

## Rigid Core LVT Flooring Installation Guidelines

### *Important Information before You Begin*

#### **Installer/Owner Responsibility**

Carefully inspect all materials before installation. Materials installed with visible defects are not covered under the warranty. Do not install - if you are not satisfied with the flooring; contact store immediately. Final quality checks and approval of the product is the sole responsibility of the owner and installer. Make sure you are installing the correct color; no claims will be accepted for color once the material is installed. Please read the provided warranty for your product before installation.

The installer/owner must determine that the job-site environment and sub-floor surfaces meet applicable construction and material industry standards. The Manufacturer declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from deficiencies caused by sub-floor or job-site environment or installation related items. All sub- floors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound.

#### **General Information**

- Prior to installation material should be stored in a climate controlled environment between 55-85 F (13-29C) degrees prior to installation. If needed allow the material to acclimate prior to installation for a period of 48 hours prior to installation.
- To help prevent discoloration or fading from UV light/direct sunlight use of blinds and/or drapes is recommended. Additionally, high direct temperature from sunlight may result in thermal expansion causing the material to buckle or expand – this is **NOT** a defect of the material.
- Do not install cabinets directly on the floor as this is a floating installation method – proper expansion space is required at all vertical surfaces.
- Install material from several cartons at a time to blend the material.
- Carefully inspect material prior to installation – look for damage to the locking profile and check that the locking profile properly is engaged to prevent separation after installing. If any concerns with the material contact the place of purchase and do NOT install the material.
- Use the proper leveling compounds to provide a flat surface – subfloors should be 3/16” in 10’ or 1/8: in 6’ – the use of a 6’ level can help to determine the flatness of the subfloor.
- Perimeter expansion is required for floating floors – maintain proper expansion space based on the total square footage – for areas less than 2500 sq. ft – minimum expansion space is ¼” areas larger than 2500 sq. ft. – maintain a space of 3/8” to ½”.
- Material has a pre-attached underlayment – do not use or add additional underlayment underneath the flooring as this will void the warranty.
- Moisture testing is required and should be performed with the proper testing equipment.

#### **Approved Subfloors**

Concrete, APA rated Plywood & OSB, Particleboard, Ceramic tile, Non Cushioned Sheet Vinyl (single layer)

#### **Non Approved Subfloors**

Wood subfloors/Sleepers or Wood flooring installed directly over concrete, Carpet or Carpet Padding, Floating wood or laminate floors, Rubber or Cork floors

#### **General Subfloor Requirements**

- **Clean:** All wood and concrete subfloors must be swept clean or vacuumed to remove dust and debris. Do not install flooring over any chemically treated subfloor
- **Flat:** All wood and concrete subfloors must be flat within 1/8” over a 6’ span, or 3/16” over a 10’ span. All areas of the subfloor must be checked prior to installation. High spots can be sanded or grinded down and low spots filled with appropriate patching compounds. A cementitious patching/leveling compound is advised with a minimum compressive strength of 3000 psi. Never sand and grind materials covered with lead paint, or containing asbestos. Follow local building codes for proper removal practices of asbestos and lead paints.
- **Dry:** Wood subfloors should be dry. **The moisture in wood subfloors should not exceed 12%.** If high moisture is present stop installation until the moisture source has been corrected. Use a pin type moisture meter to measure the moisture

content of the subfloor.

- **Do NOT install over any sleeper systems, wood subfloor or wood flooring that is directly installed over a concrete subfloor – doing so may trap moisture under the flooring and damage the wood subfloor/flooring.**  
**Crawl Space** - Ground in the crawl space must be dry and the ground covered 100% with a 6 mil black polyethylene. Clearance from ground to the bottom of the floor joists is a minimum of 18" and the perimeter venting must be a minimum of 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.  
Concrete subfloors must be fully cured for at least 60 days. Concrete subfloors must be tested for moisture by conducting a Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F 1869) or Relative Humidity In-Situ Probe test (ASTM F 2170). **Calcium Chloride test results cannot exceed 8 lbs. per 100sqft in 24hrs. Relative Humidity In-Situ probe test should not exceed 85%. Concrete should be between 7-9 per pH test (ASTM F710)**
- Use of a 6 mil poly film is required for installation over concrete. Overlap the poly and tape the seams with the proper seam tape recommended.

