

BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLING FLOORING:

All instructions and recommendations are based on the most recent information available, for the latest version of this guide please consult www.homedepot.com and search for your product SKU. These instructions should be followed for an ideal installation.

- Do not install over finished or pre-finished hardwood flooring, polyurethane or varnished finishes
- Do not install over a sealed subfloor
- Do not install over radiant heated floors that are maintained at temperatures greater than 85°F (29°C)
- Do not install in exterior areas or where vinyl floors will be exposed to the elements
- Do not install in garages or areas that will be damp
- Do not install on below grade concrete
- Do not install over unsuitable or unstable subflooring such as chipboard, OSB, luan plywood, mohogany-based plywood underlayments, Masonite™, cement board, fiber-based backing boards, or any other non-underlayment grade panel
- Do not install over concrete that has been painted or contains any contaminants, grease, oil, solvents or stains
- **NEVER** use solvent-based or chemical floor preparation materials. Do not use primers or fillers that are manufactured for use with paint or products other than vinyl flooring
- Never use solvent-based or chemical care and maintenance products, refinishing products or waxes on this vinyl flooring
- **READ AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO INSTALLING.....**Failure to do so will void product warranty.
- Accurate measurements and a flat, clean and DRY subfloor are essential for a successful installation. (self-stick adhesives will not stick to dirt, dust or high-moisture content subfloors)
- Flooring must acclimate for 48 hours prior to installation in the environment to be installed
- Subfloor surface must be maintained at room temperature
- Crawl spaces should be properly ventilated and have proper moisture barrier between the substrate and subfloor
- All concrete slabs should be tested for moisture content before installation
- **NEVER ADD ADDITIONAL ADHESIVE TO SELF-STICK TILES, REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OF ADHESIVE!**

SUBFLOORING

Install on interior residential floors, on or above grade only. Install over concrete, underlayment grade wood panels, and properly prepared existing resilient flooring. Surfaces must be moisture free, clean smooth, structurally sound, tightly secured, and flat and level. Existing hardwood flooring must be covered with a suitable underlayment grade plywood panel as specified below; do not install self-stick products over finished (varnished or polyurethane coated) hardwood flooring.

FOR CONCRETE

With a moisture test kit (not included) test for moisture in the slab. MVER must be 3 lbs./sq.ft./1000sq.ft. or less. Remove all sealers, grease, oil, adhesive residue, dirt, paint, or other foreign material to ensure a clean bond. Use of rubber mat test is not 100% reliable and may only be used as in indicator to conduct further testing.

FOR PLYWOOD

Panels shall be exterior underlayment grade, sanded face, properly installed and secured with 1/8" gap around the perimeter of the room. Do not install over chipboard, OSB, luan plywood, mohogany-based plywood underlayments, Masonite™, cement board, fiber-based backing boards, or any other non-underlayment grade panels.

FOR EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING

Existing floor coverings must be tightly secured and bonded. Remove any contaminants, waxes, sealers from the surface and cover with a suitable cementitious embossing leveler. Do not cover loose-lay, floating flooring or cushion backed vinyl with DIY Self-stick flooring.

TOOLS NEEDED:

Required (not included): chalk line, tape measure, shop vacuum, pencil, utility knife w/blades, 100lb. 3 section roller(available at Home Depot Rental department), carpenters or speed square.

Helpful (not included): reducer strip or moldings, wall trim, putty knife, crowbar, cementitious latex based patching compound**, finishing nails, claw hammer.

****Cement based patch is required when installing over existing floor coverings.**

GENERAL PREPARATION

- Acclimate the tiles to room temperature (65° - 85°F) in the area to be installed for 48 hours prior to installation.
- Undercut door jambs and moldings 1/8" from subfloor. Check clearances of doors and undercut if necessary.
- Remove all quarter-round and if desired, removes all baseboards.
- Remove nails, screws or any foreign materials that will prevent pieces and tiles from lying flat.
- Scrape subfloor to remove paint, plaster or other debris that will prevent adhesion of flooring. Some substances may require mechanical grinding for removal.
- Subfloor must be level to ¼" within each 10 feet radius. Fill low areas with cementitious based latex patching compound (not included). Grind, chip or sand down any high areas in the flooring.
- Sweep and thoroughly vacuum subfloor.
- Prime subfloor with latex based flooring primer (not included). Primer must be of type specifically designed for use with self-adhesive (self-stick) vinyl flooring. Follow manufacturer's directions for proper application and mixing of flooring primer.
- **IMPORTANT:** Inspect all pieces for visible blemishes or defects and remove them from the installation. Installation of a defected piece will be regarded as acceptance of its condition regardless of the defect and will void the product warranty.
- Pieces can be cut with a square and razor knife by scoring the top surface of the piece and snapping the pieces apart. It is not necessary to cut all the way through the piece. For intricate cuts around door jambs or moldings, heat the piece slightly with a hair dryer to allow the piece to be fully cut with the razor knife.
- Cartons should be mixed on the jobsite and pieces installed from multiple cartons at the same time.
- Ensure cartons are obtained from the same lot / run number to avoid differences in pattern or shading which may occur.

