

  
earthwerks®  
**LVT UNDERLAYMENT SYSTEM**  
High Performance Underlayment and Adhesives  
**INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

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This document provides the double glue down installation instructions for EarthWerks LVT Underlayment System

**INSTALLATION RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- The building should be completely enclosed.
- The HVAC system for the building should be operational and provide a consistent temperature of 65-75°F and humidity levels should be between 35-55% for a minimum of 72 hours prior to the installation and remain in operation during and after installation.
- Adequate ventilation should be provided.

These conditions must be maintained to ensure the long term success and performance of the installation.

Before installing the EarthWerks LVT Underlayment:

- The sub-floor must be structurally sound and made flat within 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.
- All paint, varnish, oil, wax, finishes and any other bond inhibiting substances must be removed.
- Smooth or glazed surfaces must be abraded. Concrete sub-floors must be properly prepared according to the recommended practices detailed in the document ASTM F-710-11.
- Repair all joints and cracks with latex-based portland cement underlayment.
- Never sand existing resilient flooring that could contain asbestos.
- Follow all Federal, State and Local regulations relating to the removal of in-place, asbestos containing material.
- Very porous sub-floors must be primed with a compatible acrylic primer before applying the EarthWerks LVT Underlayment Adhesive.

EarthWerks LVT Underlayment to Subfloor Adhesive (EW1-U2S) should be used to install the EarthWerks LVT Underlayment over the following sub-floors with a maximum moisture emission rate  $\leq$  3lbs/1000 sq ft. /24 hours [ASTM F1869-10], a pH of 7.0- 9.0 [ASTM F710-11], and a maximum RH of 75% [ASTM F2170-9]:

- Concrete, above, on or below grade
- APA Rated plywood underlayment
- Properly prepared gypsum cement

**NOTE:** Particleboard and OSB are not recommended underlayments. Strip or plank wood flooring, particleboard and OSB sub-floors should be covered with an approved plywood underlayment (minimum thickness of ¼"(6.4mm)). Before beginning installations over sub-floors not listed contact EarthWerks Technical Services for recommendations. While some Lauan plywood panels are widely marketed as "underlayments", there are a variety of qualities and species sold as such. Some varieties present severe problems when used as underlayments. Frequent problems noted are discoloration, indentation, bond failure and underlayment delamination. EarthWerks will not warrant the installation when applied over Lauan plywood. Regulations may require that existing flooring material or coatings be tested to determine the asbestos content. Refer to the instructions for removal and handling of resilient flooring published by the RFCI in the publication, Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings. The Resilient Floor Covering Institute may be reached thru their Website [www.rfci.org](http://www.rfci.org) or by calling 301-340-8580.

## TROWEL RECOMMENDATIONS:

### **Underlayment to Substrate:**

Recommended trowel for installing the EarthWerks LVT Underlayment to approved sub-floors and the approximate coverage: 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" (□) square notch (125-150 sq. ft. /gal.)<sup>1</sup>

### **Floor to Underlayment:**

Recommended trowel for installing vinyl plank or LVT over the EarthWerks LVT Underlayment and the approximate coverage: 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" (V) notch trowel (180-200 sq ft/gal.)<sup>1</sup>

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS:

EarthWerks LVT Underlayment Installation:

Install the EarthWerks LVT Underlayment using EarthWerks Underlayment to Subfloor Adhesive (EW1-U2S).

1. When preparing to install the EarthWerks LVT Underlayment be certain that the product is rolled "shiny side" down. The flooring should be installed over the "rough" side of the EarthWerks LVT Underlayment. Roll out The EarthWerks LVT Underlayment and trim to fit the floor leaving no gaps around the perimeter of the room. The EarthWerks LVT Underlayment should be laid perpendicular to the flooring's direction. Pull back one half of the "cut-in" piece(s).
2. Apply the EarthWerks LVT Underlayment to subfloor Adhesive with the recommended trowel. (See above) Allow 15-30 minutes open time before placing EarthWerks LVT Underlayment into the adhesive. If the sub-floor is non-porous a longer open time will be required. \*NOTE: The EarthWerks LVT Underlayment is a non-porous, waterproof membrane. Consideration must be given to the initial "open time" of the adhesive to avoid trapping moisture under the EarthWerks LVT Underlayment. Temperature and relative humidity will determine the actual amount of open time needed and the adhesive's working time. A 100% adhesive transfer to EarthWerks LVT Underlayment is required. If proper transfer is not achieved, remove dried adhesive and re-apply the adhesive with the recommended trowel allowing the appropriate open time before proceeding. Floor fans or blowers can be used to reduce the necessary open time of the adhesive.
3. Roll completed installation with a 35lb. three-section roller in a north-south direction and then in an east-west direction to ensure adequate seating into the adhesive. Do not use a roller heavier than 35lbs.
4. Seams should be butted together leaving no gaps or overlaps. If installing the underlayment on grade, or below grade subfloors, be sure to tape the seams together with two-inch packing tape for added moisture protection.
5. EarthWerks LVT Underlayment to subfloor Adhesive achieves a firm set in 60 to 90 minutes. The installation of LVT can be initiated after this time. Heavy traffic should be restricted for a minimum of 12 hours. If flooring is not to be installed on the same day, take care to protect the underlayment from damage by using plywood panels or other means until the flooring can be installed.

## LVT and Vinyl Plank Installation:

1. EarthWerks LVT and the EarthWerks LVT to Underlayment adhesive (EW1-F2U) should be acclimated to the conditions mention above for a minimum of 48 hours prior to the installation.
2. Be familiar with the recommendations and any special instructions from the flooring manufacturer before beginning the installation.
3. Refer to the information above for specific information regarding sub-floor preparation and site conditions. Spread the EarthWerks LVT to Underlayment Adhesive with the appropriate trowel (See above) and allow the adhesive to dry to a clear, tacky state. Consideration must be given to the initial "open time" of the adhesive. Temperature and relative humidity will determine the actual amount of open time needed and the adhesive's working time. Floor fans or blowers can be used to reduce the necessary open time of the adhesive.

4. Place the LVT or plank into the dry, pressure sensitive adhesive. Only spread as much adhesive as can be covered with the flooring in under six hours.
5. Roll the installed flooring with a 75-100 lb. three-section roller. Rolling should take place immediately after the flooring is placed into the adhesive.
6. It is recommended to minimize traffic over the newly installed flooring for at least 24 hours after the installation has been completed. Do not wash or clean the floor for 72 hours after the completion of the installation. To replace furniture and appliances, use plywood panels to protect the flooring.

**NOTES:**

- Before installing the flooring, the adhesive must be allowed an open or “dwell time” appropriate for the flooring product, job site and sub-floor conditions.
- Trowel dimensions are *depth x width x spacing*. It is extremely important to maintain recommended notch depth, width and spacing. The proper notch depth is that which will produce adhesive ridges that affect a 100% transfer to both the subfloor and the backing of the flooring to include the inner recesses of the texture of the back.
- EarthWerks LVT to Underlayment adhesive has an extended working time of up to six hours after the initial drying, if the area is kept dust free.