

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

VINYL FLOOR GLUE DOWN

General Guidelines

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE INSTALLATION. IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID WARRANTY.

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project.
- Inspect all materials carefully for color, finish, sheen and defects before installation. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. The warranty does not cover materials with visible defects once they are installed. If there any doubts to the quality, dimensions or appearance of the vinyl flooring DO NOT INSTALL. Please contact BuildDirect as INSTALLATION IS ACCEPTANCE.
- While vinyl flooring is water resistant (or waterproof in some cases), it is not a moisture barrier. It is good practice to test the installation surface for moisture and action accordingly. A moisture barrier is always recommended.
- Store flooring boxes flat and fully supported during shipping and storage.
- Condition the vinyl flooring by storing the vinyl flooring in the room or rooms where installation will occur for 24-48 hours before installation at normal living temperature of 65–80°F and relative humidity of 40-55%. This product is not suitable for installation in areas above or below temperatures or relative humidity listed, or non-climate-controlled areas such as covered decks, porches or outdoors.
- Avoid direct sunlight exposure to minimize thermal degradation, color fading, and potential adverse effects on vinyl flooring.
- Installations in facilities where walkers and wheelchairs are used (residential and/or extended care) or in facilities with movement of heavy displays, racks, dentist chairs, etc. may exert extreme stress and compromise the surface and locking system resulting in gapping, product separation, bowing, heaving, and expansion in one direction.
- It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to determine if the jobsite subfloor and jobsite conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for vinyl floor installation. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for vinyl flooring failure resulting from or related to subfloor, subsurface, jobsite damage or deficiencies after vinyl flooring has been installed.
- Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" (46cm) from the ground to the underside of floor joists. A ground cover of minimum 6 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier with joints lapped 6" (15 cm) and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have a perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
- All installed areas must have a working heater & air conditioner to provide normal living conditions for minimum of one week prior to installation and for duration of the flooring use. Normal living conditions include: normal living temperature of 65–80°F and relative humidity of 40-55%. This product is not suitable for installation in areas above or below temperatures or relative humidity listed, or non-climate-controlled areas such as covered decks, porches or outdoors.
- Do not use underlay products unless recommended by the product manufacturer. Please contact BuildDirect for questions about underlay and vinyl flooring installation.

Subfloors

- Vinyl flooring can be installed over concrete, wood subfloors and most existing hard-surface floor coverings.
- All subfloors must be dry, clean (swept and vacuumed of any debris), structurally sound and flat within 3/16" (4.7mm) per 10-foot radius.
- Wood subfloors must be a minimum of 18" (46cm) from the ground to the underside of floor joists. A ground cover of minimum 6 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier with joints lapped 6" (15 cm) and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have a perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Check if well secured; nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If not flat, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland cement-based leveling compound.
- Concrete subfloors must be fully cured for a minimum of 60 days prior to vinyl flooring installation and must be tested for moisture. Concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8lbs (ASTM F1869) or 90%RH (ASTM F2170) with a pH limit of 9. For installations outside of this range a minimum 6 mil polyfilm required between concrete and ground. Subfloor moisture prevention limits the potential growth of harmful bacteria and mold. If not level, grind down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland cement-based leveling compound.
- To install over an existing hard-surface flooring (ceramic tile, resilient tile, etc.) check to see it is well bonded to the subfloor and flat. Apply cement based leveling compound to flatten surface. Heavily cushioned vinyl flooring or vinyl flooring consisting of multiple layers is not a suitable subfloor for installation. Do not sand existing flooring as it may contain asbestos. Take proper precautions and contact an asbestos abatement company to remove old flooring.
- If vinyl flooring has underpad attached, additional underlay is not required, or recommended.
- Do not use underlay products unless recommended by the product manufacturer. Please contact BuildDirect for questions about underlay and vinyl flooring installation.
- Use APA registered wood underlayment grade plywood with a fully sanded face. Underlayment board, such as plywood and other suitable subfloor should be underlayment grade minimum 1/2" thick and have 1/8" gap around perimeter. If the subfloor is at least 1" thick, it is acceptable to use an underlayment grade minimum of 1/4" thick.
- Do not install over unsuitable subfloors such as lauan plywood, particle board, any type of cement backer board, oriented strand board, or any other subfloor materials not approved. Use of these types of products will void the warranty.
- Always apply vinyl flooring to the smooth side of the underlayment material making sure that the underlayment sub-floor is securely fastened with countersink screws. Level and smooth the subfloor with a latex based product. Always use latex floor primer on all porous surfaces such as wood or concrete prior to installation. Latex primer must be used on all porous sub-floors.