INSTALLATION

1. Plan your layout to avoid an unbalanced installation with pieces shorter than 9" or narrower than ½ the width of the piece or tiles along the walls.
2. Dry lay a section of flooring in width and length from the centerline of the room and adjust your layout accordingly to avoid small pieces.
3. When the starting row is determined, strike a line parallel to the wall farthest from the door. If the first row of pieces is to be cut add this measurement to the width of a full piece and use this as your starting line. Be sure to account for irregularities in the wall and allow for a 1/8" expansion gap between the pieces and the wall. This is your starting line.
4. Remove the release paper from the first piece and place it along the starting line. Be sure to discard release paper immediately; it is very slippery and may cause a fall or injury if stepped on.
5. Set the second piece snug against the end of the first piece and along the starting line. Continue the remainder of the first row in this manner.
note: if you are installing tiles and planning on using grout be sure to insert the proper size spacers between all tiles during the installation.
6. For the last piece which will be cut, be sure to allow for a 1/8" expansion space at the wall. Use the remainder of the cut piece to start the next row placing the cut edge against the wall.
7. Continue to install the rows of pieces in this fashion until the last row is reached. Seams should be tight with no gaps. Stagger end joints in each row by at least 6" and try to avoid "stair stepping" of joints. Random placement of end joints offers a more authentic look to the installation.
8. During installation roll pieces and tiles with 100 lb. 3-section vinyl roller. This is necessary to activate the

- adhesive and provide maximum bonding to the substrate.
9. ROWS ALONG THE WALLS: If the pieces along the long side walls need to be cut in width, use a suitable straight edge that is slightly longer than the piece. Mark both ends of the piece to the proper width and score the piece with the utility knife, using the straight edge as a guide. Snap the piece in 2 along the score line and install the cut piece along the wall. Be sure to maintain the 1/8" expansion gap along all walls.
 10. After installation, roll the complete floor in length and width with a 100 lb. 3-section steel roller. The adhesive on the pieces is a pressure-sensitive adhesive and this step ensures a complete bond to the substrate. Failure to roll the floor may result in loose or curled pieces of flooring.
 11. For installations that will be utilizing grout with Luxury Vinyl Tiles:
 - a. Wait minimum of 12 hours before grouting.
 - b. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations on installing the grout and cleaning excess grout from the tiles.
 - c. Do not use haze removers or other types of chemical tile cleaners as they might damage the finish on the vinyl tiles.
 12. Replace any wall trim and moldings. Be sure to secure quarter round moldings to the baseboard and not through the flooring.

Grouting Tiles

Follow the grout manufacturer's **complete instructions** regarding installation, cleaning, curing and maintenance of their grout product. The following instructions are provided as guidelines only and are superseded by instructions of the grout manufacturer.

Product Handling and Limitations

- a. Store indoors in a cool, dry location and keep away from excessive heat.
- b. Maintain temperature range of 60° - 100°F (15° - 38°C) during use and drying.
- c. Grout is freeze/thaw stable to -10°F. If grout does get frozen, slowly bring material back to room temperature and mix per instructions.
- d. Shelf-life is a maximum of 18 months from date of manufacture in unopened package. Product is good for 6 months after opening as long as bucket is re-sealed carefully and stored in a cool, dry, interior location and used within shelf life. Covering with plastic wrap directly on top of product prior to sealing container will help preserve freshness.
- e. Certain tile surfaces may be stained when grouted with colored grout. Follow tile manufacturer recommendations or test.
- f. Use on grout joints from 1/16 in. up to 3/16" inches (1.6mm to 4.76mm) in width.
- g. Do not grout over existing epoxy grout installations.
- h. Not for use in swimming pools or exterior applications.
- i. Do not add water.
- j. Do not seal grout.
- k. Grout joints shall be a minimum of 1/6" and not greater than 3/16".
- l. Be sure you have the proper amount of grout before beginning the job. Coverage of NovaFloor Luxury Vinyl Tile Grout is shown in the table below.
- m. Tiles must be clean and well bonded to the substrate before grout is applied.
- n. Do not grout immediately after installation, wait 24 hours.
- o. Grout joints must be clean and dry, use of a vacuum is recommended to ensure there is no debris in the joints.
- p. Use of a rigid rubber float is recommended.
- q. Remove all joint spacers before installing grout.

