

Visual Artisan Floors

LUXURY VINYL FLOOR

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES AND MAINTENANCE

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE ACTUAL INSTALLATION

Owner/Installer Responsibility

Examine flooring for color and quality prior to installation. Flooring is manufactured in accordance with industry standards. If material is unacceptable, contact the seller immediately. Undesirable pieces should not be installed. Flooring warranties DO NOT cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.

The owner and Installer are responsible for final inspection of flooring quality and grade. Purchase an additional 5% of flooring to allow for cuts and an additional 10% to 15% if installing diagonally.

WARRANTY NOTE: Installer should provide the owner with one carton end label from product installed and recorded moisture test results for warranty purposes.

Owners should also retain carton labels and invoice for their records. Excess flooring should be stored flat in a climate controlled area for repairs in the event of future damage.

Before Installation

Job Site Conditions

It is the responsibility of the Owner and Installer to ensure job site environmental, substrate and subsurface conditions involved meet all requirements as outlined in installation instructions prior to substrate testing and flooring installation. The manufacturer declines all responsibility for product performance or installation failure due to structural, substrate or environmental deficiencies or jobsite conditions. Resilient flooring installation should be scheduled after all other trades have completed their work.

- Resilient flooring installation should be scheduled after all other trades have completed their work.
- Permanent HVAC systems must be in operation for at least 10 days prior to substrate moisture testing or flooring installation and constant temperatures maintained thereafter. The temperature should never fall below 55°F for the life of the installation. Portable heaters can't provide consistent or adequate heat. Never use kerosene heaters.
- Proper acclimation of the room, substrate, flooring material, adhesive and all installation accessories are critical to the success of long term flooring

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performance. Installation over cold substrates will interfere with product dimensions by affecting the size of the floor and increase the potential for indentation, joint fracture or separation. The substrate temperature must be between 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C) at the time of installation.

- Un-opened cartons of flooring should be stored flat and neatly stacked in the climate controlled installation area for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation to allow product to acclimate. Open cartons just prior to installation.
- It's recommended to blend flooring from multiple cartons during installation.
- Excess flooring should be stored in a protected climate controlled environment for future repairs if necessary.

Tools and Materials

- Carpenter square
- Utility knife
- Chalk Line
- Tape measure
- Pencil

Suitable Substrates and Surface Materials

- FLAT – Within 3/16" in 9' (5mm in 3m) and/or 1/8" in 6' (3mm in 2m). Sand high areas or joints. Fill low areas with a high compressive strength (min. 3,000 psi) Portland cementitious compound.
- DRY – Select the appropriate moisture indicator test specifically designed for use with wood or concrete subfloors. Test and record moisture content results on page 4(Site Preparations) of this document.
- STRUCTURALLY SOUND – Nail or screw any areas that are loose or squeak. Wood panels should exhibit an adequate fastening pattern, glued/screwed or

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nailed as the system requires, using an acceptable nailing pattern. Typical: 6” (15cm) along bearing edges and 12” (31cm) along intermediate supports. Flatten edge swell as necessary. Replace any water-damaged, swollen or delaminated subflooring or substrate.

- Fully cured, dry concrete on all grade levels (Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 85% RH (ASTM F2170) with a pH range between 8 and 9.
- Approved suspended wood floors and underlayment.
- Portland cement-based self-leveling underlayment and patching compounds.
- Prepared ceramic tile, marble and cement terrazzo.
- Aluminum, steel and stainless steel.
- Embedded radiant-heated substrates where the maximum surface temperature of the floor does not exceed 85°F (29°C) in any area.
- Existing inlaid resilient sheet flooring-single layer, fully adhered and well bonded
- Existing vinyl composition tile (VCT) - single layer, well bonded over on or above grade level only.

Building codes establish requirements for structural support components of flooring systems which may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance.

