Installation for Luxury Vinyl Tile & Plank

Acclimation
All areas where flooring will be installed must have a working heat and air conditioning source operational 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 a relative humidity no greater than 65%). Ensure substrate, flooring and adhesive are fully acclimated to these conditions for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. For best results, remove flooring from the carton and separate into small piles.

Subfloor Requirements
All subfloors should be inspected prior to installation. All subfloors must be smooth, clean dry, structurally sound, and free of dust, dirt, oil, wax, paint or any other contaminant that would inhibit a good bond.

Use a good quality Portland-Cement based patching compound to fill or smooth any irregularities that could show thru the new flooring.

Concrete on or above grade must be free of moisture or high alkalinity and be protected by a moisture barrier installed at the time of construction. A concrete slab shall be cured a minimum of 90 days before performing moisture tests prior to the installation of your new flooring. These time periods are absolute minimum and the concrete may require additional drying time dependant upon local environmental conditions.

Concrete subfloors with a pH of 9 or greater will not be acceptable to install your new EarthWerks™ Vinyl Tile. The subfloor must be brought to a neutral pH level before beginning your installation.

If you are installing tiles over gypcrete, the subfloor must first be sealed using sealant supplied by manufacturer of gypcrete, or other approved latex sealer.

All wood subfloors shall have at least 18" (45.72 cm) of well-ventilated space below. The ground under crawl spaces must be covered with 6-mil (1.25 mm) polyethylene sheeting to reduce moisture vapor transmission. Wood floors must be double construction or equivalent, with a minimum thickness of 1" (2.54 cm), such as APA Underlayment Grade Plywood without voids, and with a fully sanded face. Also acceptable is ACCU-PLY Underlayment by Capitol U.S.A. or similar.

If you are installing EarthWerks flooring over one layer of existing non-cushioned floor covering, it should be well adhered to the subfloor, or scraped off before installing your new EarthWerks Vinyl Tile. The use of a good quality embossing leveler to fill in the surface texture of the existing floor is required. Otherwise, the profile of the existing floor will telegraph thru the new flooring and adhesive may not cure correctly.

WARNING: Existing resilient floor coverings and black asphalt adhesive may contain asbestos. Improper removal procedures could release asbestos fibers into the air. Asbestos fibers, when inhaled, could cause serious bodily harm. Do not sand or dry scrape these materials. If removal of existing floor coverings is necessary, be certain that all precautions are taken and proper procedures are followed. For information regarding proper removal procedures in the U.S.A., please consult the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 12-B, Rockville, MD 20850) for a pamphlet, “Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings.”

Moisture Testing
It is the contractor's as well as the installer’s responsibility to test all concrete substrates, both new and old, for moisture content to determine if it is sufficiently dry to install EarthWerks Vinyl Tile resilient flooring. Moisture in a concrete substrate should be tested according to ASTM F 1869-98 (Calcium Chloride Moisture Test using the Quantitative Method) Moisture levels should never exceed 5lbs per 1000 s.f. per 24 hour period or ASTM F 2170-2 (Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes.) Relative humidity levels should never exceed 75%.

NOTE: EarthWerks Vinyl Tile does not warrant or guarantee unsatisfactory installations due to the presence of excessive alkali, moisture or hydrostatic pressure in subfloors.
Carefully place first tile (Figure 1) at the junction of the chalk lines. Continue laying the tiles, making sure each one is flush against the chalk line and tight against the adjoining tile.

Be sure they are well seated into the adhesive. The tiles should be laid in the pyramid fashion. (Figure 2)

When Installing EarthWerks Luxury Vinyl Plank position the first plank at the junction of the chalk lines. (Figure 3)

Continue laying the planks, making sure each one is flush against the chalk line and tight against the adjoining plank. Be sure the planks are well seated into the adhesive and continue laying in either pyramid fashion or row by row. Randomly stagger the end joints. (Figure 4)

To fit partial tiles, lay the tile to be cut exactly over the last full tile, place another full tile against the wall and make the cutting line where they overlap. Make sure the cut edge of the tile is against the wall. Roll flooring in both directions using a 100 pound sectional floor roller. (Figure 5)

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Installation Instructions