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Luxury Vinyl Installation Guide – Glue Down & Loose Lay
SmartDrop, SmartDrop Elite & SmartDrop Elite+

Glue Down installation is required for Residential Smart Drop installations greater than installations 26’ (8m) in length or width and is required for all commercial installations. Glue down installations are also recommended for installations with high temperature areas (for example south facing floor to ceiling windows).

For residential installations that are between 13’ (4m) wide, or 26’ (8m) in length, a grid-lock installation is required. This is performed by adhering a row of flooring every 8’ (2.5m) in either direction creating a grid pattern, to secure the row of flooring, and repeated every 8’ (2.5m). For residential installations, double sided tape can be used to secure the floor instead of adhesive, however both types of adhesives are approved.

Tools Required:
Marker/Pen, Tape measure, Chalk Line, Square, 6ft Level or Straight Edge, Level, Heavy Duty Box Cutter, Floor Roller, Pressure Sensitive Adhesive (Fuzbond 4200 or equivalent), Trowel for Adhesive, Kneeling Boards - see notes.

Job Preparation:
- Calculate the surface area required and add 5%-10% and then round up to the nearest full carton.
- Acclimatize flooring by spreading out sealed packages in room/ environment where the floor will be installed at a room temperature between 16°C (60°F) and 27°C (80°F) for 48 hours. Ensure packages remain sealed/ closed during acclimation and until ready to install.
- As extremes of temperature can occur between the day and night times, it is important that these be avoided. South facing windows and conservatories should be shaded to minimize daytime fluctuations. Take care next to high heat sources (wood stoves, baseboard heaters, etc), where surface temperatures can become higher than 27C.
- Will perform in Extreme temperature conditions: -15°C – 80°C (5°F – 176°F)
- Ensure subfloor is clean, flat, sound, dry, and free from any debris or texture that could interfere with adhesion of adhesive, or cause telegraphing.
- The subfloor must be Level/Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius
- If the subfloor is not flat and height differences do exist, peaks will need to be ground down and valleys will need to be filled with cement-based patching compound. Follow adhesive requirements for compatibility.
- Remove any existing quarter round and undercut door jambs allowing the flooring to flow under the jamb provide a preferred aesthetic.

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- Check flooring planks for any visual defects in structure or aesthetics. Planks installed with visual defects are not covered under warranty.
- Work from at least 3 cartons at the same time to ensure randomness of pattern.

Note: The installer is the final inspector of product and responsible for subfloor and overall job site conditions ensuring compliance with referenced standards in support of any associated warranty conditions. If the product or job site does not meet the referenced conditions, do not proceed with installation until conditions are corrected. Please read through installation instructions thoroughly before commencing with installation.

Subfloor Requirements:

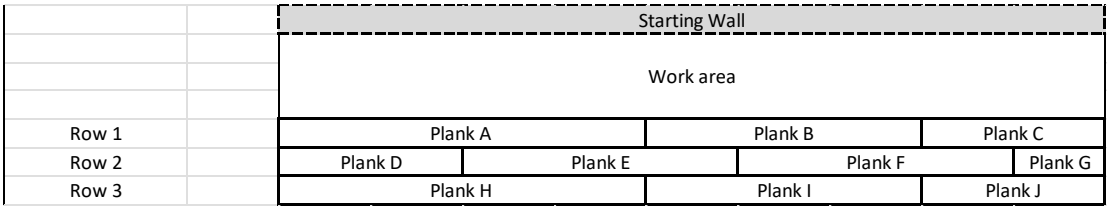
Smart Drop Vinyl Planks & Tiles can be laid on the majority of sub-floors and substrates, including: concrete and screed bases; quarry and ceramic tiles; wood substrates; existing resilient sheet and tiles; metal and poured floors. The relative humidity should not exceed 75% for extended periods of time, subfloors should be level, dry, smooth, structurally sound and without cracks. Any grout lines or joints should be leveled/filled to avoid eventual telegraphing.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured for at least 60 days. The subfloor must remain dry all year round. Test for moisture using a calcium chloride test.

Glue Down Installation Instructions:

1. Plank direction should be parallel to the longest wall or in the direction of the room's lights source. If these are conflicting, you will need to choose the best aesthetic.
2. Create a work area by snapping a chalk line in same direction as the planks to be installed. The work area should be at least 30" from the starting wall and a multiple of the plank width. If the plank size is 6", snap a chalk line at 30" to create your work area. Before starting, measure the length of the room and divide by the plank width. Ensure that your last row will be at least 1/2 a board width. You may need to adjust your chalk line and first row position to achieve this result.
3. Follow the vinyl adhesive instructions with regard to trowel size, spread rate, work time, rolling requirements and anything else that could impact installation.

