

Loose Lay Luxury Vinyl Flooring Installation Instructions

GENERAL GUIDELINES

All instructions and recommendations are based on the most recent information available. If you receive a paper copy of these instructions, please refer to www.earthwerks.com to ensure you have the most up to date version of our installation instructions.

These instructions should be followed for an ideal installation.

- All areas where product will be installed must have a working heat and air conditioning source operational for a minimum of one week prior to installation and remain in operation during and after installation. Conditions should be at the same temperature and humidity level expected during normal use (between 65-85 F / 18-29 C with relative humidity no greater than 65%). It should NEVER be installed outdoors.
- Product should be acclimated in the climate-controlled location for 48 hours before starting installation.
- Prior to installation, clean and clear the area of all debris.
- During installation, blend tiles/planks from several different cartons.
- The finished Earthwerks Loose Lay Luxury Vinyl Flooring installation should be protected from exposure to direct sunlight.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- Proper preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor. All subfloors should be smooth, flat and dust free with the tolerance not exceeding more than 1/8" in a 6' span. All subfloor and underlayment patching must be done with a non-shrinking, water-resistant Portland cement patching compound.
- 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 and dense, and free from powder or flaking. The floor should have a moisture reading of less than 75% RH.
- 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 installer.
- 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.
- Concrete floors with a radiant heating system are acceptable, provided the temperature of the subfloor does not exceed 80°F at any point. The system should be covered with a self-leveling underlayment separating the flooring from the heat source by at least 1/2".
- Ceramic tile should be made smooth by applying a cementitious overlay such as patching or leveling compound to smooth out grout joints.
- 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.
- Product can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings provided the existing floor

surface is smooth, or can be made smooth. Existing floors must be solid; fix any loose areas. For existing resilient floor, it may be required to apply an embossing leveler over a deeply embossed floor. Heavily cushioned vinyl flooring or vinyl flooring consisting of multiple layers are NOT suitable subfloors for installation.

- Metal and Painted Floors: Remove any loose paint or other finishes.
- Existing adhesive residue needs to be removed or encapsulated. Never scrape adhesive residue - such as black cutback - that may contain asbestos.
- Other Floors: Consult Earthwerks Technical Department.

Avoid using solvent based cleaning chemicals. Solvents and other abrasive chemicals used to clean the sub floor can damage the backing of Earthwerks Loose Lay if not properly removed, and can affect the product's performance.

INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

Earthwerks Loose Lay product has been designed to be installed in the interior of any building with minimal adhesive, so long as the sub floor has been prepared to the standard as stated in Subfloor Preparation.

Tools Needed: Utility Knife, Carpenters Square or Straight Edge, Tape Measure. If using our ST 100 adhesive you will need a 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square notch trowel.

Residential Installation Requirements:

- a) Before installation, make sure the subfloor is dry and dust free.
- b) Around the perimeter of the room, including transition areas to other floors, apply a 4" adhesive strip using either EW 22 Spray or ST 100 trowel applied adhesive**.
- c) If a room has dimensions greater than 12ft in any direction, then it is recommended that additional 4" adhesive strips are applied in a grid formation whereas the distance between strips is no greater than 12ft.
- d) Make sure each tile/plank is fit 'tightly' to the next piece.

Commercial Installation Requirements:

- a) Follow steps a) through d) above.
- b) In areas of high foot traffic, more volatile temperature variations, rolling loads or if there are concerns with the subfloor conditions, it is recommended to use full spread adhesive in those areas. Use either EW 22 Spray or ST 100 trowel applied adhesive. **

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR LAYING PLANK OR TILE:

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. 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.
3. The planks or tiles should be installed from one corner of the room working your way out toward the other wall. Planks or tiles should be tight against the wall.
4. Using a utility knife and straight edge, score the top surface of the plank or tile and snap downward for any fill pieces needed.
5. Start the next row. Planks should be installed randomly staggering the end joints not less than 6" from the previous row end joint. Keep planks and tiles tight to the surrounding floor.
6. When fitting around door jambs or other irregular objects first make a pattern using heavy paper or poster board. Trace the pattern onto the flooring and cut with a utility knife.
7. If a seam is not tight you can easily lift the planks and reposition.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Prevent excessive dirt and moisture from being tracked on the floor with mats outside each entrance. Use non-staining mats on your floor. Do not use rubber or latex backed mats which may permanently stain vinyl floors.

Routine cleaning is recommended to maintain the life of the floor. Use a neutral pH cleaner such as our Earthwerks Floor Cleaner or equal designed for vinyl floors. **

Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged period. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the blinds or curtains is recommended. Prolonged direct sunlight can result in discoloration and volatile temperature variations causing damage to the floor.

Any use of solvent material is prohibited and will not be warranted.

**For other approved adhesives or cleaners, please contact Earthwerks Technical Department.

If additional support is needed, please contact our Earthwerks Technical Department:
1-800-275-7943 extension 129 or techdept@earthwerks.com