

LVT CLICK WITH ACOUSTIC BACKING INSTALLATION GUIDELINES



BEFORE YOU BEGIN



ACCLIMATE YOUR LVT FLOORING FOR A MINIMUM OF 24 HOURS, maintaining a service temperature between 60°F to 85°F (15°C to 29°C).

OVERAGE

Calculate your room size and plan an extra 10% of flooring for cutting waste. Additional flooring may be needed for more intricate patterns.

RECEIVING & INSPECTION OF PRODUCT

All shipments must be inspected upon delivery to ensure proper color, series, size, and run/lot numbers match between boxes.

Installing flooring from different lot numbers can result in differences in shading, texture, gloss finish, and coloring.

Inspect each individual plank one by one before installation. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation; defects greater than 1" (1cm) are considered identifiable and should be culled.

Installation of material signifies acceptance of the product "as is".

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

It is also important to follow all installation instructions carefully to ensure that you do not void any limited manufacturer's warranties. For specific questions regarding warranties and installation, reach out to your local sales representative.

GENERAL PRODUCT FEATURES

UNDERLAYMENT

This product has a pre-attached underlayment; using an additional underlayment will void the warranty and can cause excess deflection which will damage the locking joints. There is no laboratory testing data for sound reduction that supports use of additional acoustic underlayment to further reduce impact sound, or sound transmission through the flooring.

WATER RESISTANCE

The flooring planks will not be damaged by exposure to water. However, the finished floor is not a complete waterproof installation and is not to be used as a moisture barrier. This product is also not to be installed in areas that have a risk of excess water exposure or flooding such as commercial showers, saunas, pools, or outdoor areas, or areas that have known moisture issues. Always remember to clear standing water on the flooring as soon as possible. Water left unattended under the flooring with anything organic on the substrate can create a situation where mold and bacteria can be promoted. Any damage to the flooring or the surrounding structure(s) from mold is not covered under the product warranty. Use of a 100% silicone sealant around the perimeter can aid in keeping surface water from migrating under the flooring around the perimeter.

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HEAT & UV RESISTANCE

This product is for interior use only. Product and accessories must be acclimated, installed, and maintained per environmental conditions outlined in this guideline.

Maintaining a distance from heat sources such as fireplaces, wood stoves, furnaces, etc. of at least 18" will ensure a stable installation and limit damage to the flooring. Excessively low or high temperatures may cause this product to expand or contract and lead to visual defects of the floor that will not be warranted. Use window coverings or UV rated films to limit sun exposure during peak sunlight times. This will help create a more stable temperature and prevent flooring from thermal degradation.

SCRATCH RESISTANCE

Always use oversized (minimum 2" diameter) hard plastic or nylon floor protectors for heavy objects or objects with high point loads (high PSI at bottom of leg/support). Castor chairs should have a minimum of 2" diameter wheels.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

ROOM TEMPERATURE & ACCLIMATION

Acclimate both flooring and flooring accessories in the installation area for a minimum of 24 hours, maintaining a service temperature between 60°F to 85°F (15°C to 29°C). This service temperature must also be maintained both during and after installation to ensure acceptable performance.

If material has been stored in extreme temperatures (under 50°F [10°C] or over 100°F [40°C]) before installation, check material before installation to ensure no environmental damage has occurred.

PREPARING YOUR SUBSTRATE

Ensure that your subfloor follows the substrate guidelines listed below.

Thoroughly clean the subfloor before proceeding with any installation.

SUBSTRATES

All subfloors/substrates shall be structurally sound, clean, and free of any surface contaminant, regardless of type, and shall be dry, flat, and smooth prior to installation. The substrate flatness requirement for all Solid Plastic Composite flooring is an F32 rating (3/16" in 10 linear feet, or 1/8" in 6 linear feet when measured). If necessary, flatness should be achieved by mechanical grinding or sanding, or use of a cementitious leveling compound.

Contact your sales representative if you have a substrate/subfloor that is not listed below. Do not install flooring over carpet or any other type of soft surface flooring.

WOOD

All wood substrates should be prepared according to the latest revision of ASTM F1482 Installation and Preparation of Panel-Type Underlayments to Receive Resilient Flooring. Acceptable wood panels are:

- APA registered underlayment or APA Exterior grade plywood with sanded face exterior grade with minimum rating of B-C plugged face.

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- APA Rated OSB, properly installed with the face fully sanded to ensure seams are even and the face is free of ridges.

