

Material Usage Guide

Technical Bulletin

Background

Residential, Light Commercial, or Heavy Commercial: these terms are used often when trying to define the proper usage of flooring materials or the intended usage of an interior space. However ubiquitous these terms are, they are rarely well defined. This leads designers, contractors and end-users to wonder: which warranty does my interior space fall under?

The following is a detailed description of the types of spaces that fall under Residential, Light Commercial and Heavy Commercial use per the applicable Novalis warranty. Though this list is intended to be exhaustive, it may not include all interior space and may be amended over time to include new spaces or shift spaces around. If your space or usage isn't listed or if there are any concerns, please contact the Novalis technical department for assistance.

General Terms

This technical bulletin covers products manufactured and applied in a single-use or mixed-use building where individual areas will be subjected to different kinds of use and wear situations, such as corporate facilities or multi-family buildings. Novalis reserves the right to classify each installation regarding use according to this technical bulletin, based on the most recent revision at time of sale. All areas not specifically listed under each designation are excluded. Please review individual warranty documents carefully prior to use for more information regarding warranty coverages. This bulletin is subject to change - please contact the Novalis technical department for the most current version.

Residential Use Designation

Residential use includes environments confined to a limited number of occupants with light foot traffic, light point loads and no rolling traffic. Residential areas also include those with no heavy chemicals, acids, greases or other such contaminants. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Apartments
- Closets / Pantries / Light Storage Spaces
- Condominiums
- Half-Bathrooms (No Bath/Shower)
- Hotel Rooms
- In-House / In-Unit Laundry Rooms
- Light-Use Exercise Rooms
 - (No barbells/dumbbells, must use protective mats beneath equipment)
- Living Spaces
- Residential Kitchens
- Single-Family Homes

Light Commercial Use Designation

Light Commercial use includes environments with light to moderate foot traffic, light point loads, light rolling traffic and light caster use. Light commercial areas also include those with no heavy chemicals, acids, greases or other such contaminants. This includes, but is not limited to:

- All Residential Use Areas
- Banking & Financial Buildings
- Corporate Spaces
- Common Areas
- Conference Rooms
- Offices
- Dining Areas (No Wet Areas)
- Dormitories
- Healthcare
 - Medical Suites (Non-Surgical)
 - Physician's Office
 - Senior Living Facilities
- Interior Entryways and Hallways (Light Traffic Only)
- Lobby / Waiting Area (Light Traffic Only)
- Light Use / Non-Egress Stairways & Landings
- Retail Spaces
 - Book Stores
 - Boutiques
 - Clothing Stores
 - Gift Shops
 - Jewelry Stores
 - Light Storage Spaces
- Vending Areas

Heavy Commercial Use Designation

Heavy Commercial use includes environments with heavy foot traffic, moderate to heavy point loads, heavy static, dynamic or rolling loads and/or moderate to heavy caster use. Portable furnishings with casters, rests and wheels that concentrate the weight of the furnishing are very damaging to resilient flooring - see floor protection guidelines for additional information. Heavy Commercial use does not necessarily include environments with acids, caustic chemicals, hydrocarbons, oil and grease (including animal and vegetable products) or other such contaminants. This includes, but is not limited to:

- All Residential Use Areas
- All Light Commercial Use Areas
- "Big Box" Retail Stores
- Classrooms
- Commercial / Egress Stairways & Landings
- Computer / IT Rooms

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- Convention Halls
- Enclosed Exterior Entryways and Walkways
- Exercise Rooms
- Factories
 - Assembly Areas
 - Laboratories
 - Packaging Areas
 - Production Areas
- Healthcare
 - Emergency Room Areas
 - Operating Rooms
 - Scrub Areas
 - Testing Laboratories
- Locker Rooms
- Main Lobby / Waiting Areas (Heavy Traffic)
- Main Corridors or Hallways (Heavy Traffic)
- Mall Common Areas
- Pro Shops
 - No Skates or Spikes
- Ramps / Ramped Corridors
- Transportation
 - Airport Terminals
 - Automobile Dealerships
 - Bus / Rail Terminals
- Veterinary Clinics & Hospitals
- Warehouses
 - No heavy storage, forklifts or pallet moving equipment
- Wet Areas
 - Bar Areas
 - Full Bathrooms