

Installation Guidelines for Direct Glue Down Luxury Vinyl Plank and Tile

1. TEST BEFORE STARTING INSTALLATION

Note: All substrates to receive moisture-sensitive floor covering must be tested for moisture.

CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

All concrete substrates should be tested for IRH (Internal Relative Humidity) according to ASTM F 2170. Calcium Chloride tests may be conducted in addition to IRH and must be performed per the latest edition of ASTM F 1869.

NEW AND EXISTING CONCRETE SUBFLOORS SHOULD MEET THE GUIDELINES OF THE LATEST EDITION OF ACI 302 AND ASTM F 710, "STANDARD PRACTICE FOR PREPARING CONCRETE FLOORS TO RECEIVE RESILIENT FLOORING".

- Substrates shall be smooth, structurally sound, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, old adhesive residue, curing and hardening/ curing compounds, sealers, and other foreign material that might prevent adhesive bond.
- If the adhesive residue is asphalt-based (cut-back), or any other type of adhesive is present, it must be removed by industry-accepted methods such as mechanical removal or wet scraping.
- If a chemical abatement has been performed, remove any remaining chemical residue. Adhesive removal through the use of solvents or citrus adhesive removers is not recommended. Solvent residue on the subfloor may affect the new adhesive and floor covering.

WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEAD BLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERISE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUT BACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

These products may contain either asbestos or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos significantly increases the risk of severe bodily harm. Unless positively sure 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 and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See the current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information, go to www.rfci.com.

- Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 1/8" in 6 feet or 3/16" in 10 feet.
- F-Number System: Overall values of FF 36/ FL 20 may be appropriate for resilient floor coverings.
- Moisture Vapor Emission Rate (MVER) – Conduct either an in-situ RH test (ASTM F-2170) or CaCl MVER test method (ASTM F1869). Refer to the adhesive information for the acceptable moisture limits.
- Use cementitious patching and leveling compounds that meet or exceed maximum moisture level and pH requirements. Use of gypsum-based patching and leveling compounds that contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3,000 psi are acceptable.
- Perform Bond testing to determine the compatibility of the adhesive to the substrate. Primer can be utilized to promote adhesion.
- Porosity – water drop test will help determine porosity – if drops remain on the Surface after 1-2 mins, concrete should be considered non-porous.
- Working and open times of adhesives may vary based on job conditions, substrate, temperature, and humidity.
- Areas to receive flooring should be adequately lit during all phases of the installation process.
- It is recommended that resilient floor covering installation shall not begin until all other trades have been completed.

TEMPERATURE - AMBIENT

Controlled environments are critical. Fully functional HVAC systems are the best way to ensure temperature and humidity control.

- **DO NOT** install resilient flooring products until the work area can be temperature controlled.
- The permanent HVAC system should be turned on and set to a minimum of 65°F (18.3°C) or a maximum of 85°F for a minimum of 7 days before, during, and after installation. Once the installation is complete, the temperature should not exceed 85°F (29.4°C).

PH

Concrete floors must be tested per the latest edition of ASTM F 710.

- PH reading must not exceed 10.0.
- Readings below 7.0 and above 10.0 affect resilient flooring and adhesives negatively.
- Rinsing the Surface with clear water may lower alkalinity. "DAMP MOP"
- Acrylic solution can be utilized to correct high PH readings.

NOTE: IT MAY NOT BE THE FLOOR COVERING INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONDUCT THESE TESTS. HOWEVER, IT IS THE FLOOR COVERING INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THESE TESTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED AND THAT THE RESULTS ARE ACCEPTABLE PRIOR TO INSTALLING THE FLOOR COVERING. MOISTURE TEST RESULTS ONLY INDICATE THE CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF THE TEST.

2. MATERIAL STORAGE AND HANDLING

- a. Flooring material and adhesive must be acclimated to the installation area for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
- b. Store cartons of tile or plank products flat and squarely on top of one another. Tile or plank products should be stacked no more than six high, allowing airflow around stacks when un-palletized. Preferably, locate the material in the "center" of the installation area (i.e., away from vents, direct sunlight, etc.) Storing cartons in direct sunlight may affect proper acclimation by inducing thermal expansion/contraction.
- c. When palletizing on a job site, vinyl plank or tiles must be stacked two rows high side by side with no airspace in between. Then, quarter-turned for two rows side by side, not to exceed 12 boxes high. A 5/8" or thicker plywood must be placed on the pallet first.
- d. Do not stack pallets two high unless utilizing a 1" thick plywood between pallets.

3. SUBSTRATES

Note: All substrates to receive resilient flooring shall be dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound. They shall be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening/ parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation/laitance, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials that might prevent the adhesive from bonding. Crumb rubber underlayments are not an acceptable option for use with resilient floor coverings due to performance issues resulting from chemical incompatibilities.