Wood panel subfloor construction should be a minimum of 1" in total thickness. Wood panels designed as suitable underlayment over unacceptable substrates shall be at a minimum 1/4" in thickness, dimensionally stable, fully sanded and have a written manufacturer's warranty and installation instructions. Wood panels shall be installed according to manufacturer's instructions regarding stapling pattern, sanding and filling of joints, and acclimation to installed environment.

CONCRETE

Concrete substrates shall be in compliance with the latest version of ASTM F710, Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring and ACI 302.1R-15, Guide to Concrete Floor Construction.

All concrete substrates, regardless of grade or age of slab, must be properly tested for moisture per ASTM F2170 or ASTM F1869. Follow the ASTM test method and the instructions of the manufacture of the test equipment. Relative humidity (RH) values should be maximum 85% or MVER 6 lbs./1,000 sq ft/24 hrs.

A Concrete Alkalinity / pH Test shall be conducted in accordance with ASTM F710; the level of pH in the substrate should be ≥ 7 and ≤ 10 .

LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE

Gypsum and lightweight cellular concrete substrates shall conform to ASTM F2419 or F2471, and be clean, dry, flat, and smooth as stated above. If leveling is necessary, use leveling compounds compatible with the gypsum or lightweight concrete subfloor. Moisture testing should be conducted according to ASTM F2419 or F2471.

HARDWOOD/ENGINEERED WOOD

For existing hardwood or engineered wood floor surfaces, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation and ensure the surface is flat. Existing wood floors should be dry and well-ventilated under the flooring. Do not install over glue-down hardwood or engineered hardwood already installed over concrete substrates.

RESILIENT FLOORING

Resilient flooring must be single layer only and well bonded to the substrate with no bubbles or open seams. The resilient floor must not have a cushion back or be installed with a loose-laid or perimeter bond method. Adhesive residue shall be properly prepared by hand scraping, mechanical scraping (non-cutback residue ONLY), or properly covered using a Portland based patching compound that is properly mixed with the manufacturer's recommended latex/acrylic additive. Chemical adhesive removers shall not be used. Consult the RFCI Recommended Practice for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings before installation to ensure proper handling and/or removal techniques.

PORCELAIN AND CERAMIC TILE

Most tile (ceramic, porcelain, etc.) surfaces are acceptable for use as a substrate if they are smooth, flat, and have grout joints that are less than 1/4" without leveling. Unlevel floors or floors with grout joints wider than 1/4" should be prepared by grinding any high areas if the result does not affect the structural integrity of the tile as a

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substrate and/or using a suitable Portland-based leveling compound per the manufacturer's recommendations to fill in any low areas.

IN-FLOOR RADIANT HEAT

Flooring can be installed over most radiant heat systems. Radiant heat systems must have a minimum of 1/2" (12mm) separation from the product and be fully embedded in a cementitious leveling compound. Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system. Lower temperature of substrate to a maximum of 70°F (21°C) 24 hours before installation.

Once the LVT flooring installation has been completed, the heating system can be turned on and increased gradually until the normal service temperature is attained. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F (29°C) and use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED

- Personal Protective Equipment including, but not limited to, knee pads, safety glasses and dust mask
- Shop vacuum with proper bag and filtration
- Utility knife with additional blades
- Vinyl plank cutter (optional)
- Measuring tape
- Carpenter's or speed square
- Quarter-inch spacers
- Level
- Chalk line reel
- White rubber (or non-marring type) mallet
- Jig saw, or small circular saw (if needed for non-linear cuts)
- Moldings and transition strips as required for the installation

Do not use tapping blocks or other types of laminate or hardwood flooring tools as these may cause damage to the LVT locking mechanism if improperly used.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

LAYOUT/DIRECTION

Plank flooring looks best when the direction and layout is balanced in the room, taking into consideration both cuts required and transitions to other floor types. In narrow spaces, such as hallways, it is recommended to install the floor parallel to the length of the longest wall. This Solid Plastic Composite planking is best when the longer length of the planks is installed parallel to the main light direction.

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Once you determine the direction that you would like to install your planks, please note that installation will happen from the starter wall, or the wall that runs parallel to the long side of your plank direction, installing your planks from left to right. Determine the center of the room and measure from the center line to the starting wall to determine if the first row should be cut. Divide this measurement by the width of the planks and if the board width of the first / last row is less than half of the plank width, adjust the width of the first row to be installed.

For the best result, make sure to always mix planks from several cartons at a time to help balance the pattern and colors. It is also good practice to layout your pattern before proceeding with installation.