Installation Requirements

- Tools needed: 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square notch trowel, 100-pound, three-section steel roller, utility knife, adhesive.
- Do not use tape or adhesive products of any kind onto the surface. Doing so may discolor and/or damage the finish.
- BEFORE installation inspect all materials carefully for color, finish, sheen and defects before installation. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. The warranty does not cover materials with visible defects once they are installed. If there any doubts to the quality, dimensions or appearance of the vinyl flooring DO NOT INSTALL. Please contact BuildDirect as INSTALLATION IS ACCEPTANCE.
- Door jambs are recommended to be undercut, and cabinets cannot be installed on top flooring.
- Wall moldings and transition cannot be fastened to the planks/tiles.
- Mix vinyl flooring from several boxes to ensure a good color and shade mix.
- DO NOT USE ANY ADHESIVES other than what is recommended by BuildDirect. Allow adhesive to set until dry to the touch prior to installation of planks/tiles. Do not use wet lay method, if wet lay method is used warranty will be void. Adhesive set up time will vary depending on temperature, humidity, and geographical location. The use of any adhesive which are not specifically recommended herein will void the warranty. Do not use fans to speed up the dry time.
- Do not install below grade unless moisture test is conducted. Do not install over subfloors where moisture exists. Do not install over sealed subfloor.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Installation

1. First, decide which direction to install the vinyl flooring. Measure the width of the room and divide by the width of vinyl plank/tile to determine how many rows of flooring will be required. In most installations the last row will need to be cut to fit. For best visual effects, a width smaller than 2.5 inches is not recommend. You may need to split the difference between the first and last row to balance the look of your installation. Always work from several open boxes of flooring and “dry lay” the vinyl flooring before permanently installing the vinyl flooring. This will allow you to select varying grains & colors and to arrange them in a harmonious pattern. It is the installers’ responsibility to determine the expectations of what the finished floor will look like with the end user expectations. Large spans more than 39’ require expansion breaks or transition moldings.
2. Begin installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line, this will be your reference line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of the plank/tile or the width calculated as above. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks/tiles on the wall side ensuring the first row is exactly on the reference line (chalk line).
3. Using spacers, leave a 3/8” expansion gap between wall and edges of the flooring.
4. Using the adhesive and a trowel, spread the adhesive as per the adhesive instructions. Allow adhesive to set until it is dry to the touch prior to installing planks. Do not use fans to speed up the dry time. Proper adhesive application is critical. Excessive amounts of adhesive applied with an improper trowel will delay drying time. Insufficient coverage (normally caused by worn notches on adhesive trowels) will prevent proper adhesion or bond to the vinyl floor. Typically, vinyl flooring must be installed within 2 hours of applying the adhesive (adhesive will vary from manufacturer to manufacturer, it is recommended to follow the specific adhesive instructions from the specific adhesive used).
5. Installing first row: from left to right, place the first plank/tile. It is critical you install the first row straight and square, proper placement of the first row is key to the installation. Position the first plank/tile at a low angle into adhesive and press firmly without sliding. Continue installing additional planks/tiles in this manner until reaching final plank/tile in the first row. Measure and cut final plank/tile to length. Do not allow vinyl floor to set in adhesive for longer than 1/2 hour without rolling with a 100 Lb. 3-section steel roller. You must also roll all seams with a 3-section hand roller or handheld roller, applying adequate pressure to ensure proper bond.
6. Installing second row and beyond: you may use left-over plank/tile from first row if greater than 8” in length. If not, cut a new plank/tile at least 8” in length and allowing 8” between end joints from the previous row. Position the first plank/tile at a low angle into adhesive and press firmly without sliding. Continue installing additional planks/tiles in this manner until reaching final plank/tile in the first row. Measure and cut final plank/tile to length. Do not allow vinyl floor to set in adhesive for longer than 1/2 hour without rolling with a 100 Lb. 3-section steel roller. You must also roll all seams with a 3-section hand roller or handheld roller, applying adequate pressure to ensure proper bond. CONTINUALLY CHECK FOR GAPPING AFTER EVERY PLANK/TILE BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE NEXT PLANK/TILE OR ROW. CHECK EVERY 4th ROW WITH A STRING LINE ENSURING IT REMAINS STRAIGHT.
7. Installing final row: the final row and all corresponding boards may need to be cut lengthwise and widthwise for proper fit. Do not allow vinyl floor to set in adhesive for longer than 1/2 hour without rolling with a 100 Lb. 3-section steel roller. You must also roll all seams with a 3-section hand roller or handheld roller, applying adequate pressure to ensure proper bond.

