GUIDELINES FOR LVT GLUEDOWN FLOORING

1. TEST BEFORE STARTING INSTALLATION

Note: All substrates to receive moisture sensitive floor covering must be tested for moisture. For larger projects, especially with glue down flooring being removed, compromised, suspect or damaged subfloors, we strongly recommend you consult with Account Manager/Technical Consultant to perform site visit and survey to ensure the proper and recommended floor preparation, adhesive, etc products and techniques are used for your project.

CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

All concrete substrates should be tested for IRH (Internal Relative Humidity) according to ASTM F 2170. Calcium Chloride tests may be conducted in addition to IRH and must be performed per the latest edition of ASTM F 1869.

- Substrates shall be smooth, structurally sound, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, old adhesive residue, curing and hardening/ curing compounds, sealers and other foreign material that might prevent adhesive bond.
- Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 1/8" in 6 feet or 3/16” in 10 feet.
- F-Number System: Overall values of FF 36/ FL 20 may be appropriate for resilient floor coverings.
- Moisture Vapor Emission Rate (MVER) – Conduct either in-situ RH test (ASTM F-2170) or CaCl MVER test method (ASTM F1869) Refer to the adhesive information for the acceptable moisture limits.
- Use cementitious patching and leveling compounds that meet or exceed maximum moisture level and pH requirements. Use of gypsum-based patching and/or leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3,000 psi are acceptable.
- Perform Bond testing to determine compatibility of adhesive to the substrate. A primer can be utilized to promote adhesion.
- Porosity – water drop test will help determine porosity – if drop remains on the surface after 1-2 mins concrete should be considered non-porous.
- Working and open times of adhesives may vary based on job conditions, substrate, temperature, and humidity.
- Areas to receive flooring should be adequately lit during all phases of the installation process.
- It is recommended that resilient floor covering installation shall not begin until all other trades have completed.

TEMPERATURE - AMBIENT

Controlled environments are critical. Fully functional HVAC systems are the best way to ensure temperature and humidity control.

- **DO NOT** install resilient flooring products until the work area can be temperature controlled. The permanent HVAC system turned on and set to a minimum of 65°F (20°C) or a maximum of 85°F, for a minimum of 7 days prior

to, during, and after installation. Once the installation is complete the temperature should not exceed 85°F.

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PH - Concrete floors must be tested per the latest edition of ASTM F 710.

- PH reading must not exceed 10.0.
- Readings below 7.0 and in excess of 10.0 affect resilient flooring and adhesives negatively.
- Rinsing the surface with clear water may lower alkalinity. “DAMP MOP”

2. MATERIAL STORAGE AND HANDLING

* Flooring material and adhesive must be acclimated to the installation area for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
* Store cartons of tile or plank products flat and squarely on top of one another. Tile or plank products should be stacked no more than 6 high and allow for air flow around stacks when un-palletized. Preferably, locate material in the “center” of the installation area (i.e., away from vents, direct sunlight, etc.) Storing cartons in direct sunlight may affect proper acclimation by inducing thermal expansion/contraction.
*. When palletizing on a jobsite vinyl plank or tiles need to be stacked 2 rows high side by side with no airspace between then quarter turned for 2 rows side by side, not to exceed 12 boxes high. A 5/8” or thicker plywood must also be placed on the pallet first.
*. Do not stack pallet’s 2 high unless utilizing a 1” thick plywood in between pallets.

3. SUBSTRATES

Note: All substrates to receive resilient flooring shall be dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound. They shall be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening/parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation/laitance, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials that might prevent the adhesive from bonding.

WOOD SUBSTRATES

Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and in compliance with local building codes.

- Double-Layered APA rated plywood subfloors should be a minimum 1" total thickness, with at least 18" well-ventilated air space beneath.
- Chip board, OSB, particleboard, construction grade plywood are generally not acceptable substrates – add a layer of APA underlayment grade plywood that is dimensionally stable, non-staining, with a smooth fully sanded face.
- Underlayment panels can only correct minor deficiencies in the sub-floor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring. Wood subfloors should be flat – 3/16” in 10’ or 1/8” in 6’.
- Insulate and protect crawl spaces with a vapor barrier covering the ground.
- **DO NOT** install over sleeper construction subfloors or wood subfloors applied directly over concrete.

- Underlayment panels can only correct minor deficiencies in the sub-floor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring.
- Any failures in the performance of the underlayment panel rest with the panel manufacturer and not with our company
- It is recommended that your chosen APA underlayment grade panels be designed for installation under resilient flooring and carry a written warranty covering replacement of the entire flooring system.
- LVT flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood.
- The materials used to treat the plywood may cause problems with adhesive bonding. An additional layer of APA rated 1/4" thick underlayment should be installed.
- Always follow the underlayment manufacturer's installation instruction.

STRIP – PLANK WOOD FLOORING

Due to expansion/contraction of individual boards during seasonal changes, we recommend 1/4" or thicker APA rated underlayment panels be installed over these types of subfloors.