Full Spread Diagram

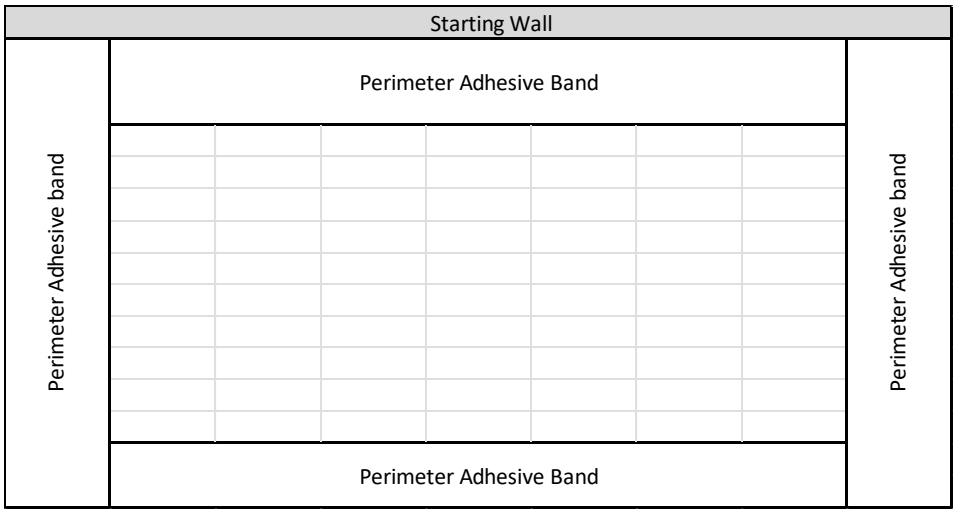


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Grid lock Diagram



4. While in the work area, spread vinyl adhesive, taking care not to apply adhesive to the work area. You are spreading adhesive for the rows below starting with **Planks A, D, and H** from the work area.
5. Take a full plank (**Plank A**), aligning with the chalk line and into the adhesive.
6. Continue installing full planks (**Plank B, C**, etc.) until less than a full plank is required to complete the row. Cut the full plank by using a heavy duty boxcutter to fit and complete first row. The plank should be fit snug to the walls, but not tight. For ease of installation use a double-sided tape to secure the first row then remove once when product has been cut in. Always ensure there are no gaps or height differences between planks when installing.
7. If the cut off piece remaining from row one is 12" or greater use it to start your second row and repeat Step 6.
8. Repeat Steps 5-7 until the room is complete. Final row may require cutting its width to fit and complete the row.
   Note: At some point you will be required to position yourself on newly installed flooring to reach and install subsequent rows. To avoid separating newly installed planks, use a “kneeling board” to disperse your weight and position. To make a kneeling board you can use 1/8" plywood or heavy corrugated cardboard. Using either material, cut to make two pieces 3' x 3'.
9. Spread vinyl adhesive in the work area and install planks to complete room installation. Take care not to spread too much adhesive and follow the adhesive work time.
10. Follow vinyl adhesive instructions with regard to any rolling requirements and time to restrict traffic on the newly installed floor.

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Loose Lay Installation instructions:

For Residential installations smaller than 26’ (8m) in either direction.

1. Plank direction should be parallel to the longest wall or in the direction of the room’s lights source. If these are conflicting, you will need to choose the best aesthetic.
2. Create a work area by snapping a chalk line in same direction as the planks to be installed. The work area should be at least 30" from the starting wall and a multiple of the plank width. If the plank size is 6", snap a chalk line at 30" to create your work area. Before starting, measure the length of the room and divide by the plank width. Ensure that your last row will be at least 1/2 a board width. You may need to adjust your chalk line and first row position to achieve this result.
3. Start installing planks in the top left corner of the room and work from left to right.
   Note: Before proceeding, measure the length of the room and divide by the plank width. Ensure that your last row will be at least a 1/2 board width. You may need to adjust the first-row width and position to achieve this result.
4. Take a full plank (**Plank A**) and install aligned with the chalk line.
5. Take another full plank, (**Plank B**), and align with **Plank A** and the chalk line. Ensure planks are aligned on the long and short sides and there are no gaps or height differences between planks.
6. Repeat Step 5 until a full plank length will need to be cut, (**Plank C**), to complete the row. Use a heavy duty boxcutter to score and cut the plank. Calculate the length required by measuring the distance from the short side of the last board to the wall.
7. If the cutoff piece left over from row one is 12" or greater in length, use it to start the second row. Continue installation ensuring there are no gaps or height differences. Ensure all end joints are staggered at least 6" from previous and subsequent rows.
8. Repeat Steps 6 & 7 completing subsequent rows. (**Planks E** through **J**).
   Note: For Gridlock loose lay installation, adhesive band is around the perimeter only. Do not walk on planks pressed into adhesive as the planks may separate. Planks located inside the perimeter will be loose laid and resting on the subfloor with no adhesive. Take care not to walk on newly spread adhesive.
9. Continue process of installing rows until you reach the finishing wall. For the last row ensure the planks fit snug against the wall.

Smart Drop vinyl flooring is approved for use over In-floor Radiant Heat:

- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.
- Floor temperature must not exceed 85°F (30°C).
- Failure to strictly follow adhesive manufacturer’s guidelines may result in failure and void the warranty.

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Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath this floor as they can telegraph through the floor. It is best to install flooring over embedded hydronic radiant floor heating systems only and adhere to the guidelines listed above.

After Installation:
Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup, use rosin paper and only use 3M ScotchBlue™ 2080 Tape to hold the rosin paper to the floor (other blue tapes may damage the finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath.

- Dust-mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- It is suggested that you clean the floor using a recommended vinyl cleaner.

Protection and Maintenance of Your Floor:
Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor cleaner (FuzClean vinyl cleaner or equivalent) and providing proper on-going maintenance.

- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile oil drips onto the floor covering.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Protective mats are required under office chairs.
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the floor.
- Use walk-off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. DO NOT use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off.
- **DO NOT USE:**
    - Electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
    - Harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor.
    - Abrasive scrubbing tools.
    - Detergents, abrasive cleaners, vinegar or “mop and shine” products.
    - Steam mops.

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