WOOD SUBSTRATES

Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and comply with local building codes.

- a. Double-layered APA-rated plywood subfloors should be a minimum 1" total thickness, with at least 18" well-ventilated air space beneath.

- b. Chipboard, OSB, particleboard, and construction grade plywood are generally unacceptable substrates – add a layer of APA underlayment grade plywood that is dimensionally stable and non-staining, with a smooth, fully sanded face.
- c. Underlayment panels can only correct minor deficiencies in the subfloor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring. Wood subfloors should be flat – 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.
- d. Insulate and protect crawl spaces with a vapor barrier covering the ground.
- e. DO NOT install over sleeper construction subfloors or wood subfloors applied directly over concrete.
- f. Underlayment panels can only correct minor deficiencies in the subfloor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring.
- g. Any failures in the performance of the underlayment panel rest with the panel manufacturer and not with HF Design LLC.
- h. It is recommended that your chosen APA underlayment grade panels be designed for installation under resilient flooring and carry a written warranty covering the replacement of the entire flooring system.
- i. Not recommended directly over fire retardant-treated plywood or preservative-treated plywood.
- j. The materials used to treat the plywood may cause problems with adhesive bonding. An additional layer of APA-rated 1/4" thick underlayment should be installed.
- k. Always follow the underlayment manufacturer's installation instructions.

STRIP-PLANK WOOD FLOORING

Due to the expansion/contraction of individual boards during seasonal changes, a 1/4" or thicker APA-rated underlayment panels must be installed over these types of subfloors.

CONCRETE

New or existing concrete subfloors must meet the guidelines of the latest edition of ACI 302 and ASTM F710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring".

1. On or below-grade slabs must have an effective vapor retarder directly under the slab.
2. Wet curing for seven days is the preferred method for curing new concrete.
3. Curing compounds (DO NOT USE). If present, they can interfere with the bond of the adhesive to the concrete. Seek assistance from a substrate manufacturer if curing agents are detected.
4. Remove curing compounds 28 days after placement so concrete can begin drying.
5. Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 1/8" in 6 feet or 3/16" in 10 feet.
6. F-Number System: Overall values of FF 36/ FL 20 may be appropriate for resilient floor coverings.

Note: Perform Bond testing to determine the compatibility of the adhesive to the substrate. A primer can be utilized to promote adhesion. Expansion joints in concrete are designed to allow for the expansion and contraction of the concrete. Resilient flooring products should never be installed over expansion joints. Expansion Joint Covers intended for use with resilient floorings should be used. Control joints (saw cuts) may be patched and covered with resilient once the concrete is thoroughly cured, dry, and acclimated.

LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE

All recommendations and guarantees regarding the suitability and performance of lightweight concrete under resilient flooring are the responsibility of the lightweight concrete manufacturer. The installer of the lightweight product may be required to be authorized or certified by the manufacturer. Correct on-site mixing ratios and properly functioning pumping equipment are critical. Slump testing is recommended to ensure proper mixture.

- a. Lightweight aggregate concretes having densities greater than 90 lbs. per cubic foot may be acceptable under resilient flooring.
- b. Concrete slabs with heavy static or dynamic loads should be designed with higher strengths and densities to support such loads.

- c. Surface must be permanently dry, clean, smooth, free of all dust, and structurally sound.
- d. Perform Bond testing to determine the compatibility of the adhesive to the substrate. Primer can be utilized to promote adhesion.

RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING

1. Must be single-layered, non-cushion backed, fully adhered, and smooth.
2. Show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.
3. Waxes, polishes, grease, grime, and oil must be removed.
4. Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents, and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced.
5. Embossing leveler is recommended to aid in proper bonding and to prevent telegraphing.
6. Do not install over rubber-based substrates.

NOTE: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING IF THE EXISTING FLOORING IS SUITABLE TO BE INSTALLED OVER TOP OF WITH RESILIENT RESTS SOLELY WITH THE INSTALLER/FLOORING CONTRACTOR ON SITE. IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS TO SUITABILITY, THE EXISTING FLOORING SHOULD BE REMOVED, OR AN ACCEPTABLE UNDERLAYMENT INSTALLED OVER IT. INSTALLATIONS OVER EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING MAY BE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INDENTATION.

Quarry Tile, Terrazzo, Ceramic Tile, Poured Floors (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless)

- a. Must be totally cured and well bonded to the concrete.
- b. Must be free of any residual solvents and petroleum derivatives.
- c. Waxes, polishes, grease, grime, and oil must be removed.
- d. Show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.
- e. Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents, and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced.
- f. Fill any low spots, holes, chips, and seams that may telegraph through the new flooring.
- g. Grind any highly polished or irregular/smooth surfaces. Quarry tile or Ceramic tile grout joints and textured surfaces must be filled with an embossing leveler or substrate manufacturer-approved material.

