

Engineered Luxury Vinyl Tile 5G Insta-Loc™ Click Installation Instructions

GENERAL GUIDELINES

All instructions and recommendations are based on the most recent information available. They should be followed for an ideal installation.

1. Engineered Luxury Vinyl Planks should be installed in indoor climate-controlled locations between 55°F - 95°F (13°C - 35°C). It should NEVER be installed outdoors.
2. Do not install floating vinyl flooring in unheated areas or in areas subjected to high temperatures and heavy sunlight. This includes porches, sunrooms, solariums and other structures without adequate temperature control and cover from direct sunlight.
3. It is recommended that the room temperature and humidity level of the installation area be maintained at 70°F and a humidity range of 30-50% for 48 hours prior to installation.
4. Engineered Luxury Vinyl Planks should be acclimated in the climate-controlled location for at least 24 hours before starting installation.
5. Engineered Luxury Vinyl Planks should only be installed after the job site has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage a finished plank installation.
6. During installation, mix and install planks from several different cartons to minimize shade variation. Consider placing the planks on the floor first before permanently installing. This will allow you to select the varying grains & colors and arrange them in your desired pattern.

ACCEPTABLE SUBFLOOR TYPES:

- CDX Underlayment Grade Plywood (at least ½" thick)
- Underlayment grade particle board
- OSB (at least ¾" thick)
- Concrete slab
- Existing wood floor
- Ceramic tile
- Resilient tile & sheet vinyl

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

1. Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth and free from dust, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, asphalt, sealing compounds and other extraneous materials. The surface must be hard, dense and free from powder or flaking.
2. New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry (at least six weeks) and completely cured. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering dealer and or the installation contractor.
3. Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a Portland cement-based underlayment and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.
4. Concrete floors with a radiant heating system are satisfactory, provided the temperature of the floor does not exceed 85°F (30°C) at any point. Before installation, turn on the heating system to eliminate any residual moisture.
5. Concrete should be flat within 3/16" in 10 feet and should not slope more than one inch per 6 feet in any direction.

WOOD SUBFLOORS

1. Wood subfloors must be suspended at least 18" above the ground. Adequate crossventilation must be provided, and the ground surface of a crawl space must be covered with a suitable vapor barrier.
2. All wood and wood composition panels, including plywood, OSB, flake board and particle boards, can be used providing they are smooth, flat, structurally sound and free of deflection.
3. If installing over radiant heated wood subfloors turn off radiant heat for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after the installation. Floor temperature must not exceed 85°F (30°C).

EXISTING FLOOR COVERINGS

- ✓. Engineered Luxury Vinyl Plank can be the most existing hard-surface floor coverings provided the existing floor: Surface is securely adhered, smooth, or can be made smooth. Securely adhered ceramic tile should be made smooth by applying a continuous overlay such as patching or leveling compound to smooth out grout joints.

INSTALLATION TOOLS:

All Installation Methods

- Tape measure
- Tapping block (trimmed piece of flooring)
- Pencil
- Pry bar or pullbar
- Chalkline
- Crosscut power saw
- 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape
- Rubbermallet (white or natural color)

PRE-INSTALLATION

1. Prior to installation, inspect planks in daylight for visible faults/damage.
2. Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions.

INSTALLATION

Do not secure individual planks of Engineered Luxury Vinyl Planks to the subfloor. Since it is designed to be a floating floor, all door jambs should be under cut and cabinets can not be installed on top of this flooring product. Wall moldings and transition strips should be installed at any exposed plank edges, but should not be fastened through the planks.

Flooring with 5G Insta-Loc™ is designed with an angle/drop mechanism with a secure locking dip. It requires that the top or long sides be installed first by engaging the joint at a shallow angle (25°), and then sliding the piece to line up the short or right side droplock mechanism. The end joints with the 5G Insta-Loc™ drop mechanism should be carefully placed with the top side slightly touching the adjoining plank. After engaging the top/long side joint at a shallow angle, the end/side joint can be firmly pressed into place until it 'clicks'.

1. First, determine how you want the flooring to run. Typically for plank products, the flooring runs the length of the room. There may be exceptions since it is all a matter of preference.
2. Begin installation next to an outside wall. Measure an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snap a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of straight.

3. To avoid narrow plank widths or short plank lengths near the walls/doors, it is important to do some pre-planning. Using the width of the room, calculate how many full boards will fit into the area and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial planks. Divide the remaining space by two to calculate the width of the partial planks. Do the same along the length. Note that if the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge is toward the wall.
4. 3/8" (9.5mm) expansion gaps should be kept from the wall during the installation. This will allow space for the natural expansion and contraction of the planks. Moldings should be installed a minimum of 1/32" above the flooring to allow for movement.
5. Do not wrap floating vinyl floors around doors, entryways or other openings that are less than 6' (2 meters) wide. A suitable T-molding or transition strip must be used while maintaining the 3/8" (9.5mm) expansion gap under the T-molding in all openings less than 6' (2 meters) wide. Do not install transitions through the vinyl flooring.
6. The planks should be installed from left to right. From the top left corner of the room, put the first plank in place so that both the head and side seam grooves are exposed. Cut off the tongue on the long side of each piece in the first row with a utility knife.
7. Stagger end joints from row to row by at least 8". When cutting the last plank in a row to fit, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row. If the cut-off end is 8" in length or less, discard it and instead cut a new plank at random length and use it to start the next row. Always begin each row from the same side of the room. When near a wall, you can use a pry bar to pry closed the side and end joints.
8. Install the second plank in the first row by angling the short side tongue into the short side groove of the first plank. Fasten the piece together by firmly pressing down with your thumb along the seam to lock the planks together. This will engage the 5G locking clip into the piece you just placed; you will hear and feel the pieces lock together as the locking tab engages in the joint. Use of a soft, white No. 2 rubber mallet is also recommended to vertically engage the joint. Continue installing additional planks along the first row using the same angling method. The last piece in the row should be cut to length while maintaining the 3/8" (8mm) expansion space along the perimeter of the room.
9. To start the second row, cut a plank that is at least 6" shorter than the first plank in the first row (you may use the left over from the last plank of the first row). Then install this first plank by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row at a low angle (25°) to the installed piece. Then firmly lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure toward the installed piece.
10. Install the remaining planks by first aligning the long edge tongue into the groove of the previous row at a shallow angle. Slide the piece to the left until the piece meets the previously installed piece. You may need to lift the plank to the left of it slightly to allow for the "sliding" action. Using gentle force and at a 20-30 degree angle, push the long side tongue into the groove of the adjoining plank by sliding along the short side seam.
11. The remaining planks can be installed in the room using the same technique. Make sure the required expansion gaps are maintained against all fixed vertical parts (such as, walls, doors, cabinets, etc.) Also, remember to check often that your rows are straight and square.

