

# INSTUDIO™ GLUE DOWN LUXURY VINYL PLANK INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## INTRODUCTION

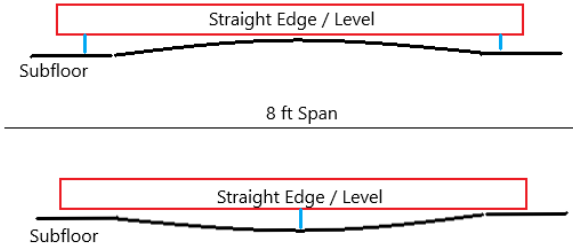
These instructions are written as a guide to be used when installing Tarkett Flooring. These instructions, combined with our adhesives and flooring products, create a system. Utilizing this system will ease the installation process and provide the customer with a completed product that will perform to its intended purpose. Always visit [www.tarkett.com](http://www.tarkett.com) for the most current installation and maintenance instructions. Technical videos and tip sheets are also available. Contact Tarkett Technical Services at (800)-899-8916 with any questions.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. All Tarkett products, adhesives, and accessories must be stored in an indoor, climate-controlled space and be protected from the elements. Temperature must be maintained between 65°F (18.3°C) and 85°F (29.4°C) with a relative humidity between 40% and 60 %.
2. Cartons must be stored horizontally on a sturdy base at all times.
3. Protect corners from damage.
4. Carefully check flooring material for any defects. Contact your supplier immediately if any defect is found.
5. Tarkett Flooring is intended for indoor use only
6. InStudio, adhesives, and accessories must be acclimated in an indoor, climate-controlled space and be protected from the elements. Temperature must be maintained between 65° F and 85° F (18.3°C-29.4° C) with a relative humidity 40% to 60% for 48 hours prior to the installation
7. Room Temperature must be maintained between 65°F and 85°F (18.3°C–29.4°C) with a relative humidity between 40% to 60% for 48 hours before and during, and 48 hours after the installation.
8. Exposure to direct sunlight can result in InStudio fading and creates excessive heat directly on the finished flooring and surrounding structure which may result in movement. During peak sunlight exposure, the use of drapes or other window treatments are recommended.
9. Remove all transitions, quarter round, baseboard molding or cove base.
10. Do not use foam under InStudio.
11. Tarkett Surestart® Underlayment is an approved floating underlayments that can be used with InStudio. Follow the detailed instructions found on [www.tarkett.com](http://www.tarkett.com) **NOTE: ReadyGrout is not recommended for use with InStudio installed over SureStart Underlayment.**
12. Tarkett recommends using **Tarkett Q-Bond One™ or Tarkett SwiftGrip™** adhesives when installing this flooring product. Issues associated with the use of non-recommended adhesives (including peaking, gapping, adhesion, bubbling, discoloration, indentation, etc.) are excluded from Tarkett's limited warranty. See complete Limited Warranty for details
13. For optional grout application in Tile format only, Tarkett recommends TarkettHome ReadyGrout. Issues related to the use of a non-recommended pre-mixed grout are excluded from Tarkett's limited warranty. See complete Limited Warranty for details.

## SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

| Subfloor Construction | Requirements   |
|-----------------------|--|
| All Subfloors         | Permanently dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound   |
|                       | <p><b>Minimum substrate temperature</b> must be 60°F (15.6 °C). Substrate temperature should be a minimum of 5°F (2.8°C) higher than the ambient temperature and 10°F (5.6°C) higher than the dew point temperature.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Dew point calculators are available online. If your substrate is not 10°F (5.6°C) above the dew point, contact Technical services at (800) 899-8916</b></p>   |
|                       | <p><b>Residual adhesives</b> should be mechanically removed to trace amounts and encapsulated with an approved cementitious patching compound designed for encapsulation. Do not use chemical adhesive removers or solvents. Always follow Resilient Floor Covering Institute's (RFCI's) <i>Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floorcoverings</i>.</p> <p><b>Caution: Some resilient flooring and adhesives contain "asbestos fibers" and special handling of this material is required.</b></p> <p><b>WARNING: Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt or asphaltic "cutback" adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers 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.</b></p> |

