

Installation Recommendations for DropFit™ Loose Lay LVT with perimeter adhesive

The following installation recommendations are intended for professional installers.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. DropFit™ Loose Lay LVT should be stored and installed in climate-controlled indoor locations between 65°F - 85°F (18°C– 29°C).
2. The rooms into which the flooring will be installed must be maintained between 65°F - 85°F (18°C– 29°C) with a relative humidity between 40% to 60% for at least 48 hours prior to installation, as well as during and any time after the installation. The flooring must also be acclimated to these same conditions for a minimum 48 hours prior to installation, ideally in the area which the flooring is to be installed.
3. Install the product only after the jobsite has been cleaned and cleared of other trade apparatus that may damage a finished plank installation.
4. The recommended adhesive for installation is Next1200™ adhesive.
5. Always check the cartons to assure the pattern number is correct. To minimize variation, mix and install planks from several different cartons. Do not mix run/lot numbers in the same area without inspection prior to installation to confirm compatibility.
6. Do not use foam padding or any free-floating underlayment under the LVT.
7. It is the duty of the person installing the floor to inspect all flooring before installation. If during inspection the installer or buyer feels the floor is the wrong color, improperly manufactured, is off-grade, or is the wrong gloss level, he/she should NOT install the flooring. Please immediately contact the retailer from which the flooring was purchased. No claims will be accepted for flooring which is visibly wrong if such flooring is installed. Installed flooring is deemed to be visibly acceptable.
8. Measure the length and width to determine the square footage of the room(s). Alcoves or offsets should be measured separately. Purchase at least 10% extra to cover waste, trimming, and for future replacement needs.
9. In areas with extreme traffic, heavy or frequent rolling loads, permanent cabinetry or fixtures (islands, vanities, etc.) on top of the flooring, high temperatures (ie. areas with south facing floor to ceiling windows or adjacent to a wood stove), or with spans greater than 26' (8 m), a full spread adhesive installation is required.
10. Do not nail or screw moldings, transitions, floor vents, door hardware, etc. through the flooring.
11. The flooring should be protected from prolonged direct exposure to sunlight. Exposure to direct sunlight creates excessive heat directly on the finished flooring and subfloor which may result in movement (joint lippage or gapping). During peak sunlight exposure, the use of drapes or other window treatments is strongly recommended.
12. DropFit™ Loose Lay LVT is not recommended for: outdoor installations, showers, counter tops, areas without climate control.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Underfloor heating is possible with warm water heating systems and full spread adhesive installation. The temperature of the floor surface must not exceed 85°F (29°C) at any point in time. For newly installed systems the underfloor heating system should be turned on at its maximum temperature for several days to eliminate residual moisture. During installation, reduce the radiant heated floor temperature to a maximum of 65°F (18°C). This temperature should be maintained for at least 24 hours before and during the installation, and for at least 48 hours after completion of the installation. Gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5°F (3°C) every 24 hours but do not exceed 85°F (29°C).

SUBFLOOR GENERAL

DropFit™ loose lay planks can be installed over most subfloors and substrates, including concrete, wood, quarry and ceramic tiles, marble, terrazzo, and single layer resilient sheet vinyl. All subfloors and substrates must be clean, smooth (cracks and grout lines filled), flat, solid (no movement), structurally sound, dry, and free from all existing adhesive residues and/or any other foreign materials (waxes, etc.). Residual adhesives etc. should be mechanically removed*. Do not use chemical adhesive removers or solvents. Do not install planks over floors that are sloped for drainage, or over expansion joints or other moving joints in the substrate. Any uneven areas greater than 3/16" (4.7mm) in a 10-foot (3.0m) radius [1/8" (3.2mm) in a 6-foot (1.8m) radius] must be leveled with a non-shrinking, water-resistant Portland cement patching compound. An uneven subfloor can contribute to multiple problems, including assembly of planks and post installation gapping of planks, and roughness or unevenness of the subfloor will telegraph through the new floor covering resulting in an unsightly surface and excessive wear on high spots. Proper subfloor preparation and suitable underlayment installation are essential for a trouble-free job.

WOOD SUBFLOORS

1. GENERAL

All wood floors must be suspended at least 18" above the ground. Adequate cross-ventilation must be provided, and the ground surface of a crawl space must be covered with a suitable vapor barrier. Wood subfloors directly on concrete or installed over sleeper construction are not satisfactory. Wood subfloors must be covered with a minimum 1/4" or heavier underlayment rated panel to assure successful finished flooring installation.

2. UNDERLAYMENT

Many times, wood panel subfloors are damaged during the construction process or are not of underlayment grade. These panels must be covered with an approved underlayment. Underlayment panels are intended to provide a smooth surface on which to adhere the finished floor covering. It must be understood that underlayment panels cannot correct structural deficiencies. Particleboard, chipboard, construction-grade plywood, any hardboard and flakeboard are not recommended as underlayment. All have inadequate uniformity, poor dimensional stability and variable surface porosity. The manufacturer will not accept responsibility for adhered installation over these subfloors. In all cases, the underlayment manufacturer or underlayment installer is responsible for all underlayment warranties.

3. UNDERLAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

Panels intended to be used as underlayment should be specifically designed for this purpose. These panels should have a minimum thickness of 1/4". Any panels selected as an underlayment must meet the following criteria:

- Be dimensionally stable
- Have a smooth, fully sanded face so the graining or texturing will not show through
- Be resistant to both static and impact indentation
- Be free of any surface components that may cause staining such as plastic fillers, marking inks, sealers, etc.
- Be of uniform density, porosity, and thickness
- Have a written warranty for suitability and performance from the panel manufacturer or have a history of proven performance
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4. CAUTION

Some types of nails, such as common steel nails, cement coated or some resin- or rosin-coated nails, may cause a discoloration of the vinyl floor covering. Use only non-staining fasteners with underlayment panels. The procedure of gluing and screwing underlayment panels is not recommended. Solvent based construction adhesives are known to stain vinyl floor coverings. All responsibility for discoloration problems caused by fastener staining or the use of construction adhesive rests with the underlayment installer.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth, and free from dust, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, asphalt sealing compounds and any other foreign material. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
- New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry (at least six weeks) and completely cured. Curing agents, surface hardeners and other additives may cause adhesive bonding failure. These should be removed by sanding or grinding.
- All concrete slabs must be checked for moisture before installing material. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer. DropFit™ Loose Lay LVT must never be installed where excessive moisture emissions may exist. Moisture emission from subfloor cannot exceed 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test**. Alternatively, relative humidity of the slab can be tested according to ASTM F2170. A result of up to 75% is acceptable per ASTM F2170. Electronic meter testing is not a replacement for a Calcium Chloride or Relative Humidity Test. The manufacturer will not assume responsibility for floorcovering failure due to hydrostatic pressure or moisture vapor emission.
- Holes, grooves, cracks, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.

* **WARNING:** Do not sand, dry scrape, beadblast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, or asphaltic “cutback” adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content. RFCI’s Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings are a defined set of instructions addressed to the task of removing all resilient floor covering structures.

** Readings up to 8 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours are acceptable when using Next1200™ adhesive.

INSTALLATION

Plank Layout

As with all LVT formats, DropFit™ Loose Lay LVT flooring should be “balanced” in the work area. Planks may be laid squarely or laid out diagonally in the work area. In either case, the room must be accurately measured to square off the area and to determine the center point. Accurately measure the room to determine the center line, adjust this established line to accommodate a balanced layout and then transpose this line to the determined layout width away from the starting wall. Careful and precise measurements must be taken during tile layout. Look at the arrows on the back of the tile and randomize the direction of installation. Work from at least two cartons at a time and randomize the location of similar tiles.

Adhesive Application

For perimeter glue installation, apply a 9” (23 cm) wide band of adhesive around the entire perimeter of the installation as well as around all vertical obstructions (internal walls, cabinets, pillars, etc.) with a small notched trowel (1/16” x 1/32” x 1/32” U-notch) on porous subfloors or a short nap paint roller on non-porous subfloor. Allow appropriate open time for the adhesive before beginning to lay the planks.

For installations with spans greater than 13’ (4 m), apply an additional band of adhesive every 8’ (2.5 m).

For full spread installation, apply the adhesive with a larger notch trowel (1/16” x 1/16” x 1/16” square notch) following adhesive manufacturer’s instructions.

Plank Installation

After allowing the adhesive to fully set, begin laying the planks along the starting wall. The planks should be snug to the wall but not tight. No expansion space is required. Be certain that the first row is installed straight and square. Lay subsequent rows tight to the adjoining row, staggering the plank end joints a minimum of 6” from the end joints of the adjoining rows. Trim the width of the last row as required to fit the remaining space, installing the planks snug but not tight to the wall. Any cut edges on planks should always be facing the wall.

D. Finishing the Job

Full spread installations must be rolled with a minimum 100-pound, three-section floor roller immediately after installation. Roll the flooring in both directions to firmly seat the planks into the adhesive. Install moldings or cove base along all walls, cabinet toe kicks, etc. Use transition strips in doorways or where new flooring joins another floor covering.

V. REPAIRING COMMERCIAL GLUE DOWN LVT

Although the wear surface of DropFit™ LVT is durable, it is not bulletproof. Should an accident occur that damages the surface of the product, simply lift and place the affected DropFit™ plank. The key to this process is having ample material available to replace the damaged area(s). This should be considered when measuring the job and placing the original order (see above). Extra planks should be wrapped in their packaging and stored in an interior, climate-controlled location.

CAUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- B. Do not place heavy items on newly installed floor covering for at least 24 hours after completion of the installation. Heavy furniture should be equipped with suitable non-staining, wide-bearing casters. Non-staining felt protectors are recommended for table and chair legs to help prevent scratching.
- C. Floor covering subjected to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Use appropriate precautions to minimize potential effects on the floor covering.
- D. Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile-oil drips onto the vinyl floor covering.
- E. Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the product.