NOTE: Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection because subfloor movement will telegraph through to the finished installation. Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure boards with excessive vertical movement or deflection. If the subfloor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete. Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

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Site Preparations

Over Concrete

The installation site must be acclimated with HVAC in operation. The floor and room temperature, as well as flooring materials and adhesive, must be maintained at 65°– 85° F, and the humidity below 65% for 48 hours prior to, during, and after pre-installation testing and installation. All substrate preparation and testing procedures must conform to appropriate ASTM F710, ASTM F 1869 and ASTM F 2170. Moisture levels should not exceed 85% RH, pH should read between 8-9. Vinyl tiles are resistant to water damage but they do not prevent the transmission of moisture. Care should be taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of the vinyl floor to prevent the growth of mold and mildew.

Over Ceramic

Remove any loose tiles and fill with appropriate Portland cement floor fill. Roughen surface of tile. Fill grout joints to the level of the surface of the ceramic tile with appropriate Portland Cement floor fill carefully following the floor fill manufacturer's instructions for mixing, priming and spreading material over ceramic tile.

Installation Steps

1. Determine if the starter row will need to be cut. If the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, proceed. Perimeter planks should not be less than 1/2 the width of the plank. Identify the tongue on the short side of the plank. Start with the tongue facing the wall, being careful to leave a 1/4" expansion space.
2. Identify tongue/short side of plank. The tongue side should start facing the wall if working left to right. You may also start with the groove side facing the wall if this is easier for you, but you must work right to left. Regardless of direction, be careful to leave a 1/4" expansion space around the perimeter of the room.
3. Check the groove on each plank to ensure it is clean and free of debris.
4. Continue to the next plank by dropping and locking the end of the new plank into the end of the existing plank. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the tongue of the long side into the groove of the plank in the first row. Shift the product down

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toward the end seam and slightly lift the previous plank in order to engage the end joints together.

5. For flooring thicker than 4.5mm, tap the end joint into place with a rubber mallet or with hand to fully engage the end joints together. For products thinner than 4.5mm, only use your hand to fully engage the end joints together, do not use the rubber mallet.

6. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row, or the reverse of working right to left.

7. Work across the length of the room installing planks with the long side seam first, then sliding back to drop the end joint into place. Tap ends to ensure a tight fit.

It is critical to keep the first two rows straight and square, as they are the “foundation” for the rest of the installation. Check squareness and straightness regularly.

8. Cut the last plank in the second row and leave an expansion gap of 1/4” (6.35 mm). Planks may be cut with a utility knife using the “score and snap” technique. The leftover of this plank may be used to start the third row if it’s a minimum 6” (15 cm long).

9. Continue installing planks and make sure to achieve a random appearance with end pieces of minimum 6 (15 cm). Check that all planks are fully engaged; if a slight gapping is found, the gap can be tapped together by using a tapping block and a scrap of flooring to cover the tapping block in order to avoid damage to the planks.

10. When fitting under door casings, etc., the flexibility and convenient connection of Uniclic becomes evident. If necessary, a fat pull bar may be used to assist in locking the planks. If needed, remove the locking profile on the groove in order to slide the plank into place and apply seam sealer to the edges to glue planks together.

11. When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, the product 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 this pattern to the plank.

12. Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips.

Make sure that no plank will be secured in any way to the subfloor.

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13. Protect the finished installation from exposure to direct sunlight or the tiles may peak or shift.

14. For wet areas such as bathrooms, caulk the perimeter of the floor with a silicone caulk.

Approved Methods for Tile and Plank

Random



Half Lap



Ashlar



When installing multi-length Uniclic® planks, make sure end joints are no closer than 6” from end joints in adjacent rows.

Plank Replacement

In cases of severe damage, tiles may be replaced by cutting the bad piece out using a utility knife. To insert a replacement tile, cut the tongue off the new piece and use a seam sealer on only the sides of the tile, adhering the new tile into place.

Maintenance

- Clean the floor regularly with sweeping or vacuuming. Use a vacuum without a beater bar. Use damp mop to wipe the floor. Remove excessive water after cleaning.
- In case of excessive amounts of water, remove the water as immediately as possible. Then use a dehumidifier to reduce the humidity back to normal levels.
- Use floor protectants to prevent things that could severely scratch your floor surface, such as pets, certain shoes, furniture, etc.

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- Avoid dirt by using walk-off mats.
- Avoid exposure in direct sunlight. Keep temperatures under 110°F all year around.

Questions about your VAF Flooring purchase?
Please contact us at service@vafhardwood.com