

## **Installation guideline for EarthWerks planks and tiles (glue-down)**

Please read those instructions conscientiously before you begin with installation.

All information refer to the standards for installation of floorcoverings of the country of installation - like for Germany VOB/C + DIN 18365 / DIN 18299, UK British Standard BS 8203:2001 +A1:2009 or France NF P62-203:2007-04-01; NF DTU 53.2:2007-04-01 - and also best current installation practice incorporating the latest technical developments.

### **PRE-INSTALLATION INFORMATION**

#### **Controle**

Earthwerks flooring undergo a strict quality control procedure that guarantees high-quality standards. If, contrary to all expectations, problems with material should be identified on site, these are to be notified before cutting to size and laying. Claims for obvious defects (e.g. colour variations, differences in thicknesses, surface defects, insufficient accuracy of fit etc.) cannot be accepted after installation.

If more than one package of LVT flooring is being used the contents should be checked for batch-to-batch variation before cutting and installing. When reordering for the same job site, it is imperative that reference be made to the need for a delivery from one dye lot to insure colour consistency.

#### **Acclimatisation**

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 18 and 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.

#### **Suitable surfaces**

Subfloors should be tested and prepared according to current national standards for the installation of floorcoverings. In installations where underfloor heating is used, current standards should be followed (DIN 18365 and EN 1264-2). Maximum working temperature on the surface of the flooring is 27 °C.

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 through the new flooring.

### **INSTALLATION OF THE PLANKS AND TILES**

Best results are obtained by installing the floor from the center of the room. Measure and mark at the center of each end wall. Connect these center points with a chalk line. Locate the center and establish a line at a right angle to the existing line. (Use a carpenter's square) It is best to add an additional 5% to the total for cutting waste. Divide the length between the walls (in inches/centimeters) by the width of the planks. If less than half a plank or tile will be installed at the border, it will be necessary to adjust your chalk lines. Your floor will be more work and less attractive if you have to cut a sliver of plank or tile for the border than if a wider piece remains.

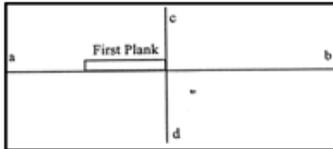
Try not to spread more adhesive than you can lay flooring into before it loses its grabbing strength. Tack time will vary depending upon temperature and humidity. Follow adhesive manufacturer's suggestions for trowel size and open time. We recommend the use of a hard setting adhesive specifically designed for the installation of solid vinyl tiles and planks.

The use of solvents to remove dried adhesive may discolor the floor. Therefore, you should first test the solvent on either a scrap piece, or in an inconspicuous area. Please also refer to our list of recommended adhesives.

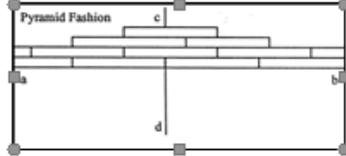
### Laying of Planks

Carefully place the first piece of plank at the junction of the chalk lines. (Figure 1) Continue to lay the plank making sure each plank is flush against the chalk line and tight against the adjoining plank. Make sure that the plank is well seated into the adhesive, paying special attention to the edges. Lay in a pyramid fashion or row by row. (Figures 2 & 3)

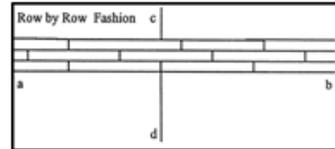
**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



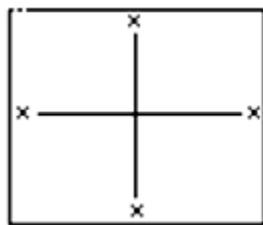
**Figure 3**



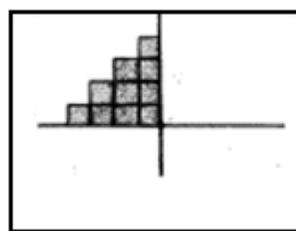
### Laying of Tiles

Follow the same instructions as with plank flooring, except the tiles should be laid in a pyramid fashion. (Figure 2)

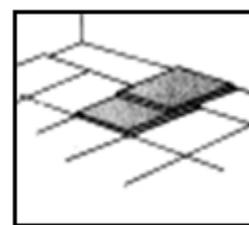
**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



To fit partial planks or tiles, lay the piece to be cut exactly over the last full piece, place another full piece against the wall and make the cutting line where they overlap. (Figure 3) Make sure the cut edge of the flooring is against the wall to ensure the factory-finished edges are next to each other. To fit the floor around door jambs, pipes or other protrusions, cut a paper pattern to fit, and trace it on the face of a piece. Cut the piece and try fitting it into place before installing.

When finished installing, use a 45 kg roller to roll the floor. This will ensure the floor is firmly adhered. Please wait until total glue setting before using the floor.

### db 22 Comfort-Underlayment – also available for glue-down!

It offers a high noise-reduction effect (up to 19 dB for glue-down installation) and a heat-insulating effect. Please read our separate recommendation and instructions for the **db 22-Underlayment**.

### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

Covering entrance areas and transition zones with suitable barrier systems offers effective protection against dirt and water, dust and grains of sand which can cause unnecessary scratches and wear.

### Discolouration

In certain cases aggressive substances, such as tar, fats, oils, dye can cause discolouration on flooring. Such discolouration can be prevented or reduced by the choice of an appropriate design and certain measures being taken in terms of usage.

Over longer periods of time migrations from specific types of rubber (e.g. on chair and other furniture feet) can cause irremovable discolouration on resilient floor coverings.

This can be prevented either by using appropriate types of rubber with no colour transfer or by protecting the floor with suitable protective matting. Hair-dye, substances containing alcohol and iodine, and disinfectants can also cause irremovable discolouration. If they come into contact with the flooring they should therefore be immediately removed.

#### **Effects of heat exposure**

Earthwerks LVT may be installed over water underfloor heating: surface temperature must never exceed or sustain 28°C and never come into direct contact with the heat source. Do not install on electric heated floor.

Do not install Earthwerks flooring under direct sun light (be carefully by Winter-Garden).

Earthwerks flooring is not adapted for outdoor-installation or for room without climate control!

Smouldering cigarettes carelessly discarded on the flooring cause irreparable surface damage.

#### **Office chairs**

Office chairs must be equipped with type “W” castors in accordance with DIN 18365 “Flooring Work” and particularly EN 12529 “Wheels and Rollers – Rollers for Office Chairs”. Earthwerks flooring requires the use of soft castors. Office chair castors are to be regularly cleaned and maintained during use, and replaced if necessary.

#### **CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

Preventative maintenance is a must with any type of flooring. Please use entry mats to stop as much dirt prior to entry of the building. Sweep, dust mop and vacuum regularly to remove surface grit and dust. Use a damp cloth or mop with a quality resilient vinyl floor cleaner to clean up dirt and footprints, (be careful to avoid using excessive moisture).

Please read our separate instructions cleaning and maintenance.

**TIP:** It is a good idea to save a few planks or tiles in case of accidental damage. They can easily be replaced or repaired by a qualified professional.

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