

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

For Rigid Core Luxury Vinyl Plank and Tile (with pad) Flooring

GENERAL INFORMATION

OBTAIN A COPY OF THE PRODUCT WARRANTY AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM THE PRODUCT WEBSITE, YOUR RETAILER, OR FROM WHOM YOU PURCHASED THE FLOORING.

Below are guidelines for installing Rigid Core Luxury Vinyl Tile Flooring. Please follow these instructions carefully to assure a successful installation of this product.

Thoroughly inspect all material. Installed flooring found to be defective will not be covered by warranty nor labor costs associated with removal & reinstallation.

All moisture and temperature tests must be performed and recorded prior to installation with results not to exceed requirements.

This product should be stored at the jobsite free from all the outside elements. This product should be acclimated to the conditioned temperature inside and must be kept at 65 - 70 degrees F before, during, and after the installation for at least 48 hours. The jobsite must be cleaned and prepared prior to starting the installation. All patch work and preparation to the subfloor must be done and allowed to dry prior to starting the installation.

The subfloor must be FLAT, SECURE, and DRY. Subfloors with high moisture trapped underneath the flooring can create pressure at the seams resulting in cupping. All subfloors should be flat to within 3/16" in 10'.

Check cartons and leave one or two box labels with the end user. If a different batch or lot number, to minimize shade variation mix product from several boxes. If the product looks incorrect stop the installation immediately and call your local retailer.

DO NOT: Do not install this product over residual asphalt-type (cut back) adhesive. Cover with underlayment plywood to avoid bleeding through.

DO NOT: Do not install product with visible defect. This product is manufactured to high quality inspection standards but boxes can have occasional defective product contained inside. If you notice excessive defect stop the installation immediately and call your local retailer. The manufacturer is not responsible for visually defective material installed.

PRE-INSTALLATION SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Proper subfloor preparation and suitable underlayment installation are essential for a trouble-free job. For installation on top of concrete subfloors we strongly recommend a moisture barrier to protect the planks from moisture and vapor pressure under the flooring. 6mil polyfilm is a suitable moisture barrier. Sounds produced between the subfloor and moisture barrier are considered a subfloor issue and are not covered under the product warranty. Concrete subfloors must be tested and confirmed dry prior to installation. Uneven or rough subfloor surfaces will show through (or telegraph) to the surface of this product resulting in an unsightly surface and can make high spots more susceptible to excessive wear. Correct the subfloor imperfections before you begin installing this product. All subfloors should de fatto within 3/16" in 10'.

WOOD SUBFLOORS - Wood subfloors must be rigid and suspended at least 18" above the ground with adequate cross ventilation. Crawl space ground must be covered with suitable vapor barrier. Do not install this product over a wood subfloor which is directly on top of a concrete substrate or sleeper system. If an existing wood subfloor is damaged or not of underlayment grade one must be put in place prior to beginning the installation of this product. The approved underlayment should provide a smooth, dry, and even surface for this product.

Wood underlayment panels should be dimensionally stable. Wood underlayment panels should be smooth and fully sanded so the graining or texturing will not show through. Wood underlayment panels should be resistant to both static and impact indentation.

Wood underlayment panels should be free from any surface components that may cause staining such as plastic fillers, marking inks, sealers, etc. Wood panels should be uniform density, porosity and thickness.

Underlayment panels should be installed with the face grain running across the joists. Panels should be lightly butted against each other, not forced tight. End joints of the panels should be offset at least 16". Start the installation in one corner and work diagonally across the floor. Use only non-staining fasteners. Do not use common steel, cement coated or some nails that are resin/rosin coated. It is not recommended to glue and screw down underlayment panels as some solvent based adhesives are known to stain vinyl flooring coverings. Fasteners should be staggered and no more than 4" apart around the perimeter and no more than 3/8" from the edges (6" apart across the middle of the panel). Fasteners must set flush or slightly below the surface of the underlayment. Any unevenness must be sanded level. Gaps, hammer indentations, and all other surface irregularities must be patched with a non-shrinking, water resistant Portland cementitious based patching underlayment compound. Do not use gypsum-based patches & leveling compounds.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS - Over concrete subfloors, we strongly recommend the use of a moisture barrier as mentioned above.

The use of a simple vapor barrier helps prevent a host of issues that can exist over time which can affect the integrity of the installation. Prepare concrete subfloors according to ASTM F710 Standard Practice for Preparation of Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring. Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth and free from dust, dirt, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, asphalt sealing compounds and other extraneous materials. The surface must be hard and dense and free from powder of flaking. New concrete slabs must be allowed to dry and completely prior to beginning the installation of this product, which can take at least 6 weeks. Curing agents, surface hardeners and other additives may cause adhesive bond failure in the case adhesives are used. All concrete subfloors must be checked for moisture and alkalinity before installing this product. Do not install over any subfloor with moisture emissions higher than 5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. per 24 hours per a calcium chloride test, or 85% RH per ASTM 2170. We are not responsible for curling or mildew caused by site conditions. In addition, such excessive moisture levels can cause the ends and/or sides of the product to lift/flare due to the vapor pressure from underneath.

Such damage from excessive moisture levels are not covered by the product warranty. All sources of subfloor moisture should be remedied prior to installation. As in wood subfloor systems, all holes, grooves, expansion joints, and other depressions must be filled with a latex underlayment compound and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.

EXISTING RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING - WARNING: Do not sand, dry scrape, bead blast or mechanically pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing or lining felt. These products may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable.

