IMPORTANT NOTICE

Buyers and owners are responsible for thoroughly reading all materials provided by the retailer at time of purchase prior to the installation of flooring, including the installation guidelines, maintenance instructions, and the product warranty information. The following instructions apply only to Golden Elite’s 4 mm click vinyl floors, included within the Ibiza Collection. This product is installed through a side click installation method.

Golden Elite is not responsible for the installer’s application of the product and requires the product to be inspected prior to installation. The installer should contact the supplier immediately for replacement if the product (whether an individual plank or more) appears doubtful in appearance, such as color, finish or quality. The supplier is responsible for replacing flooring planks if the product is determined to be defective. However, Golden Elite is not responsible for flooring that has been previously installed or damaged on the surface (or tongue) of the plank by the installer. For flooring that is determined to be defective post-installation, Golden Elite will reimburse the buyer for the flooring planks only. Labor costs or any other related expenses will not be reimbursed.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

• Laying the floor should be the last step of your project.
• Click vinyl floors can be installed at grade level, above grade level, or below grade level.
• The click vinyl flooring must be placed in the jobsite for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Be sure the room temperature is between 18-23°C (65-75°F) before, during, and after the installation. Do not remove planks from the carton during this acclimation period.
• The floor floats and is installed without glue. It is safe to walk on the floor during and immediately after installation.
• The installation of Golden Elite click vinyl flooring is not guaranteed for radiant heated floors.
• It is recommended to install flooring parallel to the longest wall in the room or parallel to the main window in the room.
• To calculate the flooring material requirements, measure the length and width of the room where you will be installing the click vinyl floor and multiply them together to determine its area. Add 10% to the room’s area to determine square footage of click vinyl flooring that you will require. We recommend you purchase a few extra cartons of flooring to be used in case you have some damaged pieces, miscalculate the size of the room or miss cut some pieces.
• Document Each Test: To ensure that the flooring product is being installed according to the outlined guidelines, Golden Elite requires for the buyer or installer to document each step of the preparation process prior to installing the flooring. This involves taking a photograph of the test reader that displays, the temperature of the jobsite, the subfloor, etc., along with the date and time that the photograph was taken. This can be completed quickly using a basic camera on your cell phone and helps protect the buyer or installer in the case that a claim needs to be filed.
• CAUTION: Do not install click vinyl flooring over carpet or any foam or underlayment. This product is not suitable for any outside use, sunrooms/solariums, saunas or rooms/homes that are not temperature controlled. Exposure to long-term direct sunlight can cause damage to your floor.
• When installing in areas greater than 27’ feet in any direction, such as one large room, two or more adjoining rooms, archways greater than 4 feet and large rooms with a connected hallway, a T-molding break must be installed across the room, at the archway or at the beginning of the hallway to allow extra expansion space. Not following this instruction will void your warranty.
MATERIALS & TOOLS

Materials
• Click vinyl flooring
• Transitional moldings (if needed)

Tools
• Utility knife
• Measuring Tape
• Shears for cutting around irregular shaped objects
• 3/8” Spacers

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

A. General Subfloor Preparation & Precautions
• Subfloors must be clean and free of dirt and debris prior to installation.
• Subfloors must be structurally sound and flat prior to installation.
• Carpet is not a suitable underlayment for click vinyl floors. All carpet, carpet pad and carpet tack should be removed prior to installation.
• Variations in the subfloor flatness should not exceed 1/16” per 3 ft. (2 mm/m). Floors must be leveled to meet this specification prior to installation. Level by filling depressed areas with floor leveling compounds and sanding or grinding down any raised areas. Subfloor thickness must be a minimum of 15 mm (5/8”).
• Click vinyl flooring is waterproof. It is not a water-proofer, any moisture problems need to be addressed prior to installation.

B. Concrete
• Concrete subfloors must be properly cured and allowed to dry for at least 60 days prior to installation. Test concrete subfloor for moisture prior to installation.
  o If condensation appears on the film after 24 hours or concrete appears dark, in color, moisture is likely present and a Calcium Chloride test must be performed.
  o The maximum allowable moisture emission is 5 lbs./1000 ft.² per 24 hours (2.26 kg/101.6 m² per 24 hours).

C. Wood
• Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and screwed or nailed to supporting beams.
D. Existing Floor Covering
- Click vinyl flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor covering provided that the existing surface can be made smooth.
- When the removal of the existing flooring is not an option, the existing flooring should be covered with an embossing leveler. Existing sheet vinyl should not be overly cushioned and should only consist of one layer.
- Ceramic tile should be made smooth by applying a patching or leveling compound made specifically to smooth out ceramic joints.