NOTES:

- Use of 3/8" (8mm) spacer blocks along the first wall will ensure the proper spacing is achieved.
- Remember to maintain a random appearance (planks) or the pattern and offset end seams by at least 6".
- Planks can be cut easily with a utility knife, just score the top of the plank and snap the plank in two.
- When fitting around obstacles or cutting to irregular shapes, the vinyl flooring can be carefully heated and cut with a sharp utility blade. It is beneficial to make cardboard templates of the areas and transfer this to the pieces to be cut.
- Use a small bristle brush for cleaning debris left from milling the locking joints will ensure a tight fit of the pieces.
- If slight gapping is noticed, or the pieces will not lay flat, simply disengage the long/top side joint and then carefully slide the short/end joint apart. Do not pull up on this joint as it will damage the locking mechanism. Reinstall the piece.
- Maximum square feet area without transitions is 1,600 sq.ft., roughly a 40LF x 40LF room.
- The maximum run in any direction is 40 LF before requiring a transition molding and it is recommended to transition in all doorways.

REPAIRS:

In the unlikely event that your Engineered Luxury Vinyl Plank flooring is damaged for any reason, the simplest method is to disconnect the planks carefully (protecting the tongue and groove edges) until the damaged plank can be removed. Then replace the damaged plank with a new one and reassemble the disconnected planks. This typically works for planks that are closest to the two long walls of a room.

For damaged planks that are not close to the perimeter, you may have to remove the damaged planks and insert new pieces without the short and long end grooves

1. Using a sharp utility knife and a straight edge, cut out the center of the damaged plank by leaving approximately 1" strip attached to the adjacent planks.
2. Carefully cut back from the four corners of the plank to the inside edges in space left by the cutout plank.
3. Remove the plank edges carefully from the adjacent planks, making sure the tongues and grooves of the adjacent planks are not damaged.
4. Using a utility knife, remove the tongue strip on both the long and short ends of the replacement plank. In addition, remove the groove strip of the short end of the replacement plank
5. Place some double-sided carpet tape along the three sides of the adjacent planks where the tongues and the groove of the replacement plank have been removed. Only the top side release paper of the carpet tape should be removed. The bottom side release paper should NOT be adhered to the subfloor.
6. Position the replacement plank by engaging the groove of the long side into the tongue of the adjoining plank and pushing down on the other three sides. The carpet tape will hold the replacement plank in place with its adjacent planks. Use a hand roller to further secure the tape.

MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Clean up spills immediately. Lightly wash floor regularly with warm water and vinyl floor cleaner. Do NOT use soap or oil based detergents or abrasive cleaners.

To avoid possible permanent indentation or damage, proper floor protection devices must be used under furniture and appliances. Exercise care when removing and replacing furniture or appliances.

POST INSTALLATION

1. Remove spacers from perimeter of room and install transition moldings. Do not fasten any moldings through the floor.
2. Do not drag furniture over newly installed floor. Use plywood to cover the top of the flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
3. Do not place heavy items on newly installed floor covering for at least 24 hours after completion of the installation
4. Heavy furniture should be equipped with suitable non-staining, wide-bearing casters.
5. Oil or petroleum based products can result in surface staining.
6. Use a non-staining walk off mats. Rubber can discolor resilient floorcoverings.
7. Use proper floor protectors on the legs of furniture.
8. Post installation temperature must be maintained between 65-100° F (18.3-37.8 °C).
Relative humidity must be maintained between 35% and 60%.

PREVENTATIVE CARE

1. Make sure furniture legs have large surface, non-staining floor protectors. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor. Glides should be equipped with self-adhesive felt pads to avoid scratching the surface of the floor. The pads should be checked periodically for grit and wear and replaced when necessary.
2. Heavy furniture or appliances that are not moved often should be equipped with flat, nonstaining composition furniture casters or cups of appropriate size-available in square from 1-1/2" to 2-5/8" and in round from 1-3/8" to 1-5/8".
3. Place mats at outside entrances to prevent dirt, grit and soil from being tracked onto your floor.
4. Do not use vacuums that use a beater bar, or turn the beater bar off. Do NOT use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
5. Damp mop as needed using clean water and an approved Resilient Floor Cleaner. Do NOT use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor. Do NOT use abrasive scrubbing tools, detergents, abrasive cleaner products.

CAUTION: Engineered Luxury Vinyl Planks, like other types of hard surfaced floors, can become slippery when wet. Allow time for the floor to dry after washing. Immediately wipe up wet areas.