CONCRETE

New or existing concrete subfloors must meet the guidelines of the latest edition of ACI 302 and ASTM F 710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring".

- On or below-grade slabs must have an effective vapor retarder directly under the slab.
- Wet curing 7 days is the preferred method for curing new concrete.
- Curing compounds **(DO NOT USE)**. If present, they can interfere with the bond of the adhesive to the concrete. Seek assistance from a substrate manufacturer if curing agents are detected.
- Remove curing compounds 28 days after placement, so concrete can begin drying.
- Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 1/8" in 6 feet or 3/16" in 10 feet.
- F-Number System: Overall values of FF 36/ FL 20 may be appropriate for resilient floor coverings.

Note: Perform Bond testing to determine compatibility of adhesive to the substrate. a primer can be utilized to promote adhesion. Expansion joints in concrete are designed to allow for the expansion and contraction of the concrete. Resilient flooring products should never be installed over expansion joints. Expansion joint covers designed for use with resilient flooring should be used. Control joints (saw cuts) may be patched and covered with resilient once the concrete is thoroughly cured, dry and acclimated.

LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE

All recommendations and guarantees as to the suitability and performance of lightweight concrete under resilient flooring are the responsibility of the lightweight concrete manufacturer. The installer of the lightweight product may be required to be authorized

or certified by the manufacturer. Correct on-site mixing ratios and properly functioning pumping equipment are critical. To ensure proper mixture, slump testing is recommended.

- Lightweight aggregate concretes having densities greater than 90 lbs. per cubic foot may be acceptable under resilient flooring.
- Concrete slabs with heavy static and/or dynamic loads should be designed with higher strengths and densities to support such loads.
- Surface must be permanently dry, clean, and smooth, free of all dust, and structurally sound.
- Perform Bond testing to determine compatibility of adhesive to the substrate. A primer can be utilized to promote adhesion.

Radiant heated substrates must not exceed 85°F (29°C) surface temperature.

- Seven days prior to installing resilient products over newly constructed radiant heated systems, make sure the radiant system has been on and operating at maximum temperature to reduce residual moisture within the concrete.
- Three days prior to installation lower the temperature to 65°F. 24 hours after installation, gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5°F to avoid overheating.
- After continuous operation of the radiant system, ensure the surface of the floor does not exceed 85°F (29°C)
- Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING

- Must be single layered, non-cushion backed, fully adhered, and smooth.
- Show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.
- Waxes, polishes, grease, grime, and oil must be removed.
- Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents, and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced.
- Embossing leveler recommended to aid in proper bonding and to prevent telegraphing.
- Do not install over rubber-based substrates.

NOTE: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING IF THE EXISTING FLOORING IS SUITABLE TO BE INSTALLED OVER TOP OF WITH RESILIENT, RESTS SOLELY WITH INSTALLER/FLOORING CONTRACTOR ON SITE. IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS TO SUITABILITY, THE EXISTING FLOORING SHOULD BE REMOVED, OR AN ACCEPTABLE UNDERLAYMENT INSTALLED OVER IT. INSTALLATIONS OVER EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING MAY BE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INDENTATION.

Quarry Tile, Terrazzo, Ceramic Tile, Poured Floors (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless)

- Must be totally cured and well bonded to the concrete.
- Must be free of any residual solvents and petroleum derivatives.
- Waxes, polishes, grease, grime, and oil must be removed.
- Show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.
- Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents, and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced.
- Fill any low spots, holes, chips, and seams that may telegraph through the new flooring.
- Grind any highly polished or irregular/smooth surfaces. Quarry tile or Ceramic tile grout joints and textured surfaces must be filled with an embossing leveler or substrate manufacturer approved material.

4. INSTALLING RESILIENT PLANK

General

- Ensure that moisture tests have been conducted and that the results do not exceed the acceptable moisture limit for the adhesive used.
- PH of concrete sub-floor needs to be between 5&10.
- The permanent HVAC system is turned on and set to a minimum of 65°F (20°C) or a maximum of 85°F, for a minimum of 72 hours prior to, during and after installation. After the installation, the maximum temperature should not exceed 85°F.
- Do not stack more than 5 cartons high.
- Flooring material and adhesive must be acclimated to the installation area for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
- Use appropriate trowel size regarding substrate porosity.
- Material should always be visually inspected prior to installation. Any material installed with visual defects will not be considered a legitimate claim as it pertains to labor cost.
- Install tiles running in same direction.
- Ensure that all recommendations for sub-floor and jobsite conditions are met prior to beginning the installation. Directional designs are optional, however, once the installation is started, you have accepted those conditions.

