**TXLP/2R Series Electric Floor Heating Cable Instructions**

**Installation Of The Heating Cable**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** THESE CABLES ARE NOT TO BE INSTALLED IN WALLS OR CEILINGS FOR ANY REASON AND ALL ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS MUST BE PERFORMED BY A QUALIFIED, LICENSED ELECTRICIAN.

**NEVER:**
- Cross the blue heating cable over itself.
- Cut the blue heating cable for any reason.
- Run blue heating cable directly into the junction box.
- Subject any part of the cable to harmful surfaces.

**ALWAYS:**
- Follow local and national electrical codes.
- Test the cable for the proper readings before, during and after the installation.
- Make certain both splice and bulb are buried in the pour.
- Fill out the warranty card and return it to Orbit.

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**This SPACING FORMULA must be used to calculate spacing between cables.**

\[
\text{On Center SPACING} = \frac{\text{AREA (sq. ft.)} \times 12}{\text{LENGTH OF CABLE}}
\]

(Cable length noted on UL tag.)

**Example:**

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Area In Square feet} &= 85 \text{ sq.Ft.} \\
85 \times 12 &= 1020 = 5.28'' \text{ On Center}
\end{align*}
\]

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**Typical Cable Installations**

**SLAB CONSTRUCTION**

- ***FINISHED FLOORING***
  - HEATING CABLE, IN NEW SLAB
  - MAXIMUM 2" FROM SURFACE.
  - GROUND RATED INSULATION (OPTIONAL)
  - CRUSHED ROCK OR STONE

**FRAME CONSTRUCTION**

- ***FINISHED FLOORING***
  - HEATING CABLE (*MIN. 5/8" | MASONRY MASS*)
  - SUB-FLOOR PLANKING
  - INSULATION (OPTIONAL, RECOMMENDED)

**HARDWOOD FLOORING**

- HEATING CABLE
  - INSULATION (OPTIONAL)
  - SUB-FLOOR (SLAB OR PLYWOOD)

- ANKLES
  - HARDWOOD FLOORS, ONE COVERING MINIMAL THICKNESS
  - SLEEPERS
  - *MIN. 5/8" MASONRY MASS (ASSURE NO AIR GAPS)*
  - HEATING CABLE
  - INSULATION (OPTIONAL)
  - SUB-FLOOR (SLAB OR PLYWOOD)

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* Masonry Mass refers to any dry pack, self leveling product, light weight bedding mortar, and all mortar based aggregates.

** To secure the cable use either hot melt glue, cable clips, or 3/8" crown staples. Or put down wire mesh and secure with wire ties or duct tape.

*** Finished flooring refers to tile, marble, or radiant compliant carpet, hardwood, and laminates.

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**Please Note:** asterisks may not be presented on the full length of cold lead.

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**“Bulb” located on the end of the heating cable.**
**TESTING PROCEDURE** (Tests Should Be Performed By A Licensed Electrician ONLY)

1. Verify that the cable you ordered is the one that you received.
2. Find your model number in Table 1 (Below) and record the Ohms for later use.
3. Visually inspect the heating cable before installation to locate obvious flaws or breaks.
4. With a digital OHM meter, first check resistance between the center conductor and the ground wire (twisted copper). Reading should be OL or infinity.
5. Again use a digital OHM meter in order to verify proper Ohm resistance. Place one of the meter’s leads on each of the cable’s conductors. The reading should be 10% (plus or minus) of the value in step 2.
6. With a megger, perform a leak test on the cable. (If a megger is not available, step 5 will have to suffice) Place the positive (red) lead on one of the center conductors and the negative (black) lead on the ground wire (twisted copper). The reading should be OL or infinity.
7. It is very important that a photo be taken of the floor after the cable is installed and before the final floor covering is laid. This will serve as a record of location and direction of cable runs. This can be used as reference for future work to the area to avoid damaging the buried cables.
8. It is a good idea to keep the meter attached to the conductors during the pouring of the floor to note any sudden change in the recorded value. If this occurs, STOP the installation to determine the cause.
9. After the cable is installed repeat steps 4 & 5 for warranty registration purposes.

