

Luxury Vinyl Tile and Plank Installation Guide

The Subfloor:

The subfloor must be permanently dry, even, sound and crack-free and then you may proceed. The hardness of the uppermost layer of the floor can be accessed with a hard, sharp object such as a large nail or chisel. Over a surface area of approx one-meter scratch horizontal and vertical lines approximately 1 cm apart. If the upper layer within the drawn 1cm² chequered area does not fall apart, you can assume that the surface is hard enough.

Industrial floors are suitable for adhesive application, after special pretreatment (e.g. pre-impregnating or leaving). Follow the advice on this matter from the supplier of your adhesive and leveling facility supplier.

The Moisture Content of the Floor

All floors other than liquid asphalt have maximum permissible moisture content expressed as a percentage by weight (the so-called domestic moisture content).

After installation, all sub-floors require a certain drying time before floor covering can be laid. The drying time depends on the thickness of the construction, atmospheric condition, heating and lighting system, etc. If the moisture content of the underlay structural floor is not within the permissible average domestic moisture content, then the applied, apparently dry top floor is not suitable for bonding hard floor covering. Do pay attention to this point!

Before processing, always measure the moisture content of the floor and ensure that the percentages are appropriate for the type of under floor involved. If in doubt, always consult an expert.

A reliable device for determining the moisture content is a CM-unit. The readings must be confirmed to the client in writing.

N.B. In heated floors, do not use any method for measuring the moisture content of the floor that requires holes to be made (e.g. the CM-unit). Holes could damage the heating system. Where underfloor heating is installed there are usually starting instructions or a so-called heating up protocol. By adhering to this, measurement of the moisture content becomes superfluous.

The permissible moisture content should be as follows:

Sand/Cement	<2.5%
Anhydrite	0.3% to 0.5%
Magnesite	<0.3%
Xylo-lite	8-12%
Cold bitumen	<2%

Pre-treatment of the finishing floor

In principle, all types of finishing floor must be PRESMOOTHED AND LEVELLED. The slightest unevenness in the under-floor will show up if leveling is omitted. Consult your adhesive and leveling facility supplier if desired. Impregnating and leveling facilities must be used in line with the manufacturer's instructions. They must be applied such that they bond to one another and permanently to the substrate, do not tear and are absolutely firm. The minimum leveling thickness for a rolling load is 2mm. Sealed, non-absorbent substrates must be leveled using sufficiently thick dispersion adhesives, the minimum thickness being 2mm. After wiping off, cut off flow margins along the walls and intersections. The same also applies to any insulating material and protective film still projecting.

Installation conditions

- Minimum room temperature of 18°C.
- Minimum under floor temperature of 15°C.
- Maximum relative humidity of the air 70%.
- Not only must the environment be at a minimum temperature of 18°C, but also the temperature of the floor covering and also the primer and adhesive.
- When measuring the moisture content, determine whether the floor is of uniform thickness. Thicker layers require a longer drying time.
- Ensure there are optimum drying conditions.
- Apply the primer using a roller, not with a drawer.

General Tips on how to install Vinyl floor tile and plank.

Inspect the sub-floor

Always check that the floor is permanently dry, free of flaws, clean, resistant to pressure and stress and flat.

Storage

Ensure the floor covering is always stored on a flat floor. If not, this can cause problems later.

Checking the material to be proceed

Before leaving the factory, the floor covering undergoes careful inspection to ensure high quality standards. Even so, 100% elimination of defects can not be guaranteed. Therefore, before processing, always check the material for visible defects. Complaints will be dealt with only before processing work has begun. Once work on the floor covering has started, the only complaints that we are prepared to consider are initially concealed defects.

Laying plan

For an optimum flat distribution and minimum loss from cutting, draw a line to match the pattern

on the planks/tiles of floor covering. We recommend you prepare a work drawing in advance showing how you intend to lay the planks/tiles in the room.

Tension of the floor covering and climatic conditions during installation

In order for the floor covering to become tension-free, the planks/tiles must be stored in the relevant room for at least 24 hours in order for them to equilibrate with the temperature and conditions in the room. The ideal processing temperature is 18°C and the atmospheric humidity should not exceed 70%. If these conditions are not met, this will have consequences for the processing. If the temperature is too low and/or the atmospheric humidity too high it becomes more difficult to fit the floor covering and the adhesive bonds very poorly.

Preventing color differences

Lay the room with material from the same batch only.

Apply the adhesive

Only high quality, solvent-free dispersion adhesives for pvc floor covering can be used, pls following the instructions by adhesive factories, like Uzin, F.Ball etc.

Recommended adhesives:

Pressure sensitive adhesive(PS)

Pressure sensitive adhesive is the best adhesive to use in normal working conditions for commercial installations.

It is applied with an A2 notched trowel and left to semi-cure to a dry tack, then laid into.

Products installed with pressure sensitive adhesive can receive traffic immediately after installation.

High temperature adhesive(HT)

High temperature adhesive is for use with under floor heating, conservatories, sunrooms and anywhere which is subject to constant direct sunlight.

This product has to be wet bonded and has an installation time of approximately 15min depending on atmospheric conditions.

The temperatures require being constantly between 18-26°C for 24 hours, before, during and after installation.