

Basic Installation Instructions

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN
INSTALLATION. IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID WARRANTY.**

Installation Preparation

The information on this sheet provides general guidelines. All recommendations are based on the most recent information available. All instructions and recommendations must be followed for a satisfactory result.

Unlike wood flooring, moisture is not a concern for vinyl flooring. It is the extremes in temperature that cause expansion and contraction, not moisture. The product needs to be acclimated to the temperature of the room that it is being installed in. Generally speaking, this is between 60 degrees – 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

If a floor is installed improperly, separation (in cold conditions) or buckling (in hot conditions) can occur with the floating floor system. This is noticed mostly in rooms with full southern exposure windows and/or doors. Window and door coverings need to be used seasonally where intense sunlight heats the floor more than 20 degrees Fahrenheit from other areas where the floor is not exposed to direct sunlight. However, it is most often easily remedied. (See Repair Instructions Below.)

Wood Subfloors

Wood subfloors installed directly on concrete or installed over sleeper construction are acceptable, but 6 mil plastic covering must be applied directly over the concrete. This is to stop the wood substrate from swelling, which will affect the appearance of our Luxury Vinyl Flooring if applied directly on the wood substrate.

1. Rubber from 2mm – 10mm works great for sound transfer deterrence. See our Sound Transmission Rating page for more information.
2. If the surface of the wood subfloor is not smooth, the joints need to be sanded or an additional underlayment should be installed over the subfloor to span the unevenness (this is primarily true for the Glue-Free system).

Concrete Subfloors

1. Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth, and free from debris such as sheetrock clumps, glue down carpet pads, sand, etc. New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry at least 60 days and completely cured for glue down application.
2. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation lies with the floor covering installer. (Hydrostatic pressure and calcium chloride testing is not necessarily for the Glue-Free or Click systems.)
3. Although most Luxury Vinyl Flooring is not susceptible to damage from moisture, excessive subfloor moisture is an ideal breeding ground for mold, mildew, and fungus. The limited warranties do not cover discoloration from mold, or from flooding, leaking plumbing or appliances, water entering through sliding glass doors or similar conditions.
4. Holes, grooves, expansions joints, and other depressions do not need to be filled unless over 1/8" wide, except for a glue down application.
5. Concrete floors with a radiant heating system are satisfactory, provided the temperature of the floor does not exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit at any point. Before installing the flooring, the heating system should be turned on to eliminate moisture.

RECOMMENDED WORK PRACTICES FOR REMOVAL OF RESILIENT FLOOR COVERINGS

WARNING: Do not sand, dry scrape, bead blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic "cutback" adhesive or other adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos.

Existing Floor Coverings

Luxury Vinyl Flooring may also be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings. For Glue Down installation, the existing floor surface must be made smooth.

1. Deep ceramic tile grout lines that exceed 3/8 "in width and 1/4" in depth should be made smooth by applying a cement overlay such as a patching or leveling compound for Glue-Free and Click installations. For Glue Down, all must be filled and made completely smooth—no matter the size of the imperfection.
2. Going over existing sheet vinyl floors is acceptable with the Glue-Free or Click System. To install Glue Down over a heavily cushioned vinyl floor, consisting of more than one layer, is not acceptable.

Installation Instructions

Please read the following carefully **before beginning installation**:

Our Luxury Vinyl Click and Glue-Free systems are made to be installed primarily as "floating floor" installations.

The Click system does not need to be secured to the existing substrate at all. The Glue-Free system is a perimeter-glued system. We recommend a silicone bead around the perimeter planks fastened to the floor. A Glue Down is a full spread adhered system.

Always undercut all doorjambs and casings. For Glue Down applications, cabinets can be installed after the installation of the flooring. For the Click or Glue-Free systems, cabinets must be installed first. Use care when installing wall moldings and/or transitions strips as to not apply excessive pressure on the perimeter thus pinning the floor and not allowing it to move. This will cause buckling or gapping in the middle of the floor, depending upon the climate. **Do not fasten trim to the floating floor planks.**

CLICK INSTALLATION

1. It is important to balance the layout of the plank format. Proper planning and layout will prevent narrow plank widths at wall junctures. Determine layout to prevent having less than half a plank width or very short length pieces.
2. As with all plank products, lay the long dimension of the plank parallel to the long dimension of the work area.
3. Accurately measure the room to determine the centerline, adjust this established line to accommodate a balanced layout and then transpose this line to a comfortable width away from the starting wall (approximately 2' to 3' wide). Determine if the starter row will need to be cut. When installing the Click system, if the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed for width, it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that the clean, solid edge is toward the wall.
4. Position the first plank so that both the head and side seam groove is exposed. This requires installing the product from left to right in the room.
5. Install the second plank in the row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first plank. Be sure not to bend the corner of the plank. Maintain an expansion gap of approximately 1/4" from the wall. Then cut a plank to length to start the second row. Stagger the end seam at least 6" from the first plank.
6. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting a long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. You need to use a 6"-8" piece of the flooring to insert the tongue into groove and tap at each end and the center to make sure the locking system is set (secure). It is best done with a low angle. You will know that the locking system is secure because the piece you are installing will lay flat. Also, tap the ends together to make sure they are locked together on the short end.
7. Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short end tongue into the previously installed plank groove. Align the plank so the long side tongue tip is positioned just over the groove lip of the plank in the first row. Working from the end seam, at a low angle, insert the long tongue into the groove of the adjoining plank. Very little force is required to seat the tongue into the groove. You should feel the tongue lock into the groove. Use cut 6-8" piece of the flooring as your tapping block and hammer to set the interlocking system before installing the next row.
8. Work across the length of the room installing planks along the wall in the first row and then aligning the planks in the second row. It is critical to keep these two rows straight and square, as they are the "foundation" for the rest of the installation. Check that the installation is straight and squared off often.
9. Cut the last plank in the first row to fit approximately 1/4" short of the end wall. Planks may be cut with a utility knife using the "score and snap" technique. Often the remainder of this plank may be used to start the third row.
10. Work across the length of the room, tapping the short end into the previously installed piece. Work along the wall in the first row and then align the planks in the second row.
11. Pry the piece from the wall into the flooring already installed by tapping your hammer flat at the joint. This will allow the edge piece to lock.
12. Continue installing planks being certain to maintain a random appearance and offset seams at least 6". Maintain a 1/4" expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces. Check to be certain all planks are fully engaged. If slight gapping is noticed, the gap can be taped closed using a scrap of flooring as a tapping block and while using a hammer gently. For best results, tap every full piece in at least 4 places (the ends, center, and the long area and the short end tapped into previous piece installed).
13. When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, Luxury Vinyl Flooring can be cut easily and cleanly using a utility knife with a sharp blade or small jigsaw. It is often beneficial to make a cardboard template of the area and transfer this pattern to the plank.
14. Protect all exposed edges of the Luxury Vinyl Flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips. Use caution to prevent the fasteners for securing the planks to the subfloor.
15. Protect your installed flooring from exposure to extreme or direct sunlight. Prolonged, direct sunlight will heat your floor, forcing it to expand. When the floor temperature drops after the sun passes, your floor will shrink—causing the floor to pull apart, especially in areas where the flooring is pinned or where heavy objects are on the floor. In areas where large windows or sliding glass doors are present, shades are needed to protect your floor from sunlight during all seasons.