Always be sure to leave a 1/4" (6 mm) expansion gap at walls and between fixtures, such as pipes and pillars, stairs, etc. Use spacers along the starting walls to maintain this expansion gap.

EXPANSION AND FLOOR MOVEMENT

Do not install cabinets, islands, or fixed objects on top of the flooring; flooring should be butted to these with proper expansion spacing.

Include proper expansion spacing of 1/4" (6 mm) where flooring abuts all vertical surfaces, including walls, columns, jambs, etc. These gaps will be covered with trim moldings after the floor is installed. Tip: When installing around pipes, drill the holes 1/2" (12 mm) larger than the diameter of the pipes.

Installation areas greater than 65 lineal feet (4200 sq ft.) should have a 1/2" expansion space around the perimeter. For floor surfaces exceeding 6400 square feet (600 sq m) and/or lengths exceeding 80 linear ft (25 m), use expansion moldings at openings less than 6 feet and increase expansion gaps to 1/2" (12mm).

Remove any spacers used around the perimeter once the floor is in place and cover gaps with a base trim. Gaps around the perimeter should be filled with caulking if they are in or adjacent to a wet area, entry, or exit to an exterior space.

CHECKING THE INTERLOCK

Check all locking mechanisms for debris or cracks before installing planks. Failure to do so can result in a loose joint and will compromise the integrity of the installation.

Ensure joints are at least 8" apart and all pieces are no less than 12" in length.

ALERT: Failure to properly align the end joint and attempting to force planks together while they are out of alignment will result in permanent damage to the end joint.

NOTE: If you notice both planks are not at the same height or are not locked together well, please follow the disassembling instructions below. Disassemble and check if any debris is stuck inside the lock is obstructing the planks from properly engaging. Before continuing ensure the joint has not sustained any damage and replace any damaged planks.

DISASSEMBLING

To disassemble the flooring, start by lifting the whole row of planks delicately at an angle and lay flat once disconnected. Do not disturb the end joints as this can crack and damage the core material. To separate the plank end-joints, slide them

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apart gently while keeping the planks flat on the substrate. If planks do not separate easily gently tap the joint together with the rubber mallet to reseal the joint and then slide apart as above.

CUTTING

To cut the plank: Use a score and snap method by using a utility knife and ruler. With the top side of the plank facing up, use the utility knife to score the plank, using the ruler as a straight edge guide. The knife will not go through the surface but will make a deep cut. It may be necessary to cut along the same line several times to achieve a deep enough cut. Then, while holding one side of the plank down with one hand, lift the plank from the other side of the cut using your other hand. Lift close to the cut line so that bending does not occur. The plank will split along the cut line. For ease of installation, cuts may be made using a laminate or vinyl flooring cutter.

To cut and lay the last row: Position a loose board exactly on top of the last row installed. Place another board on top, with the tongue side touching the wall. Draw a line along the edge of this board, to mark the first board. Cut along the edge of this board to mark the first board. Cut along this line to obtain the required width. Insert this cut board against the wall. The last row should be no less than half of the plank's actual width. The spacers can then be removed.

Undercut all door jambs leaving 1/64" space above the flooring surface.

Do not fasten wall moldings and/or transition strips to the planks or directly through flooring to the subfloor.

FLOOR TRANSITIONS , MOLDING AND STAIR TRIM

When transitioning from the LVT plank to a different floor type, or one with a different height, various trims can be used to ensure a smooth transition between flooring types. Care must be taken not to create a trip hazard with any transition, molding, or trim. Transitions between floors can be achieved by use of t-molds, reducers, and thresholds which all snap into a metal track. The metal tracks must be installed at minimum 1/8" - 1/4" from the adjacent floors to allow proper spacing for the desired molding to fit in.

Matching quarter rounds are also available to be used as perimeter trim and can be nailed to the wall (not the floor) using finish nails. Other base moldings can be used as desired but should never be pressed against a floating floor. All base molding needs to have at minimum a 1/32" - 1/16" gap at the change of plane. In areas where water may be prevalent, this gap between the floor and base molding can be filled with a flexible caulking to prevent water from seeping in around the perimeter of the application at the base.

When installing stair treads, stair nosing, stair caps and risers, these types of accessories can be glued directly to the substrate using construction adhesives and no metal tracks are necessary.

EXTRA MATERIAL

It is best practice to keep any extra full-size pieces of material for future use or replacement. Store in a dry place, protected from dust and debris, away from the sun and extreme temperatures. Follow the 24-hour acclimation period before use.