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| <p>(All Subfloors Continued)</p> | <p>Flat to within 1/8" in 8' (3.1mm in 2.4m). Any unevenness (humps or dips) must be sanded down or filled with a cement-based patching compound.</p> <p><b>EXAMPLE: Area of the BLUE line below cannot exceed 1/8" (3.1mm)</b></p>    |
| <p>Existing Flooring</p>         | <p><b>Resilient Vinyl</b> floors must be smooth, even, non-cushioned and well-bonded to the substrate.</p> <p><b>Ceramic, Porcelain and Natural Stone</b> tiles must be smooth, even and well-bonded with a grout line depth less than 1/16" (1.6mm). If grout joint depth exceeds the maximum allowable depth, fill with Portland based patching compound following manufacturer's guidelines.</p> <p><b>Strip Wood Hard Wood</b> Floors must be smooth, even, with a maximum gap width between boards of 1/16" (1.6mm)</p>   |
| <p>Wood Subfloors</p>            | <p><b>Crawl spaces:</b> All suspended wood subfloors must have at least 18" of well-ventilated air space clearance above the ground. The ground under the crawl space shall be covered with 10 mil or thicker polyethylene sheeting to reduce moisture vapor transmission.</p> <p>Wood joist or truss systems spacing must be a maximum of 16" on center. Wood or joist truss systems spacing of 16 – 19.2" is acceptable for double wood layer construction</p> <p>Subfloor panels must be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dry, sturdy, smooth and dimensionally stable</li> <li>• 3/4" minimum thickness blocked or tongue and groove plywood or oriented strand board (OSB). <b>NOTE: Instudio may be installed over single wood construction in <u>residential applications only</u></b></li> <li>• good one side and have a fully sanded face with a solid core (no voids).</li> <li>• exterior grade or classified as Exposure I.</li> <li>• panel joints offset by at least 16" so that four corners do not meet</li> <li>• securely fastened to the joists and free from spring or deflection (should not exceed 3/63" [1.1mm] per APA Product Standard 2-10 <i>Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels</i>. If glue-nail procedures are required, use a solvent-free construction adhesive.</li> </ul> <p>Wood subfloors not meeting the above requirements must be covered with 1/4" minimum thickness underlayment grade plywood. Follow all APA and manufacturer's guidelines for installing underlayment grade plywood.</p> <p>Tarkett recommended underlayments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APA Underlayment Grade Plywood A-C, B-C, or C-C Plugged</li> <li>• ACCU-PLY</li> <li>• SurePly</li> <li>• TECPLY</li> <li>• ULAY</li> <li>• C.S.A. (CanPly) and Proboard</li> </ul> |
| <p>Concrete Substrates</p>       | <p>Approved for properly constructed and prepared on-grade, above-grade, and below-grade concrete.</p> <p><b>Constructed</b> as recommended by the American Concrete Institute's <b>ACI 32.2 Guide for Concrete Slabs that Receive Moisture-Sensitive Flooring Materials</b>.</p> <p><b>Prepared</b> according to <b>ASTM F710 Standard Practice for Preparation of Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring</b>. The slab must be swept, damp mopped and/or vacuumed to remove any dust. Any surface materials present must be removed, such as loose paint, wax, grease, oil, adhesive residues, crayon, pen marking, etc. that may migrate to the surface of the flooring causing discoloration. Fill and level any cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves, or other irregularities with a high-quality, non-shrinking, latex-fortified, cementitious patching compound.</p>  |

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| (Concrete Substrates Continued) | <p><b>DO NOT</b> install Tarkett flooring over expansion joints, or other moving joints in the substrate. These joints must be respected and should not be filled with products that are not intended for that purpose. Contact an expansion joint cover manufacturer to meet specific flooring conditions.</p>  |
|                                 | <p>Complete 3 moisture tests for up to 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (add 1 additional test for every 1,000 after that)<br/> Test for moisture in accordance with:<br/> <b>ASTM F2170</b> <i>Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must test to within 90% RH</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>-OR-</b></p> <p><b>ASTM F1869</b> <i>Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must test to within 8 lbs / 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 24 hours</li> </ul> <p>If the moisture test results exceed the limits above, the installation must not proceed until the problem has been corrected. Tarkett does not recommend or warrant any product or procedure for the remediation of high moisture in concrete substrates. There are several companies that manufacture products suitable for moisture remediation.</p> <p>Tarkett recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Moisture Remediation product manufacturer and supply testing results.</li> <li>• Follow the remediation recommendation provided using products that meet <b>ASTM F3010</b> <i>Standard Practice for Two Component Resin Based Membrane-Forming Moisture Mitigation Systems for Use Under Resilient Flooring Systems</i>.</li> <li>• Cap the moisture remediation system with a cementitious-based product per the moisture remediation system manufacturer's recommendations for primer, thickness, drying time, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Install Tarkett flooring over the cementitious-based capping product following our standard installation instructions.</p> |
| Gypsum                          | <p>Refer to ASTM F2419 <i>Standard Practice for Installation of Thick Poured Gypsum Concrete Underlayments and Preparation of the Surface to Receive Resilient Flooring</i> for guidelines when pouring gypsum underlayments or preparing for use as an underlayment under Tarkett flooring. Follow the gypsum underlayment manufacturer's recommendations for proper application and preparation.</p>   |
|                                 | <p>Cap with a cementitious underlayment</p>  |
| Radiant Heat                    | <p>Must be embedded in concrete a minimum of 2" below the surface of the subfloor</p>  |
|                                 | <p>Check the manufacturer of the radiant heat system to ensure it is safe for use with resilient flooring</p>  |
|                                 | <p>Concrete surface must never exceed 85°F (29.4°C)</p>  |
|                                 | <p><b>24 hours prior to install</b>, lower the thermostat to a minimum of 65°F (18.3°C). Maintain this temperature throughout installation and for 48 hours after completion</p>   |
|                                 | <p><b>48 hours after installation</b>, gradually increase the thermostat in increments of 5° every twenty-four hours, never exceeding 85°F (29.4°C)</p>  |

## SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

1. All substrates must be dry, clean, structurally sound, smooth and free from all existing adhesive residues.
2. The substrate must be flat within 1/8" in 8' (3.17 mm in 2.4 m).
3. Fill and level concrete cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves and other irregularities. Use a latex fortified, cementitious patching compound. Follow the manufactures recommendation for preparing.
4. Sweep and vacuum or damp mop substrate to remove all dust and debris.
5. Surestart can be used if needed. Follow the detailed installation instructions found at [www.tarkett.com](http://www.tarkett.com)

## GETTING STARTED

1. Install product out of multiple cartons from matching batch numbers.
2. Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Contact your supplier immediately if any defect is found. Do not install damaged planks. Tarkett will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects.
3. InStudio, adhesives, and accessories must be acclimated at room temperature for 48 hours prior to the installation
4. Room Temperature must be maintained between 65°F and 85°F (18.3°C–29.4°C) with a relative humidity between 40% to 60% for 48 hours before and during, and 48 hours after the installation.
5. Remove quarter round, baseboard molding, or cove base.
6. Undercut doorway moldings the thickness of the flooring.
7. Cartons must be stored horizontally at all times.

8. Protect carton corners from damage.
9. Tarkett floors are intended for indoor use only.
10. Determine in which direction the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger or if installing in a very small room or hallway, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room direction.
11. Do not use foam padding under InStudio.
12. Surestart can be used if needed. Follow the detailed installation instructions found at [www.tarkett.com](http://www.tarkett.com) **NOTE: ReadyGrout is not recommended for use with InStudio installed over SureStart Underlayment.**

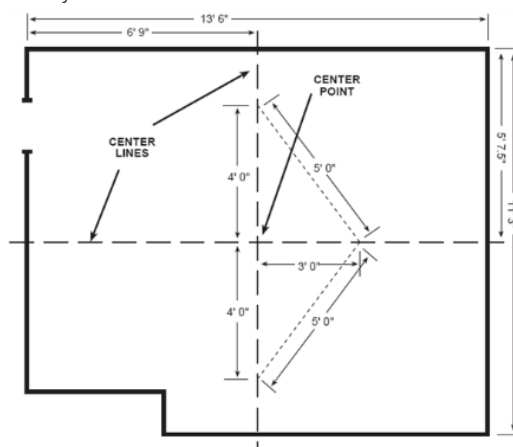
## PLANK LAY OUT

### Square Layout-center point

To square the area to be covered, first find the center of one wall of the main rectangle of the room. Locate the same point at the direct opposite wall. Snap a chalk line between these points. Measure this center line to find the middle of the room and mark. A right angle must be established off this center mark. Use the following method to establish a right angle.

### 3-4-5 METHOD

1. Measure 4 feet out from the center point on the chalk line towards each side wall and mark chalk line.
2. Using a carpenters square and a straight edge, establish a right angle on both sides of the chalk line 3 feet out from the center point of the chalk line and mark substrate
3. Measure the distance between the 3 foot mark and the 4 foot mark. This measurement should be exactly 5 feet. If the 5 foot measurement is not exactly 5 feet, the center crossing line is not at a true right angle and must be adjusted to achieve a right angle. For larger rooms, multiples of 6-8-10 or 9-12-15 may be used to obtain greater accuracy.



