



INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

ENGINEERED VINYL PLANK

ENGINEERED VINYL PLANK INSTALLATION

Environmental

Controlling floor temperature, room temperature and direct sunlight exposure, plays a very important part in ensuring that your floor performs as expected. Floor temperature and room temperature can be very different and you cannot assume that they are the same at all times. Direct sunlight magnified through a window will cause your floor temperature to rise significantly.

Preparation of the Floor

Sub Floor (wood or concrete) must be structurally sound, clean, smooth, dry and free from dust, dirt, wax, grease or any other foreign matter that would interfere with flatness. Remove any curing agent from concrete surface, level any high spots and fill any cracks, holes and minor depressions then sand until smooth, grinding is required for uneven surfaces. Only a well prepared subfloor can lead to a successful installation.

The moisture content of concrete subfloor should not be over 5%. Higher moisture rates will lead to all types of problems. Room temperature is about 70-75 F.

Proper acclimatization is also of importance. We recommend at least 24 hours of acclimatization so the floor substrate and the Vinyl plank are exposed to the right conditions.

Installation

Vinyl plank flooring has always been easy to install, but today's no-glue vinyl plank systems are even easier. The planks lock together at the edges to form the surface of the floor, with nothing attaching them to the subfloor, so you can lay them over any solid, flat surface. Vinyl lock planks are formed to look like wood, with a patented locking system.

1. Remove the floor trim from the perimeter of the floor with your hammer and prybar. Don't break it. Set it aside.
2. Lay the first row of this vinyl planks alongside your starting wall, locking them together at the ends. Put shims between the planks and the wall, to create a (1/4") space that will allow for floor expansion. Lay all the full planks that will fit.
3. Measure the space at the end of the first row of planks. Use your utility knife to cut a tile to size, running the knife alongside a straight-edge to score it, and then snapping the plank. Lay it with the cut side facing the wall.
4. Lay the next courses of planks alongside the first building out in courses. Start each course at the opposite end of the room as the previous course, so the ends of the planks don't line up between courses. Lock the planks together by their long edges, pushing them in at a downward angle, locking them, and then dropping them into place. Cut the ends as necessary.
5. Cover the whole floor. Cut the final course of plank length-wise, so they fit against the wall with a small gap there (about 1/4").
6. Nail the floor trim back in place, using your hammer and finish nails, to seal off the spaces by the walls. Nail the trim into the walls and not through the flooring.

Protection for Your Floor

- When moving appliances or heavy furniture, lay a plywood panel on your floor and "walk" the item across it. This protects your floor from scuffing and tears.

- Use floor protectors on furniture to reduce indentation. As a general rule of thumb, the heavier the item, the wider the floor protector needed.
- Be careful with rolling casters. They can damage the floor. Therefore, we do not recommend them. If you choose to use them, the double wheel types are the best option.
- Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. We do not recommend the use of rubber or latex backed mats (except where noted) because the chemical (antioxidant) used to keep the backing from becoming brittle can permanently stain your floor. We suggest a non-staining vinyl backed mat or a woven rug that is colorfast. Most of these products are identified “colorfast” by the manufacturer.

Maintenance

- After the flooring is completely installed, all dirt and construction debris should be removed and the floor swept clean. Immediately clean up all spills with a damp rag.
- Vacuum or sweep the floor regularly to remove all soil, dirt, and sand. Do not use vacuum with a beater brush.
- For regular maintenance sweep dirt and damp mop regularly with warm water and vinyl floor cleaner. Do not use soap based detergents or abrasive cleaners. Instead use neutral floor cleaners.
- To avoid possible permanent indentation or surface damage, proper floor protection devices must be used under the furniture and appliances. Exercise care when removing or replacing furniture or appliances.
- Always use clean equipment! Dirty equipment only will redistribute the dirt.