E. Radiant heat
IMPORTANT: Due to the speed of sudden temperature changes, which has the potential to negatively affect click vinyl flooring construction, it is not recommended to install over any radiant heating system. Installation over radiant heating systems will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

Owner and installer are solely and jointly responsible for checking that pre-installation conditions and/or specifications listed in this guide have been thoroughly met prior to installation of the floor.

ROOM PREPARATION

A. Wall Base/Trim
- Removal of existing wall base/trim is optional.
- Wall base or trim will need to be installed once the flooring installation is complete to cover the expansion space around the perimeter of the room.
- Always nail/adhere wall base and trim to the wall. Never nail/adhere it to the click vinyl flooring.

B. Doors/Door Jambs
Click vinyl floors should be installed under door jambs so your door jambs will need to be undercut accordingly. To do so:
- Use click vinyl flooring off-cut and a small piece of underlayment to support your saw blade at the correct height for undercutting.
- Check door clearances and make any necessary height adjustments before installing click vinyl floors.
- Make sure to leave the correct expansion spacing.

C. Wall Irregularities
Walls are not always perfectly straight. Golden Elite click vinyl floors will need to be cut so as to fit within irregularities of your walls. To do so:
1. Install a complete, first row of the click vinyl floor and ensure that all long edges of the flooring are aligned flush with one other.
2. Slide the whole row against the wall; you will now notice any of these irregularities (i.e. areas where the wall is not straight.)
3. Trace the contour of the wall onto the row of click vinyl flooring with a pencil or marker.
4. Once traced, uninstall the planks carefully so as to not damage the locking system and cut along the traced line.
5. Re-install the planks leaving the necessary 3/8” (10 mm) expansion space.

ACCLIMATION
**IMPORTANT:** Do not open boxes until ready to begin installation.

Click vinyl floors must be acclimated to the conditions of your home before they are installed. To do so, cross-stack unopened cartons in the area where they will be installed and away from outside walls, heat and air conditioning vents. Allow 48 hours for your floors to acclimate to the conditions of the installation area before opening the cartons. Installation temperature should be at a minimum of 65°F (18°C).

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**INSTALLATION**

**A. Basic Procedures**
- Inspect every plank for damage before installing it.
- Click vinyl flooring is designed to be a floating floor, so do not secure the planks to the subfloor.
- The first and last row of the installation should be wider than 3.5” (9 cm). To ensure this will be the case, prior to installation:
  1. Measure the width of the room and divide it by the width of the planks you are installing.
  2. If the remainder is less than 3.5” (9 cm) cut 3.5” (9 cm) from the width of the first row. If this is not possible, simply ensure that both edge planks are as even in width as possible.
- Prepare the subfloor and room as per the corresponding instructions found in this guideline.
- Use spacers around the perimeter to maintain the necessary 3/8” (10 mm) expansion space.
- Select a starting corner of the room and work from right to left.

**B. Install the Floor**

1.) Accurately measure the room to determine the center line, adjust the established line to accommodate a balanced layout and then transpose this line to a comfortable width away from the starting wall (approximately 2’ to 3’ wide). Determine if the starter row will need to be cut. 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 towards the wall.

2.) Position the first plank so that both the head and the side seam groove is exposed. This requires installing the product from right to left in the room. When laying the first row in a straight line, interlock the short ends by inserting the tongue into the grooves at an angle of about 15 – 20 degrees. Install per sequential plank on the short end and be sure to line them up evenly. Make sure to keep the seams between planks tight. You will feel and hear the click when locking the planks together to create a tight seam. There should be no gap visible between planks. If your seam appears not to be tight, pull the planks apart and retry.

3.) Install the second plank in the row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first plank. Be careful not to bend the corner of the plank. Maintain an expansion gap of approximately 5/16” from the wall. Then cut a plank to length to start the second row, stagger the end seam at least 6” from the first plank.

4.) Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. This is best done with a low angle of the plank.
5.) Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short end tongue into the previously installed plank groove. Align the plank so that the long side tongue tip is positioned just over the groove lip of the plank in the first row. Working from the end seam, at a low angle, insert the long tongue into the groove of the adjoining plank. Very little force is required to fit the tongue into the groove. You should feel the tongue lock into the groove.

6.) Work across the length of the room installing planks along the wall in the first row and then aligning the planks in the second row. It is important to keep these two rows straight and square, as they are the “foundation” for the rest of the installation. Check squareness and straightness often.

7.) Cut the last plank in the first row to fit approximately 5/16” short of the end wall. Planks may be cut with a utility knife using the “score and snap” method. The score and snap method includes scoring the top side of the plank twice with a utility knife, then snap toward the underside along score line. Other times the remainder of the plank may be used to start the third row.

8.) Continue installing planks, being certain to maintain a random appearance and offset end seams at least 6”. Maintain a 5/16” expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces. Check to be certain all planks are fully engaged. If slight gapping is noticed, the gap can be tapped closed using a scrap of flooring and a tapping block.