LAYOUT AND INSTALLATION GENERAL RULES

- tile and plank - Install using conventional tile and plank installation techniques. Plank products should have a minimum of 8 – 12" seam stagger.
- Carefully determine where to begin tile or plank installation.
- It is customary to center rooms and hallways, so borders are not less than half a tile or plank.
- Working out of multiple boxes at a time is recommended.
- In hallways and small spaces, it may be simpler to work lengthwise from one

end using a center reference line as a guide.
- Make sure cut edges are always against the wall.
- To properly cut LVT/LVP products score the top side of the material with a utility knife. Bend the product and finish the cut through the backside. This will ensure the cleanest cut. It may be necessary to use a heat gun to cut around vertical obstructions. Allow the heated LVT/LVP to return to room temperature before installation.
- Cutting the product into a fine point may lead to delamination. Use an ethyl cyanoacrylate based super glue to help fuse the LVT/LVP point together. Be sure to clean all glue from the top surface immediately. Alcohol based super glues may cause vinyl to swell.
- For random width plank begin installation with the widest plank first.

NOTE: Recommended to use floor protection after installation. **DO NOT** use a plastic adhesive-based protection system.

INSTALLATION FOR VINYL PLANKS

Layout of the Room

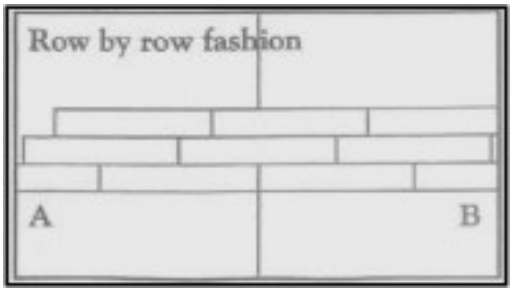
1. Find the center point of the room. Strike a line.
2. Obtain a true 90’ angle by using a carpenter’s square.
3. Strike a second line which will divide the room into four equal parts.
4. Measure the distance from the center to the wall, parallel to the direction of the plank.
5. Divide the measurement by the width of the plank. If less than half remains as the border plank, adjust the point to compensate. This will give a larger border along the wall and reduce the chance of having to cut a small sliver of flooring to place along the wall.

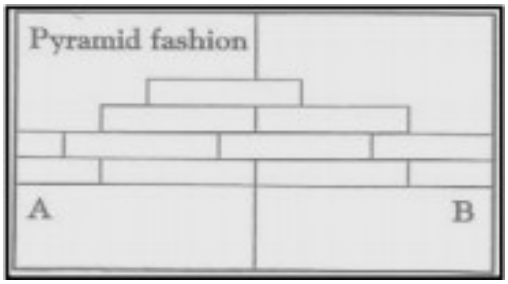
Layout of the Plank

a. Carefully place the first piece of plank at the junction of the chalk lines.

b. Continue to lay the plank, making sure each plank flush against the chalk line and tight against the adjoining

c. Make sure the plank is well seated into the adhesive paying special attention to the edges. Lay row by row,





Fitting the Border

a. Measure the distance from the last plank in the row to the wall.

b. Mark the plank and cut it against the mark.

c. Lay the plank in place, making sure that the cut edge is against the wall.

Fitting Around Irregular Objects

a. Make a pattern out of heavy paper to fit around pipes and other irregularities.

b. Place the pattern on the plank, trace cutting along the trace lines.

IMPORTANT: All flooring must be rolled with a minimum 100-lb roller after installation. Use a hand roller in areas not reached with a 100-lb. roller.

Note: Do not use tape to secure floor protection during construction or renovation. Use ram board or like protect the floor.

Care & Maintenance

Immediately following installation During the first 48 hours after installation:

- Keep foot traffic to a minimum (recommended).
- Sweep the floor to remove loose dirt.
- Use only a non-abrasive cleaner, such as Shaw Floors Hard Surface Cleaner.
- Do not use a vacuum with a rotating beater bar.
- Wait 24 hours before putting furniture on the floor (for glue down products).

Following these instructions will ensure proper curing of the product.

Use protective mats.

It is important to use a good quality entry mat to trap dirt, sand, and other substances such as oil that would otherwise be tracked onto your floor. These mats will also help protect your flooring from premature wear. Mats are also suggested at heavy pivot locations, such as in front of your kitchen sink or stove. If mats are placed directly on top of the resilient floors, use mats without latex or rubber backings to avoid possible discoloration.

Use chair and appliance pads to protect your vinyl floor.

Make sure furniture legs have large surface, non-staining floor protectors. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat guides that are in full contact with the floor. Heavy furniture or appliances that are not moved often should be equipped with flat, non-staining composition furniture casters or cups of appropriate size.

Follow a simple maintenance plan.

The type and frequency of foot traffic on your luxury vinyl floor will determine the frequency of maintenance needed. Regular attention to a simple maintenance program should include:

- Remove dirt and grit by sweeping or dust mopping daily.
- Wipe up spills as quickly as possible.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time.

Follow these simple cleaning tips to help keep your flooring looking great:

Sweep your floors regularly to remove loose dirt and grit.

Wipe up any spills as soon as possible.

Clean your floors using a neutral Hard Surface Cleaner. Simply spray the cleaner on the floor and use a dry mop. For spills, use a neutral Hard Surface Cleaner and wipe clean with a dry white cloth. No rinsing necessary!

Do NOT use harsh chemicals. Do NOT use steam.

No NOT use a vacuum with a beater bar or brush.