### TABLE 1

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<th>Cable Type</th>
<th>OHMS</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>208V</th>
<th>220V</th>
<th>230V</th>
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**GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES**

**Electrical Code and Safety:** All heating cable installations shall be installed according to the National Electric Code (NEC) Article 424 for space heating. (In addition, the installation shall be in accordance with the regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction.) Caution: This equipment shall only be installed by qualified personnel, who are familiar with the construction, operation, and installation.

**Before You Start:**

Field measure the area for which the cable is designed to cover. Verify the area for the project is the same as the area originally designed. If the area has changed (larger or smaller), please call the factory to assure that the cable will be effective and operate in a safe manner. If you have any questions, it is important to contact our Tech Support Department. Any changes in the pre-determined design area can seriously affect the performance of the system. Do not exceed 15 Watts per square foot indoor in residential applications, or 33.5 Watts per square foot indoor for commercial or industrial applications with any of the above cables.
**GENERAL INSTALLATION INFORMATION**

**General Rules:**
The heating cable must be evenly distributed. **It is very important for the cable spacing to be held to the design parameters in order to avoid installation problems.** The relationship between supply voltage, linear resistance, cable length, and center spacing are important. As they need to be understood in order to give the right operating temperature and surface temperature distribution.

**Layout Restriction:** Heating cables must be installed in open areas only. The layout requires that the entire heating cable be looped at even center spacing over the area that is to be heated. The end of the cable marked with the asterisks is terminated at a point where the power connection is made, which is usually a thermostat or junction box. Details of cable length, loading, voltage, etc., are given on UL tag. **(Minimum distance between adjacent runs and minimum bending diameter is 2 inches).**

**Before starting to lay the cable, determine your “On Center” spacing by following the formula on the top of Page 1.**

When installing, it is important to remember that all of the heating cables, including the bulb and splice to cold leads, must be embedded so that only the non-heating lead is exposed outside of the pour. By NEC standards, a conduit is used to bring the leads out of the pour. The heating section of the cable should not be in direct contact with any combustible surface. This is achieved by embedding the cable in a liquid self-leveling material completely. Another option is attaching chicken wire or diamond lathe to the sub-floor first, then tie down the cable and apply the self-leveling material. The heating section of the cable shall not touch or crossover itself. As an option, measure and mark the center spacing within the design area as a reference for cable layout. Lay the heating cable out with the cold leads starting at the power source. The cable must be laid at the calculated spacing. A template can be cut 1/4” less than the required center spacing in order to hold true center spacing and account for the cable thickness. Cables should be secured using approved means (See Page 1). The cables should not be left unprotected for extended periods of time as the risk of damage increases. Concentration of heating cables around columns, drains, etc. may lead to overheating.

The actual layout of the cable is not important. However, it is recommended to run the cable across the shorter dimension of the space. Decide where you are going to start your cable within the design area. Start by laying the cable with the splice, making sure the word ‘SPLICE’ will be buried into the pour. Use an approved tie down method described on Page 1. Cable tie downs should be spaced every 12 - 16 inches. Tie downs **SHOULD NOT** pinch or constrict the cable in any way. Cables should be snug, but able to move freely. Run the cable along the outside edge of the design area and any permanent fixtures, using half the “on center” spacing (Spacing Formula on Page 1). This means if the spacing is 6” O/C, lay the cable 3” from the wall. (We recommend staying 8” away from toilet wax seal.) After the exterior edge is down, proceed laying the cable in a serpentine fashion using the full O/C spacing over the balance of the open area to be warmed. It is important to remember to maintain half the “on center” spacing dimension around the remaining outer edges of the design area. Where multiple cables are being installed into one design, follow the layout and spacing with each cable beginning at the power source and ending within the area to be heated. Repeat as required. **CABLES MAY NOT BE WIRED TOGETHER IN SERIES.**

**TWIN CONDUCTOR CABLE LAYOUT EXAMPLE**

*VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: All splices must be completely buried.*
Thermostat and Controls: Always install the thermostat per local code. When using the floor sensing thermostat, it is important to make sure that the floor sensor is placed 1-3' out into the heated floor and centered between two cable runs (See Diagram below). Where cable system amp load is greater than 16, an RFWCK Control Box is available.

Electrical Installation Diagram

TXLP/2R Cable

- High Quality Conductor
- Stranded Ground Wire
- XLPE Insulation
- Waterproof Metallic Shield
- PVC Covering

All Components Readily Available at Electronic & Home Super Stores.