Note: Wet adhesive may be removed with a damp cloth; dry adhesive may be removed with a cloth dampened with mineral spirits. Do not reuse adhesive container. Dispose of in accordance with local regulations. CAUTION: Solvents are hazardous materials and should be used with caution, in accordance with the manufacturer’s label instructions.

Installation Under Door Jamb

1. Installation under moldings (such as door jambs) may require that the top lip of the groove on the end be reduced in size.
2. Using a small plane or knife plane, carefully shave off the edge of the groove.
3. After the groove edge has been trimmed, place the plank/tile in place and tighten with a pull bar to test for fit. The installer must be sure that the required expansion gap has been maintained and the flooring is not pinched.
4. If fit is not correct, re-trim as necessary.
5. Place a bead of wood glue on the bottom lip of the groove.
6. Insert the tongue into the groove and tighten the fit with a pull bar. Hold the plank/tile in place with painters tape (3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape (or equivalent) until glue is dry. Do not use masking tape or duct tape as they may damage the vinyl flooring finish.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Expansion Gaps & Transition Requirements

- Maintain 3/8" expansion gap around room perimeter.
- Areas over 60' long or 30' wide need transition pieces.
- Non-square rooms must have expansion or transition gaps separating them.
- All door openings must have an expansion gap between rooms.

Radiant Heat

- Concrete subfloor with in-floor (embedded) radiant heating systems are allowed. The heating system must be 1 1/2" below the surface layer of the concrete slab. Before installation of vinyl flooring, in-floor heating systems must be operated at normal living temperature for 14 days. 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation, turn off in-floor heating unit. Radiant Heat systems must have failsafe capability to ensure surface temperatures do not exceed 80°F.
- Use of under-floor electric heating mats or other under-floor heating units directly under vinyl flooring can void the warranty. Please contact BuildDirect for questions about vinyl flooring and under-floor electric heating mats or other under-floor heating mats.

Post Installation Maintenance

- Use rosin paper and cover installed vinyl flooring area to prevent damage from other trade works. Do not use plastic film or other non-breathing material.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Routinely vacuum, sweep and/or dust vinyl flooring. Do not use treated dust mops.
- For heavier cleaning use a damp mop and clean water or neutral pH-based cleaner. Do not use harsh cleaners nor chemicals on vinyl flooring. Oil and petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not use abrasive scrubbing tools or vacuums with beater bar. Do not use electric brooms.
- To protect vinyl flooring surface, close blinds and/or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Excessive heat and light will subject vinyl flooring to thermal degradation and potential fading effects. AVOID DIRECT SUNLIGHT EXPOSURE. Place mats at all entrances to keep dirt and debris off vinyl flooring. Use non-staining, breathable mats. Rubber mats may discolor vinyl flooring. Use floor protectors for furniture. Non-staining felt pads can be used provided they are changed on a regular basis to prevent dirt, debris and sand buildup. Wide, non-staining casters at least 2" in diameter or floor protectors should be used on rolling furniture such as office chairs. To prevent point loads on heavy furniture, use large non-staining surface floor protectors. Do not use ball type castors as they can damage floors.
- When moving heavy furniture or appliances, place a sheet of Masonite or plywood under the piece being moved to distribute the weight and reduce denting or scratching. For light pieces use a clean blanket or a piece of carpet face down under the piece to be moved. Be aware of any sharp edges as they can scratch and gouge your floor's surface.