After the room has been squared, determine the width of the border planks. For a consistent aesthetic, the width of the border planks should all be at least one half the size of a full plank. This can be done simply by measuring across the room and dividing that by the width of a full plank. It will be necessary to adjust the starting line and center point to achieve equal sized border planks. Make sure to snap new guide lines.

## INSTALLATION

### 1. Adhesive Application

**Recommended adhesives include either Tarkett Q-Bond One™ or Tarkett SwiftGrip™. Follow the adhesive label instructions for proper use.** Issues associated with the use of non-recommended adhesives (including peaking, gapping, adhesion, bubbling, discoloration, indentation, etc.) are excluded from Tarkett's limited warranty. See complete Limited Warranty for details.

### 2. Installing Luxury Plank Flooring

**Important: To ensure the best color match when installing luxury plank flooring from two or more cartons, make sure the run numbers or date code on each carton are the same.**

- a. Begin laying the planks along the guideline taking into consideration the length of the last plank in the row. The first and last plank in each row shall not be less than the width of the plank being installed. **Lay the first few planks perfectly on the guideline, as this will affect the entire installation.** Make sure each plank is flush against the adjoining plank.
- b. Planks can be installed in a pyramid fashion or row-by-row.
- c. Use care to place planks as accurately as possible as removing and repositioning may disrupt the dry-set adhesive application.
- d. Immediately remove any adhesive from surface of plank with a clean, damp cloth.
- e. Roll planks with a 75-100 lb. sectional floor roller.

### 3. Installing Border Plank

- a. Border planks can be fit by measuring the distance between the wall and the last full plank installed.
- b. Using a straight edge, mark or score the surface with a sharp utility knife, then snap off the section along the scored line.

- c. Place the plank firmly into the adhesive. Border planks may also be fit by placing a loose plank over the last full plank in the row. Place another full plank over the loose plank and butt it against the wall. Use this plank as a marking plank and score or mark the bottom plank. Cut along the mark. Place the plank firmly into the adhesive.

#### 4. Adhesive clean up

##### Q-Bond One Adhesive, SwiftGrip Adhesive

- Use a clean white cloth dampened with water to remove wet adhesive from floor covering and tools.
- Dried adhesive may require the use of mineral spirits applied to a clean white cloth (Follow manufacturer's precautions when using mineral spirits).

#### 5. OPTIONAL: TarkettHome ReadyGrout Application for Tile Format

- a. Do not grout more than 10 ft<sup>2</sup> (0.93 m<sup>2</sup>) at a time to achieve best results.
- b. Using the grout float held at a 45-degree angle, press grout diagonally into joints. Ensure that joints are filled completely.
- c. Hold the grout float at a 90-degree angle and draw diagonally across the floor to remove all excess grout from the surface of the flooring. NOTE: Be careful not to remove grout from joints during this process.
- d. Wait a minimum of 10 minutes before beginning cleanup to allow the grout time to firm up. This will prevent the grout from being pulled out of the joint during cleanup process. Do not wait longer than 40 minutes.
- e. Soak a grout sponge in cool, clean water. Wring out excess water, then pat the surface of the tile with the damp sponge to loosen the film.
- f. Rinse the sponge in water a second time and wring out excess water completely. Use the damp sponge in a light, circular motion to smooth joints and clean film from the flooring. NOTE: DO NOT flood the floor with water during this process. Avoid using excessive water on the grout joints.
- g. For a final pass, turn the grout sponge to a clean side and draw diagonally across tiles to remove any remaining film.
- h. Moisten a towel with clean water and wring out excess. Drag damp towel across surface diagonally.
- i. If a light haze remains after cleaning, do not attempt to remove it with the sponge or towel. Allow the haze to remain on the tile the next day, then remove with a damp sponge or a white Doodlebug Pad (or equivalent).
- j. DO NOT seal ReadyGrout.

#### 6. Finishing

- a. Sweep up scrap material and any loose debris.
- b. Replace all wood molding or cove base
- c. Install appropriate transition molding at the doorways
- d. **If wet set application was used, do not replace furniture or allow foot traffic for at least 24 hours**
- e. **If optional ReadyGrout was used, do not replace furniture for a minimum of 72 hours**
- f. Do not slide or roll furniture or appliances across the newly installed floor. To prevent damage, these items should be carried or slid into place using sheets of plywood.
- g. Use proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture.
- h. Post installation site conditions should be controlled by HVAC and maintained between 55°F and 95°F (12°C and 35°C). Ambient relative humidity should be maintained between 40% and 70%.

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