Installing the Grout

- a. Area must be clean, dry, and free of dirt, dust and debris.
- b. Begin grouting in one corner of the work area away from the exit, working across the room and backwards toward the exit.
- c. Grout no more than 10 square feet (3 square meters) at a time.
- d. Using the rigid grout float, put a small amount of grout on the long edge of the float and firmly press the grout into the grout joint. **Do not work the grout across the face of the tile in a circular or swishing**

- motion.** Continue to work in this manner around the edges of the tile in your working space.
- e. Joints should be fully filled and free of gaps and voids. Grout should be flush with the bottom of the bevel or just below the edge of the finished edge of the tile.
 - f. Use the short edge of the grout to remove excess grout from the joints. Hold the float at a 90° angle and move diagonally down the length of the grout joint. Excess grout should be returned to the container for continued use.
 - g. Grout should be continually cleaned up during grouting. Use a clean, non-abrasive sponge specifically designed for grouting. Grout sponge should be damp-dry for optimal cleaning- do not introduce large amounts of water on the grout joints.

Initial grout cleaning (during installation for the small work area)

- a. For best results, wait 10 minutes before beginning cleanup to allow the grout joint some time to firm up so it is not pulled out of the joint during cleanup process. Do not wait longer than 40 minutes.
- b. To clean, first soak sponge in cool clean water. Wring out most excess water, and then pat the surface of the tile with the damp sponge to loosen the film. Next, rinse the sponge in water a second time and wring out excess water completely.
- c. Use the damp sponge in a light, circular motion to smooth joints and clean film from the tile. Avoid using excessive amounts of water on the grout joints.
- d. Turn sponge over to a clean side and draw diagonally across tiles to remove any remaining film.
- e. For optimal results, follow these final clean-up steps: moisten a towel with clean water, wring out excess, then drag a damp towel across surface diagonally. This will pick up remaining film.
- f. If a light haze remains after cleaning, do not attempt to remove it with the sponge. Instead, leave the haze on the surface and remove the next day with a damp sponge. Haze will easily come off of most tile surfaces.

NOTES:

- If excess water is used in the sponge during clean up, minor cracks or pinholes can develop. If the grout is over-worked, it may appear to shrink down into joint. Should any of these things occur, simply apply a second coat to the affected areas. You must allow your initial application to cure for 24 hours prior to your second application.
- Restrict traffic on the finished grout for 24 hours (light foot traffic) and 72 hours for heavy traffic and pets.
- Allow 7 days for grout to achieve final cure which includes hardness and stain resistance. **ALLOW 7 DAYS BEFORE EXPOSURE TO WATER.**

Final Cleanup (if any haze exists)

- a. If a haze exists on the next day after installation, simply wipe it clean with a damp sponge.
- b. If a sponge is not effective, use a soft, white scrub pad in a circular motion to remove the grout haze from the face of the tile. A small amount of mild detergent in warm water should be used also.
- c. Use a damp, clean sponge or white towel to wipe off the remaining grout haze, rinsing the sponge/towel often and changing the water often.

AFTER INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

- Be sure all pieces are set flat and have tight edges.
- Re-roll the entire installation, along the length and width of the tiles with a 3-section 100 lb. roller to ensure all tiles are properly set into the adhesive.
- In the event that the LV Flooring is not the last portion of the construction project, the floor must be protected from construction traffic and damage. Utilize a reinforced fiber protective board or a heavy Kraft paper (min. 60#) and cover the floor.
- Protect the flooring from constant exposure to direct sunlight. High temperatures directly on the floor may cause the adhesive to reactivate and release from the subfloor.
- Immediately clean up spills or any excess liquid.
- Dust mop or sweep vinyl floor regularly.
- Only use "neutral pH" cleaners on vinyl flooring. Avoid multi-surface and chemical cleaners. **Do not saturate the floor to clean it; damp mopping is acceptable.**
- If a finish coat is desired, use a matte finish designed for vinyl flooring only. Avoid use of waxes.

Remember: if a finish is applied this will become part of the regular maintenance and may require periodic stripping and reapplication of the finish.

- Use of nylon or felt-type furniture guides is required under all furniture. All types of furniture glides/protectors should be changed regularly to prevent scratching from embedded debris in the glide.
- **Grouted Installations:** floor will be ready for light foot traffic 24 hours after installation and pets, heavy traffic and furniture/fixtures are permitted 72 hours after installation. Allow 7 days for grout to achieve final cure which includes hardness and stain resistance. ALLOW 7 DAYS BEFORE EXPOSURE TO WATER.
- Do not use solvents, haze removers, sealers or heavy cleaning chemicals on any Luxury Vinyl Tile Grout.
- When utilizing premixed Luxury Vinyl Tile Grout, be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommended curing times for the adhesives used to install the tile. Failure to do so could result in adhesive not fully curing and movement or lifting of tiles.