Using the above non-recommended procedures on asbestos containing material can create asbestos dust. The inhalation of asbestos dust may cause cancer or other serious bodily harm. Ceramic tile unevenness should be made smooth by applying an overlay such as cementitious patching or leveling compound.

The final responsibility lies with the installer for approving the condition of the subfloor and its impact on the final look of this product.

FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION

For Floating installation, the planks are not secured to the subfloor. Always undercut wood door jambs. Avoid "pinch points" on any fixed home materials with a 1/2" expansion space. Installing Cabinets on top (Residential only): When cabinets are installed on top of Rigid Core Flooring the subfloor must be perfectly flat and secure. If cabinets are to be secured one cannot do so using nails or screws through the flooring product. Cabinets are to be secured to the wall but not through the flooring. Expansion space is required around pipes and other fixed objects.

LAYOUT - It is important to balance the layout of the plank format. Proper planning and layout will prevent narrow plank widths at walls. Determine layout to prevent having less than half a plank width or very short pieces.

As with all plank products, lay the long dimension of the plank parallel to the long dimension of the work area.

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, it may be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so a clean, solid edge is toward the wall.

Position the first plank so that both the head and side seam groove are exposed.

NOTE: The groove is the longer side of the locking profile and is approximately 1/4".

Install the second plank in the row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first plank. Be careful not to bend the corner of the plank. It is important to know that all structures expand and contract as well as hardwood and laminate product, for this reason it is recommended to maintain an expansion gap of approximately 1/4" from the wall. For longer runs, a larger expansion space is required. Then cut a plank to length to start the second row. Stagger the end seam at least 6" to 8" from the first plank. Also avoid "stair stepping" end joints of adjacent boards as well as "H" configurations.

Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. This is best done with a low angle of the plank.

Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short end tongue tightly into the previously installed plank end 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, with a low angle, slide the long tongue into the groove of the adjoining plank. Finesse and slight pressure is required to seat the tongue into the groove. You will feel the tongue lock into the groove. Some may also choose to engage several end tongues of planks in the same row before engaging the side profile.

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 "squareness" and straightness often.

Cut the last plank in the first row to fit approximately 1/2" short of the end wall. Often times the remainder of this plank may be used to start the next row.

Continue installing planks, being certain to maintain a random appearance and offset end seams by at least 6" to 8". Maintain a 1/4" expansion space at all fixed vertical surfaces. Check to be certain all planks are fully engaged, if slight gapping is noticed, the gap can be tapped closed by using a scrape of flooring and a tapping block.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Preventative Maintenance calls for clean protective mats in front of any doors leading to the outside. This helps limit the amount of sand and grit from getting on to your vinyl floors. Gritty sand is any floor coverings worst enemy. Install proper floor protectors of furniture legs used on vinyl flooring. Protectors will allow chairs to move easily over the floor without scuffing or scratching. Clean the protectors on a regular basis to remove any grit that may have become embedded. Do not wax the bottom of furniture legs. To keep you floor looking it's best, dust mop or vacuum your floor frequently. Do not use household dust treatment chemical of any kind as this may cause the floor to become slick or dull the finish. Simply sweep the floor as needed. Do not pour pails of water on your floor to clean or use excessive water. This can damage your subfloor. Do not allow pets with unclipped nails to walk on the vinyl floor. It could cause severe scratching to the surface.

Regular Maintenance calls for food spills to be cleaned up as quickly as possible. Avoid acidic or abrasive all-purpose cleaners, powdered cleaners, oil soaps, dish washing detergents, and dusting products. Shoe marks and scuffs can be removed by spot cleaning with a non-abrasive all purpose cleaner and a non-abrasive scrubbing pad. Regular household dirt can be cleaned by damp cleaning with warm soapy water. Always seep and vacuum your vinyl floor before cleaning. Do not wax the surface of this product.

If accidental deep scratches occur then it might be necessary to replace individual planks or tiles. Always retain some extra product for this instance. If the damaged plank is along the perimeter of the room, the easiest technique is to just disconnect the planks until the damaged plank is removed.

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

- Using a circular saw and or a multi-tool saw, cut out and remove the center of the damaged piece, leaving approximately a 1" strip attached to the surrounding material.
- Carefully cut back from the corners of the plank or tile to the inside edge.
- Remove the edges by wiggling the cut plank out from the tongue and groove of the surrounding pieces.
- Prepare the replacement plan, by removing the lein e o grandmoe profesunuungfiend the end of the plank being careful not to damage the decorative surface. Also remove the bottom of the groove on the short end side by cutting on an angle. Once the plank is prepared install the groove into the tongue to test the fit.
- Position the replacement piece by engaging the groove into the tongue of the adjoining material. Hinge the prepared replacement plank into position.
- Slightly lift the prepared side of the plank and apply a thin application of seam sealer onto the three exposed seams and carefully position the plank into place, wipe any excess from the surface.
- Use a hand roller to assist in aligning the edges into position.
- Weight down the replaced plank for at least 15 minutes until the sealer secures the material.

CAUTION AND MISCELLANEOUS

Heavy Furniture should be equipped with suitable non-staining, wide-bearing casters or protectors. Non-staining felt protectors for table and chair legs to help prevent scratching.

Close your curtains or blinds where extreme sunlight hits the floor. A combination of heat and sunlight can cause fading, discoloration. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. During peak sunlight hours, the use of blinds or draped is recommended.

OBTAIN A COPY OF THE PRODUCT WARRANTY FROM YOUR RETAILER OR FROM WHOM YOU PURCHASED THE FLOORING.