### **Radiant Heat Systems**

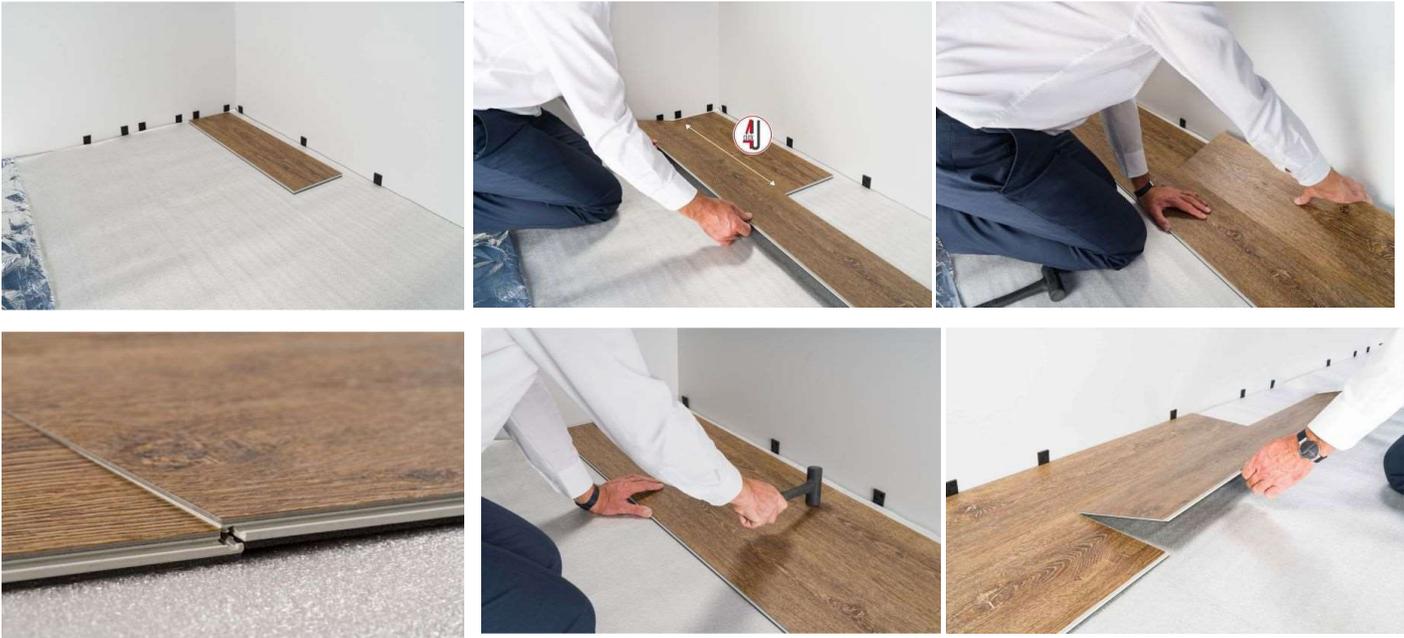
- There must be a minimum of a ½" (13mm) separation between the heating element and the underside of the flooring.
- The radiant heat system must have been tested and in operation for 2 weeks or more prior to installation to remove excess moisture from the subfloor.
- The radiant heating system needs to be turned off prior to installation or lowered to 65 degrees and the floor needs to be close to room temperature 65 to 75 degrees.
- After the flooring is installed, slowly raise the temperature to the preferred comfort level (over at least a 3 day timeframe) after installation or at the onset of colder weather conditions.
- The radiant heat system must be controlled and the surface temperature of the flooring must never be allowed to exceed 85°F.

### **Basic Tools and Equipment**

Broom or vacuum, moisture meter, chalk line & chalk, tapping block, tape measure, safety glasses, utility knife and or electric saw, miter saw, rubber mallet, pull bar, straight edge, tapping block. Failure to use a tapping block properly when installing can /will cause damage to the locking profile.

### **INSTALLATION**

- Prior to installing properly prepare the area – clean the subfloor, check the flatness of the subfloor and make any corrections needed to achieve the proper flatness of the subfloor. Test the subfloor for moisture to ensure that the proper moisture levels are in place.
- Use a jamb saw or a handsaw to undercut all door jambs/door casings as needed. You can take a scrap piece of flooring and place it along the edge of the door jamb to use as a guide to cut the proper height. This is a critical step to allow the flooring to properly fit underneath the door jamb/casing and to allow for expansion.
- Using a tape measure determine the squareness of the room/s and adjust as needed. You will start at the longest wall – preferably at an outside wall and begin to lay the planks out working from the left to right.
- Set the wall spacers in place for proper expansion space. You can use a piece of blue painters' tape to hold them in place and do not remove the spacers until the installation is complete.
- Work from several cartons of material at a time to blend the material and create a random look.



1. Working from the left side cut the first plank in half and place at the wall with the spacers in place. You can use a chalk line for the first row to help keep the rows in line with the wall and adjust if needed. The tongue (smaller profile) should face the wall and the groove side will be facing you.
2. Next take a full piece and engage the long side of full plank into the first – using an angle approach to properly lock the second row to the first.
3. Next take a full plank and place it at the first row (working backwards) engage the long side first then use a tapping block and mallet to engage the short side. Complete the first row using the same procedure until you reach the end wall.
4. Once the first two rows are complete properly align the material to the wall and place wall spacers where needed if the wall has a bow in it to prevent the material from shifting.
5. Now continue to add rows to the installed floor using the same method. – engage the long side first and then using a tapping block and mallet to gently engage the short side.
6. Try to space the end joints a minimum of 6 inches from the installed end joint and create a random stagger to avoid a pattern look to the floor.

Once complete remove the wall spacers from the perimeter and install the base or quarter round to cover the expansion space. Sweep/clean the floor. The floor is now ready for use.

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