9.) When fitting under door casings, the flexibility and low angle of connection becomes evident. If necessary, a flat pull bar or “last board puller” may be used to assist in locking the planks.

10.) When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, vinyl planks can be cut easily and cleanly using a utility knife with a sharp blade. It is often beneficial to make a cardboard template of the area and transfer the pattern to the plank.

11.) Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding or transition strips. Use caution to prevent the fasteners from securing the planks to the subfloor.

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C. Precautions

• Protect furniture and chair legs with proper felt or rubber caps.
• Avoid bringing dirt, water and sand indoors by providing a suitable solid backed floor mat at the door.
• Furniture on casters/wheels must use soft, rubber wheels that are suitable for a click vinyl floor and/or use a suitable protective mat.
Golden Elite click vinyl floors are among the highest performing floors available, but they are not indestructible and minor cosmetic scuffing is normal wear for any click vinyl floor. To ensure your floors perform as well in the future as they do the day after you install them:

**DO**
- Wipe up spills as soon as possible.
- Wash your floor occasionally.
- Use cleaner approved for vinyl floors to return your floor's original shine if it begins to dull over time.

**DON'T**
- Use detergents, vinegar, abrasive cleaners or "mop and shine" products - they may leave a dull film on your floor.
- Use paste wax or solvent-based polishes.
- Use a beater bar when vacuuming because it can visibly damage the floor surface.
- Use highly abrasive scrubbing tools.

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER INSTALLATION**
- Maintain room temperature at 65 degrees Fahrenheit for 48 hours after installation is completed.

**PROACTIVE PROTECTION FOR YOUR FLOOR**
- When moving appliances or heavy furniture, lay a plywood panel on your floor and "walk" the item across it. This protects your floor from scuffing and tears.
- Be careful with rolling casters. They can damage the floor. Therefore, we do not recommend them. If you choose to use them, the double wheel type are the best option.
- Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. We do not recommend the use of rubber- or latex-backed mats because the chemical (antioxidant) used to keep the backing from becoming brittle can permanently stain your floor. We suggest a non-staining vinyl-backed mat or a woven rug that is colorfast. Most of these products are identified "colorfast" by the manufacturer.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Some jurisdictions do not allow exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages so that the above limitation and exclusion may not apply. Your warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights, which vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

This warranty only applies to the original end user and is not transferable. Golden Elite needs the flooring receipts to verify date and proof if purchase to resolve any problem that may occur. If a defect is found, Golden Elite will repair the defective area or replace the floor with similar color, pattern and quality at your option.

Golden Elite’s limited, non-transferable 25-year residential and 5-year light commercial warranty begins from the date of purchase, and covers only the original purchaser, for twenty-five (25) years in dry, residential areas and five (5) years in dry, light commercial spaces. Be sure to thoroughly read all articles and conditions pertaining to the warranty, its application and coverage. Warranty is valid only where the proper installation criteria have been met.

NOTE: This warranty will be null & void if this product is installed with obvious visual defects. Should a defect be found in the flooring before installation, it is the installer’s responsibility to immediately stop and directly contact Golden Elite for further instructions and assistance before installation. Installation of a defective product implies acceptance of its condition and will void your warranty.

Improper installation and maintenance of this product will void the warranty.

No warranty will be offered for appearance related claims once the product has been installed.

Golden Elite warrants that this product in its original manufactured condition is free from defect in material, workmanship and grading.

The finish and wear guaranty warrants that, the original purchaser will not have problems with the finish peeling off or wearing through, from the date of purchase.

The manufacturer’s warranty extends to the value of the product purchased and does not include labor or installation costs. Your warranty (replacement or refund) is pro-rated based on the expired life of the warranty.

What is NOT covered?
- Damages incurred by natural disasters (fire, flooding etc).
- Damages incurred through improper storage, handling or installation of the product.
- Damages incurred through excessive or inadequate temperature levels in area of installation. Temperature should be maintained between 18°C and 23°C (65°F to 73°F).
- Damages incurred by improper handling through shipping companies. This responsibility lies solely with the shipper; such claims must be forwarded directly to them.
- Dents, scratches or abuse to the floor.
- Abuse, lack of maintenance, neglect, abnormal use or misuse, corrosive chemicals, burns or any other usage not recommended by the manufacturer.
- Warping, chipping, bridging due to water and moisture damage or incorrect installation.
- Failure due to structural changes in the sub-floor, settling of the building or uneven subfloors that have not been properly levelled.
- Damages incurred by exposure to water or abrasive cleaning products.
- Installation of flooring with visual defects.
- Surface scratches & minor wear and tear from everyday usage.

For more information on this product, please call Golden Elite, 1-888-642-8844.