



## ***Accessory Cover Plates in Maple Sports Floors (Floating, Fixed Resilient or Fixed Floors)***

Recessed Cover Plates are frequently used in sport floor surfaces to allow easy access to underfloor devices, e.g., volleyball sleeves, sports equipment anchors, electrical, and scoreboard connections, etc. When installed per manufacturer's recommendations these structural closures provide safe conditions for all sports activities and rolling loads, while providing easy accessibility to all types of underfloor devices.

In general, the MFMA recommends providing expansion space at the perimeter and at every vertical obstruction in all floor installations. This includes providing adequate space around all-in floor fixtures, anchors, sports inserts etc. as they will obstruct the natural movement of a floor system during relative humidity changes. Additionally, MFMA recommends against affixing fixtures, furnishings, bleachers, or wall base, etc. directly to or through the floor system without providing adequate expansion space.

Best practice guidelines are dependent on the 'type' of floor systems involved, i.e., Fixed – solid & anchored with little to no movement, Fixed Resilient – flexible & anchored, and Floating – very flexible, not anchored with uncontrolled vertical and horizontal movement. Equipment cover-plate manufacturer's offer guidelines for proper installation in each type of floor system. Always follow equipment manufacturers guidelines and MFMA's recommended expansion space guidelines.

While equipment manufacturers' have designs to accommodate all three types of floor systems care must be taken during installation to avoid several commonly overlooked conditions.

- Underfloor devices, e.g., equipment anchors, inserts, volleyball sleeves, etc., must be installed in a manner that prevents the device from interfering with the natural vertical and horizontal movement of the floor system.
- Recessed Cover plates must be of a size that allows for anticipated floor movement while assuring unencumbered access and function of the underlying device.
- The shelf, upon which the cover plate rests, must be strong enough to support all anticipated loads, assure functionality and longevity of function. Add additional support blocking as necessary.
- Accessory cover plates should be attached directly to the floor system and not the underlying device nor the concrete base.
- If under floor devices are not affixed to the concrete, cover plates may be attached to such a device. Example – an electrical junction box with flexible conduit.

For best long-term function and ease of use, it is crucial that all openings, hinges, etc., be kept clear of excess floor finish, debris and be inspected regularly for proper function to assure safety of athletes and performers. Of particular importance, is preventing buildup of floor finish and debris during recommended annual recoats.

Following the above guidelines will assist in maintaining full function and performance of any MFMA floor for years to come.

See also: [Expansion Voids](#) and [Refinishing](#)

If you have additional questions, please contact MFMA's Technical Director at 888-480-9138

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