

The embossing question comes up often.

1. First was the age of the linoleum we were embossing. The older the lino is the greater the chance that we will be covering asbestos. If the product has an ambient defect we would not be able to remove it. This would cause an issue in a reinstall of a product that had an unforeseen problem. Does this happen often? No, hopefully it never happens, but it has.
2. The second is the current condition of the existing floor. If the edges of the vinyl are curled or the seam has disintegrated embossing will not always cover this up causing a profile. Some of these floors end up in terrible condition before we see them. That is why they are getting covered.
3. The third is the existing vinyl might not be a full spread adhesive system. If the existing floor is a perimeter spread, loose lay, tape down or a staple down product the embossing leveler Lowes sells will break apart causing issues with both the product and the install. The installation method chosen used to be simple to identify. However, as the product we installed became more advanced identifying the type of floor became more difficult without disturbing it. This is something we were not able to do when we measure our jobsites. We were told we could not disturb the environment by removing part of or lifting a corner for discovery.
4. It was also right at a time when Lowes started supplying the underlayment. This was far more lucrative of a sale from a profit standpoint than an embossing leveler sale. Sales people were trying to emboss everything in an effort to save the customer money without regards for the actual site conditions.