IMPORTANT:

- Do not clean with soap and water; soaps and detergents may leave a film on the surface of the vinyl.
- Do not slide furniture, chairs or objects across the vinyl flooring.
- Do not use any type of abrasive material or cleaners on the flooring.
- Do not walk on floor with cleats, spikes or similar type shoes.

REGULAR MAINTENANCE:

- Regular sweeping or vacuuming with a brushless vacuum will keep dirt and debris off the vinyl floor.
- Ensure all furniture and fixtures have the appropriate floor protectors installed and are changed regularly.
- Damp mop the floor weekly to remove dirt; a small amount of a neutral pH cleaner can be used to help remove dirt and buildups. A white scrub pad can be used on heavy deposits. Do not use multi-surface or ammoniated cleaners.
- Use of a finish is not recommended by the Manufacturer. Contact Home Depot Care for further instructions.

WARRANTY

Manufacturer warrants all 1st quality vinyl flooring against manufacturing defects, excluding shine wear through, when used for its intended purpose as a residential floor only and installed according to the printed instructions, for one (1) year from the date of purchase by the original purchaser.

This product is intended for residential use and do-it-yourself application and installation; therefore no claims for labor and incidentals are allowable.

Manufacturer reserves the right to request samples of any flooring in a claim situation. Manufacturer also reserves the right of inspection of the installed floor either by a representative of Manufacturer or third party inspection firm.

Limited Lifetime Wear-Thru Warranty

Manufacturer's surface wear-thru warranty is limited to normal residential or light commercial use on dry, interior floors for the duration specified below from date of purchase by original purchaser. Guarantee is limited to the wear layer and worn area only, excluding the finish and the shine, if floor is maintained and installed according to the printed instructions.

**Residential Areas
Light Commercial Areas**

**Lifetime Limited Wear
6 year Limited Wear**

Light Commercial includes environments with light to moderate foot traffic, light point loads and lack of rolling traffic. Portable furnishings with casters, rests and wheels that concentrate the weight of the appliance/equipment are very damaging to resilient flooring. Light commercial areas also include those with **no** heavy chemicals, acids, greases or other such contaminants. Please contact the Manufacturer for specific guidance on these installations. Manufacturer reserves the right to classify installations regarding specific use in commercial environments.

This flooring is not intended for use in nor is warranted for use in wet areas, such as patios, basements, garages, etc.

All other guarantees implied or otherwise, limited to one (1) year from the date of purchase for the COST OF THE PRODUCT ONLY to the original purchaser of the flooring. This Warranty is not transferrable.

Exclusions to Warranty

- Floors not properly installed or installed over subfloors identified in the Installation Instructions as unsuitable for self-stick vinyl tile
- Floors installed with obvious manufacturing defects
- Floors installed with additional adhesives of any kind
- Floors installed over concrete with excessive moisture or alkalinity
- Floors installed with products not intended for use under vinyl floor covering
- Floors installed where temperatures regularly fall below 55°F or rise over 85°F
- Floors installed over radiant heating systems that reach temperatures and are maintained above 85°F
- Floors dulled by soaps, detergents, harsh chemicals, dressings, bleach, one-step cleaners or wax
- Floors installed in commercial areas of any nature
- Floors installed in outdoor locations including solariums, porches, sun rooms or garages
- Floors stained by tracking dyes from carpets, fertilizers, coal, tar, driveway sealers, oil drippings or any other such contaminants
- Floors damaged by narrow tipped heels, burns, cigarette burns, cuts, scratches, gouges and indentations including damage from improper floor protectors and furniture rests
- Discoloration of floors or adhesion bond release from hydrostatic pressure or excessive moisture caused by flooding, plumbing leaks, appliance leaks, and water leakage.

If you have an issue with your floor covering, contact the retail establishment that you purchased from for further

instructions. Removal of a floor prior to contacting the manufacturer regarding an issue constitutes acceptance of the issue and no claim will be allowed. The manufacturer reserves the right to inspect the floor in its installed condition in the installed area.

If tiles are to be grouted, the Manufacturer of the vinyl tiles assumes no responsibility for the performance and suitability of the grout that is utilized. All questions, comments and issues concerning the performance of the grout, including (but not limited to) hazes, cleaning, cracking should be directly addressed to the manufacturer of the grout.

No person not employed by or authorized by the Manufacturer of the Vinyl Flooring products is authorized to change or modify the statements in this document in any way.