

Installation ♦ Care & Maintenance

Materials Needed

- Tape Measure
- Utility knife
- Square ruler
- Chalk line

Acceptable Underlayments

This flooring can be installed directly over most existing floor coverings, except carpet and cushioned vinyl flooring.

- **Radiant Heated Floors**

Radiant heated floors must be approved by the manufacturer for the use of their product with resilient vinyl flooring applications. The subfloor temperature should not exceed 85°F (29°C) and the system should be turned off 24 hours prior to and after installation.

- **Wood underlayment**

This flooring can be installed over most secure wood underlayments/subfloors. Always fasten underlayment according to the manufacturer's recommendations. For "special needs" glue down applications (steps, ramps, landings, etc.), it is recommended that underlayments are APA underlayment grade and warranted by the manufacturer. Any failure of the underlayment or flooring as a result of the underlayment is NOT the responsibility of the vinyl click flooring.

- **Concrete**

Moisture levels of concrete slabs before, during and after installation must be 8 lbs. or less per 1000 square feet per 24 hours –this is determined by using an anhydrous calcium chloride test according the ASTM F-1869 and pH must be between 5.0 and 9.0; or, if using ASTM F-2170 IN-Situ Probes, should be less than 90% RH (relative humidity). In some case, it may be necessary to adhere the LVT to "Special Needs" areas (steps, ramps, landings, etc.). NOTE: It is the responsibility of the installer to determine that the concrete is acceptable for installation.

Storing and Handling Your Product

Before installation, allow your flooring to acclimate to the temperature of the area in which it will be installed for a minimum of 24 hours. Temperatures between 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C) are required in the area before, during and after installation. Cartons should be stacked evenly no more than five high on a flat surface and away from any heating/cooling ducts or direct sunlight.

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Before You Install

The surface beneath the floor must be sufficiently prepared in advance to guarantee a successful installation of the flooring.

- Ceramic tile and embossed flooring will require skim coating with a Portland based patch to avoid bottom-up pattern telegraphing
- Ensure that any low spots in the subfloor greater than 3/16 inch over a 10 lineal foot span are filled with a leveling compound
- Any existing floor molding must be removed. Removal of wall baseboards is optional as quarter round can be installed to avoid baseboard removal. Undercut doorjamb so an expansion space of ¼ inch is maintained, allowing the LVT to slip under doorjamb/case molding.

NOTE: there are warranty exclusions with respect to rolling loads. If you have frequent or heavy rolling conditions, click products can be glued down to help reduced the risk of joint separation from rolling load traffic; however, our warranty still excludes any problems associated with rolling loads.

Starting Installation

It is the responsibility of the installer to inspect flooring prior to installing to make sure no visual defects are present. *Do not install flooring with visual defects. If you find visible defects, contact your retailer immediately.*

- Subfloor must be clean, smooth, dry and flat before installation.
- Check the groove and tongue of planks/tiles to ensure they are free of debris or damage.
- For the best appearance, mix planks from two to three cartons from the same production.

When installing this product you may choose your own starting position and direction. Work one plank/tile at a time.

As walls are not always straight, be sure to snap a chalk line for your first row to follow.

Maintain a ¼" (1/2 cm) expansion space around all walls. Quarter round or baseboard molding will cover this expansion space. **IMPORTANT:** Maintain the ¼ inch space around cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges and any obstacle in the floor.

- For installing **planks**, we recommend staggering the end joints a minimum of 6 inches.
- For installing **tiles**, we recommend staggering the end joints a minimum of 3 inches.

NOTE: Do not install four corners together, as this will not provide a stable installation.

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Clicking Planks/Tiles Together

To click the short ends of the plank/tile together, click the short side of the plank/tile at a slight vertical angle into the previous plank short side by pressing it by hand to ensure a fully compressed tight fit. Then click the long end of the plank/tile together, placing long joints together, lifting slightly to engage lock. Rotate downward, clicking together for a tight fit. Be sure to ensure a fully compressed tight fit before installing the next plank/tile.

Cut the planks by scoring through the top wear layer with a utility knife then snap across the score. Install adjoining rows one piece at a time as you did the first. Holding the plank/tile at a slight angle, place it against the profile in the first row. Rotate the plank/tile downward to secure the long ends, thus assuring there are no gaps along the joint.

The adjoining planks/tiles are aligned by properly matching the end joint against the previous plank/tile end joint at an angle, then engaging the long side at slight angle to fit tightly. Repeat until you reach the final row of material.

To install the final row of planks/tiles, you will most likely need to cut them. We recommend doing the following: lay a panel on top of the last row installed. Lay another plank/tile against the edge of the wall. Mark the position of the panel/tile underneath. Cut the plank/tile through the wear layer and snap along the score. Install the last row leaving ample expansion space.

Installing Molding and Transitions

- All molding and transition strips need to provide a ¼ inch expansion space to allow expansion and contraction of the subfloor. Ensure moldings and transition strips will not pinch the flooring.
- Never allow nails or screws to enter into the LVT flooring or the expansion zone around the flooring perimeter, as this would prevent proper expansion and contraction of the structure and flooring.

Installing on Treads & Risers

Glue-down installation method is required on all treads and risers. Apply the adhesive following the manufacturer's instructions. Install the riser after installing the tread. Install stair nose moldings afterwards to protect the edge of the LVT.

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Installation in areas with Sustained Direct Sunlight

Temperatures should be maintained in a home environment not to exceed 85 degrees F. In cases where the flooring is in direct sunlight for much of the day (Sunrooms, etc.) it is recommended that the planks/tiles be glued down in those spots/areas. The planks are still clicked together as per the floating installation instructions, but an approved Luxury Vinyl flooring adhesive should be used in small direct-sun areas as needed. Be sure to follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions, including correct trowel size.

Care and Maintenance

- Sweep or vacuum daily using soft bristle attachments (no beater bars).
- Clean up spills and excessive liquids immediately.
- Damp mop as needed and only use cleaners recommended for no-wax vinyl floors.
- Protect floor from constant direct sunlight.
- Use proper floor protection devices such as felt protectors under furniture.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, bleach or wax to maintain the floor.
- Do not drag or slide heavy objects across the floor.
- Always use a protective mat under chairs with rolling casters.