areas, surface waves, and uneven joins.
- Grind down high areas and use levelling compounds where required.

Step 3 — Repair Cracks & Damaged Areas

- Clean and repair minor static cracks using suitable crack repair compounds.
- Expansion joints should be treated correctly and not simply covered over.
- Remove and repair any loose, hollow, or deteriorated concrete.

Step 4 — Remove Surface Contaminants

- The slab must be completely clean before flooring installation.
- Remove all dust, oil, grease, paint, old adhesives, sealers, silicone contamination, and debris.

Step 5 — Mechanical Grinding

- Diamond grinding is strongly recommended for existing concrete slabs.
- Grinding improves adhesive bonding and removes weak surface laitance and contaminants.
- Vacuum the slab thoroughly after grinding.

Step 6 — Moisture Testing

- Moisture testing should always be completed before installation.
- Excess moisture can cause adhesive failure, bubbling, and flooring separation.
- Moisture barriers or sealers may be required if readings are too high.

Step 7 — Outdoor Drainage Check

- Outdoor slabs should drain correctly with no standing water or ponding.
- Minor falls are generally recommended for outdoor pickleball courts.

Step 8 — Primers & Sealers

- Depending on the flooring system, primers or moisture sealers may be recommended.
- Always follow the flooring manufacturer's installation specifications.

Step 9 — Final Cleaning

- Vacuum the entire slab thoroughly before installation.
- Ensure the surface is dry, dust-free, and free from all debris.

Final Installation Checklist

- ✓ Concrete structurally sound
- ✓ Surface level and stable
- ✓ Cracks repaired
- ✓ Expansion joints treated correctly
- ✓ Surface mechanically prepared

- ✓ Moisture levels acceptable
- ✓ Surface clean and dry
- ✓ Correct adhesive system selected

Important Notes

- Portable flooring systems may use loose-lay or perimeter fixing methods.
- Permanent installations generally require full adhesive bonding using commercial-grade sports flooring adhesives.
- Two-component (2K) adhesives are commonly used for commercial sports flooring systems.

Final Thoughts

Proper subfloor preparation is one of the most important stages of any pickleball flooring installation. A correctly prepared existing concrete base helps improve flooring lifespan, player comfort, ball bounce consistency, and long-term court performance.