4. ADHESIVES & PRIMER

Refer to the adhesive label for proper trowel requirements, spread rates, and application.

Before applying adhesive, determine if the substrate is porous or non-porous. Follow the instructions on the adhesive label for porous or non-porous subfloors.

IMPORTANT: It is recommended to perform a bond test to determine adhesive working time per job site conditions.

5. INSTALLING RESILIENT TILE AND PLANK PRODUCTS

General

- a. Ensure that moisture tests have been conducted and the results do not exceed the acceptable moisture limit for the adhesive used.
- b. The PH of the concrete subfloor needs to be between 5 and 10.
- c. The permanent HVAC system is turned on and set to a minimum of 65°F (18.3°C) or a maximum of 85°F (29.4°C) for a minimum of 72 hours before, during, and after installation. After the installation, the maximum temperature should not exceed 85°F.
- d. Do not stack more than five cartons high.

- e. Flooring material and adhesive must be acclimated to the installation area for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
- f. Use appropriate trowel size regarding substrate porosity
- g. Material should always be visually inspected before installation. Any material installed with visual defects will not be considered a legitimate claim regarding labor cost.
- h. Install tiles running in the same direction.
- i. Ensure that all recommendations for sub-floor and job site conditions are met before beginning the installation. Directional designs are optional; however, you must accept those conditions once the installation starts.

LAYOUT AND INSTALLATION GENERAL RULES

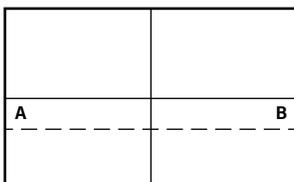
- a. Install using conventional tile and plank installation techniques. Plank products should have a minimum of 6" – 8" seam stagger.
- b. Carefully determine where to begin tile or plank installation.
- c. It is customary to center rooms and hallways so borders are not less than half a tile or plank.
- d. Working out of multiple boxes at a time is recommended.
- e. Working lengthwise from one end in hallways and small spaces may be simpler using a center reference line as a guide.
- f. Make sure cut edges are always against the wall.
- g. To properly cut LVT/LVP products, score the top side of the material with a utility knife. Bend the product and finish the cut through the backside. This score mark will ensure the cleanest cut. Using a heat gun to cut around vertical obstructions may be necessary. Allow the heated LVT/LVP to return to room temperature before installation.
- h. Cutting the product into a fine point may lead to delamination. Use an ethyl cyanoacrylate-based superglue to help fuse the LVT/LVP point together. Be sure to clean all glue from the top surface immediately. Alcohol-based superglues may cause vinyl to swell.
- i. For random-width planks, begin installation with the widest plank first.

Note: It is recommended to use floor protection after installation. DO NOT use a plastic adhesive-based protection system.

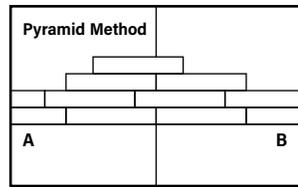
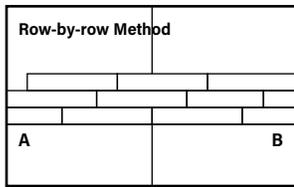
INSTALLATION FOR VINYL PLANKS

Layout of the Room

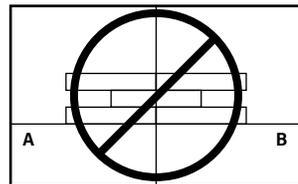
1. Find the center point of the room. Strike a line.
2. Obtain a true 90' angle using a carpenter's square.
3. Strike a second line, dividing the room into four equal parts.
4. Measure the distance from the center to the wall, parallel to the direction of the plank. Divide the measurement by the width of the plank. Adjust the point to compensate if less than half remains as the border plank. This method will give a larger border along the wall and reduce the chance of having to cut a small sliver of flooring to place along the wall.



Layout of the Plank



- Carefully place the first piece of plank at the junction of the chalk lines.
- Continue to lay the plank, ensuring each plank is flush against the chalk line and tight against the adjoining plank.
- Make sure the plank is well seated into the adhesive, paying special attention to the edges. Lay row by row or in a pyramid fashion, as shown below.



Fitting the Border

- Measure the distance from the last plank in the row to the wall.
- Mark the plank and cut it against the mark.
- Lay the plank in place, making sure that the cut edge is against the wall.

Fitting Around Irregular Objects

- Make a pattern out of heavy paper to fit around pipes and other irregularities.
- Place the pattern on the plank, trace cutting along the trace lines.

IMPORTANT: After installation, all flooring must be rolled with a minimum 100lb roller. Use a hand roller in areas not reached with a 100lb roller.

Note: Do not use tape to secure floor protection during construction or renovation. Use ram board or similar to protect the floor.

Contact Information

Choice Flooring
401 Jones Street
Dalton, GA USA 30720-3464
(800) 872-8426
www.choiceflooring.com