LUXURY VINYL FLOORING

Repair Instructions

Our commercial and residential Luxury Vinyl Flooring is tough and durable; however, if a plank becomes damaged, it can be replaced.

CLICK REPAIRS

If the damaged plank is along the perimeter of the room, the easiest technique is to disconnect the planks until the damaged plank is removed. Replace the plank and reassemble the planks.

If it is impractical to disconnect and reassemble the flooring the following procedure should be

used:

- Using a straight edge and a sharp utility knife, cut out and remove the center of the damaged plank, leaving approximately a 1" strip attached to the surrounding planks on all sides.
- Carefully cut back from the corners of the plank to the inside edge.
- Remove the plank edges by wiggling the cut plank out from the tongue and groove of the surrounding planks.
- Prepare the replacement plank by placing the plank face down and folding back and removing the groove strip on both the long and the short side. Using the decorative surface of the tongue end as a guide, cut away this overhanging profile using a sharp utility knife.
- Position the replacement plank by engaging the tongue of the long side into the groove of the adjoining plank. "Hinge" the prepared replacement plank into position.
- Use a hand roller to assist in aligning the plank edges into position.
- Apply a thin application of seam sealer or CoreWeld into all four seams of the replacement plank. Allow the sealer to penetrate and then wipe any excess from the surface.
- Weight the replaced plank for at least 15 minutes until the sealer secures the planks.

GLUE-FREE INSTALLATION

1. It is important to balance the layout of the plank format. Proper planning and layout will prevent narrow plank widths at wall junctures. Determine layout to prevent having less than half width or very short length pieces.
2. As with all plank products, lay the long dimension of the plank parallel to the long dimension of the work area.
3. Accurately measure the room to determine the centerline, adjust this established line to accommodate a balanced layout and then transpose this line to a comfortable width away from the starting wall (approximately 2' to 3' wide). Determine if the starter row will need to be cut. If the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, you can begin the install.
4. Start by laying a full plank from either the left or right hand side of the room. Alternate the lengths of planks that you used. Go from 3/4 plank to 1/2 plank to 1/4 plank then again full plank. (Note: what you start with on one side of the room by cutting pieces to fit, those are considered your starters. The remaining pieces of the cut planks that you started with are your finishers.)
5. If you install from left to right, you will carefully set your pieces starting with the full planks and ending with the quarter plank in a stair step pattern. Then, you will fill in the field (center) portion of the room with the full planks. On the right-hand side, you will cut your finisher, which is the remaining balance of the piece you cut for your starter.

LUXURY VINYL FLOORING

6. At this point, it is imperative that you tightly pull the first four rows together and secure them by applying a releasable tape. The tape needs to be applied every 12"– 18" across the width of the four planks, pulling each of the pieces tightly together. This is to create a bridging effect. Except for taping, you will repeat steps 4-6 across the rest of the room (cut your starters and the balance will be used for your finishers in a stair step pattern).
7. For the final and most important step of the Glue-Free installation, each piece along the perimeter (both short and long) needs to be lifted and silicone adhesive needs to be applied to the subfloor. After laying the piece down snugly next to the other pieces, press down on the piece to ensure bonding to the subfloor. After the silicone is set, remove the tape to complete the installation.
8. Protect your installed Luxury Vinyl Flooring from exposure to extreme or direct sunlight. Prolonged, direct sunlight will heat your floor, forcing it to expand. When the floor temperature drops after the sun passes, your floor will shrink – causing the floor to pull apart, especially in areas where the flooring is pinned or where heavy objects are on the floor. In areas where large windows or sliding doors are present, shades are needed to protect your floor from sunlight during all seasons.

GLUE-FREE REPAIRS

For Full Piece Removal:

1. Slip the blade of a utility knife between two pieces and apply pressure to the piece you wish to repair.
2. Remove and reinstall.

For Perimeter Piece Removal:

1. Use the same method of removal as listed above. Apply greater pressure when removing damaged piece.
2. Scrape silicone off of the subfloor.
3. Reinstall by applying silicone to the subfloor and applying pressure to the replacement piece as outlined in the Glue-Free Installation instructions above.