

Pre-installation

The installer is responsible for visually inspecting all materials under optimal lighting conditions to verify that the design, color, batch, and quality match the order and that the materials are free from defects. If any issues, such as incorrect materials or defects, are found, the store where the purchase was made should be contacted before installation begins. Complaints or claims regarding visible defects will not be accepted after the installation. Preparation and installation should only start once all other trades have completed their work.

Preparation

Vinyl flooring should be allowed to acclimatize at room temperature between 65-85°F (18-27°C) for 48 hours prior to installation. Check that all BATCH NUMBERS and ITEM NUMBERS are the same and sufficient material have been purchased to complete the job. If you intend to lay planks over existing tiles, ensure that tiles are firmly stuck down - if in doubt remove them. Remove any residual of wax or other coatings from well-bonded, smooth surface floors. All porous surfaces such as cement and plywood should be sealed with a suitable primer. The subfloor must be solid, hard, flat, level, smooth, dry, clean, and free of dust, with preparation tailored to the specific type of subfloor.

Required Tools for Installation:

- Tape Measure
- Utility Knife
- Protective Eye-wear
- Marker & Pencil
- Trowel
- Floor Roller
- Floor Patch/Leveling Compound (optional)
- Floor Primer (optional)
- Carpenters Square
- LVT Cutter
- Gloves
- Putty Knife
- Level

Suitable Substrates

Loose Lay Vinyl Flooring can be installed over a variety of floor types. All carpet and padding must be removed. Ensure the surface is clean, dry, structurally sound, and flat within 3/16" over a 10-foot radius or 1/8" over a 6-foot radius. The underlying floors must be rigid, as excessive deflection can lead to installation failure.

Concrete Substrates

For all concrete floors, mechanically abrade the surface to eliminate contaminants such as laitance, paint, plaster, and adhesive. Prepare the floor in compliance with ASTM F710 standards. If necessary, apply a suitable damp proof membrane system according to the product manufacturer's instructions. Additionally, ensure the floor is smooth and level before proceeding with installation. Proper subfloor preparation is crucial for a successful and long-lasting installation. New concrete floors need to dry out for at least 60 days prior to installation.

Wood Substrates

Wood floors should be at least 3/4" (19 mm) thick and made of APA-approved grade tongue and groove plywood. If the wooden subfloor does not meet APA-approved flooring grade underlayment standards, a minimum of 1/4" (6.35 mm) of approved wood underlayment must be installed over the existing substrate. Ensure that the surface is clean, dry, structurally sound, and flat within a tolerance of 3/16" per 10-foot radius (4.7 mm per 3 m). All fastener indentations and joints should be leveled and smoothed with appropriate patching compounds. The deflection should not exceed 3/64" (1.1 mm).

Gypsum Floors

Gypsum surfaces must be sealed or primed with a product specifically designed for sealing or priming gypsum to ensure they can properly bond with resilient adhesives.

Quarry Tile / Natural Stones / Mosaic

Thoroughly clean the substrate using a commercial degreasing or dewaxing solution. Grind or abrade any highly polished or uneven surfaces. Fill in any low areas, chips, and grout joints that could show through the new flooring. Test the surface for porosity and select the appropriate adhesive application method accordingly. Bond tests are required to ensure proper adhesion.

Resilient Floor e.g. Linoleum, PVC, VCT

If there is a single layer of well-adhered, non-cushioned, and stable existing flooring such as VCT, vinyl, LVT, ceramic tile, stone, or terrazzo, you can install directly over these properly prepared floors. All sealers or waxes must be removed, and any necessary floor preparation must be completed before installing the LVT.

Attention!

Radiant In-floor Heating System

Loose Lay Vinyl Flooring can be installed over embedded radiant-heated floors as long as the operating temperature does not exceed 85°F (29.4°C). The radiant heating system should be running for three weeks before installing the flooring. For 48 hours before and during installation, the system should be maintained at 65°F (18.3°C). Note that adhesive flash-off time may be reduced due to the radiant heat system. After installation, gradually increase the heat by a maximum of 5°F (2.8°C) per day until reaching the desired temperature. Avoid using radiant heat systems that cause wide temperature variations, such as wire induction mat systems. The installation area should not include both heated and non-heated sections unless separated by expansion joints. Be aware that loose rugs or carpets can act as heat insulators, potentially raising the temperature above the maximum allowed surface temperature of 85°F (29.4°C).

Installation

Planning your floor - diagram 1

Begin in the corner of the longest wall. Prior to applying the adhesive, lay a complete row of planks (or tiles) to determine the length of the final plank. If the last plank is shorter than 11.8" (300mm), then adjust the starting point accordingly; this is necessary in order to achieve the correct staggered effect. The cutting edge should always face the wall.

Laying your floor - diagram 2

Apply a high tack universal flooring adhesive as recommended by your flooring retailer, using a 1/16" (1.6mm) square notch trowel at the corner of the longest wall. Avoid spreading more adhesive than needed, as the adhesive will lose its ability to fully stick to the back of the flooring.

Position the first plank at your starting point. Apply firmly if the position is correct, all over pressure to achieve full contact between the plank and adhesive. Lay all planks and ensure a close fit, but do not force together. Ensure that the cutting edges always face the wall. Stagger the joints as per diagram 2, a minimum 11.8" (300mm) apart.

Final cutting last row - diagram 3

When you reach to the last row, you may find that the gap is less than one full plank wide. To ensure accurate cutting of the last row, lay the plank to be cut exactly over the last full plank, lay another full plank against the wall and mark the cutting line where the planks overlay. Before applying the adhesive, check that the cut plank fits correctly. The plank should not be forced into place.

Loose Lay Vinyl Flooring Installation Guide

Prime Lay **PLUS (+)**

Finishing and Maintenance

Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. Use drapes or blinds to minimize direct sunlight during peak sunlight hours.

When you have finished laying your floor, use a three-section 45.4 KG (100 lbs) roller to roll across the length of the floor to flatten any ridges and make the seams level. Clean up any remaining or spilled adhesive with a damp cloth.

Allow 5 to 7 days before washing the floor to allow the planks to adhere to the subfloor. Sweep regularly to remove surface grit and dust. Never use excessive amount of water when cleaning the floor - use a damp cloth or mop and rinse with clean water. Never use wax, polish, abrasive cleaners or scouring agents, as they may dull or distort the finish.

Do not allow pets with unclipped nails to scratch the floor.

Use protective pads under heavy or sharp furnitures. Using protection such as cardboard when moving heavy appliances or fixtures.

Use doormats at entrance ways to protect the floor from discoloring. Avoid using rubber-backed rugs, as they may stain or discolor the floor.

It is a good idea to save a few planks (tiles) in case of accidental damage. Floors can be replaced by a flooring professional.

