

5G Click Floating Vinyl Floor Installation Instructions

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. Install flooring perpendicular to direct sunlight sources, including large windows, door walls, etc. Use of suitable window coverings during the times of most direct sunlight is strongly recommended. Conditions should be at the same temperature and humidity level expected during normal use. This item should be installed in an indoor, climate-controlled location between 65°—85° F (18°—29° C). It should NEVER be installed outdoors. This item must be acclimated in climate-controlled locations for 24—48 hours before starting installation. Store cartons lying flat at all times and protect from direct sunlight during acclimation. This item should only be installed after the jobsite has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage a finished plank installation. During the installation, mix and install planks from several different cartons to minimize shade variation. The finished plank installation should be protected from exposure to direct sunlight. Do not use tapping blocks, adjustable spacers or other tools common to hardwood and laminate flooring installation. These tools will damage the vinyl flooring and prevent proper locking of the joint mechanisms. Installation area should not be more than 1,076 square feet (100 square meters) or have runs longer than 30 feet in length without the use of suitable expansion moldings. This item cannot be installed with full spread adhesives. The use of any sort of adhesive during the installation will void the product warranty.

*** Improper acclimation of floating Luxury vinyl flooring may result in gapping, buckling, or joints which are difficult to engage properly. Improper locking of the mechanism may cause one or more of the following conditions in your flooring: joints to be distressed resulting in a 'peaked' appearance; delamination due to ledging; separation of joints from normal environmental temperature changes; cupping or side joint failures.*

REQUIRED TOOLS

- Utility knife with sharp blades
 - Carpenters square
 - Tape measure
 - Chalk line
 - 20 ounce white rubber mallet
 - Small square
 - 5/16" (8mm) spacer blocks (several needed)
 - Small bristle brush for cleaning debris from locking mechanism
 - Felt-tip marker (fine point)
 - Heat gun
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SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Although this floor is designed to be a "floating" floor installation, proper preparation of the subfloor is still a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor, resulting in an unsightly surface, excessive wear on high areas, indentations on low areas, and failure of locking mechanism on high and low areas. All subfloors should be smooth and flat 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, cement-based patching or leveling compound.

Concrete Subfloors

1. 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, dense, and free from powder or flaking.
2. New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry (at least 6 weeks) and completely cured. The final responsibility of determining whether the moisture content of the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the flooring installer.
3. Holes, grooves, expansion joints, cracks, and depressions must be properly fixed and filled with a Portland cement-based underlayment and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.
4. Concrete floors with a radiant heating system are acceptable, provided the heating system is embedded into either the concrete or covered with a Portland cement based self-leveler. The flooring temperature must never exceed 85 F. Before installation of the flooring, turn on the heating system to the normal operating temperature for acclimation and removal of residual moisture. When starting radiant systems after flooring is installed, gradually bring the slab temperature to the desired room temperature. Avoid sudden increases and decreases in the temperature settings. Heating system must be covered with a minimum of ½" separation between the flooring and the heat source.

Wood Subfloors

1. Wood subfloors must be suspended at least 18" (46 cm.) above ground. Adequate cross ventilation must be provided and a suitable vapor barrier installed over the ground in all crawlspaces.
2. Wood subfloors directly on concrete or installed over sleeper construction are NOT suitable for the installation.
3. All wood and wood composition panels, including plywood, OSB, flake board, and particle boards can be used, provided they are smooth, flat, structurally sound, and free of deflection.

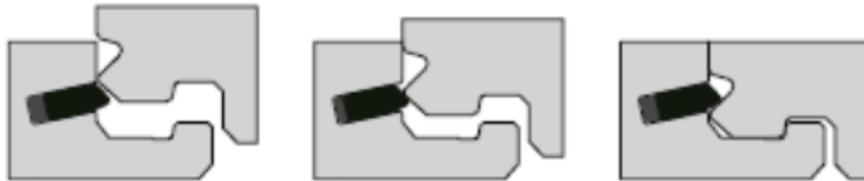
Existing Floor Coverings

1. Floating vinyl floors can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings, provided the existing floor surface is smooth or can be made smooth.
2. Ceramic, porcelain, marble, and granite tiles are suitable and must be clean and made flat by applying a cement-based embossing leveler or patch.
3. Existing resilient floors must be firmly bonded, stripped of all finishes/waxes, single layer, and covered with an embossing leveler if necessary. Cushion-backed vinyl and floating vinyl floors are NOT suitable as substrates for floating vinyl planks.
4. Cement terrazzo, stained concrete, and metal floors may be suitable for use as substrates provided they are properly cleaned and prepared. All contaminants, loose particles, and flakes must be removed and a suitable cement-based patch used to smooth the floor.

INSTALLING EARTHWERKS 5G CLICK

General

- Do not secure individual planks to the subfloor. All door jambs and moldings should be undercut. Cabinets, kitchen islands, and other fixtures cannot be installed on top of floating vinyl flooring. A 5/16" (8mm) gap should be maintained around all columns, islands, etc.
- Do not install floating vinyl flooring in unheated areas or in areas subjected to high temperatures and heavy sunlight. This includes porches, sunrooms, solariums, and other structures without adequate temperature control and cover from direct sunlight.
- Wall moldings, including baseboard and quarter round, must not be fastened through the vinyl flooring.
- Maintain a 5/16" (8mm) gap consistently around the perimeter of the vinyl floor at all vertical surfaces. Moldings should be installed a minimum of 1/32" (.79mm) above the flooring to allow for movement.
- Do not wrap floating vinyl floors around doors, entryways or other openings that are less than 6' (2 meters) wide. A suitable T-molding or transition strip must be used while maintaining the 5/16" (8mm) expansion gap under the T-molding in all openings less than 6' (2 meters) wide. Do not install door transitions through the vinyl flooring.
- When fitting around obstacles or cutting to irregular shapes, the vinyl flooring can be carefully heated and cut with a sharp utility blade. It is beneficial to make cardboard templates of the areas and transfer this to the pieces to be cut.
- Full pieces of flooring can be cut by using a utility knife with heavy-duty blades. Score the face of the piece and snap the planks carefully along the score line. Use a steel straight edge for cutting pieces along the length in multiple passes with the utility knife, and then snap the piece along the cut line.
- Use of a small bristle brush for cleaning debris left from milling the locking joints will ensure a tight fit of the pieces.
- 5G Click Floating Flooring is designed with an angle/drop mechanism with a secure locking clip, which is installed differently than the traditional angle/angle installed floating flooring. The 5G Flooring requires that the top or long sides be installed first by engaging the joint at a shallow angle (25°), and then sliding the piece to line up the short or right side drop lock mechanism. The end joints with the 5G drop mechanism should be carefully placed with the top side lightly touching the adjoining plank. After engaging the top/long side joint at a shallow angle, the end/side joint can be firmly pressed into place until it 'clicks'.



NOTE: The 5G drop lock joints cannot be 'lifted' or angled apart when removing or repositioning a plank. To remove a plank, first disengage the top/long angle joint by lifting at a slight angle while pulling the complete rows away from each other. Then simply 'slide' the drop joint apart along the floor. Failure to slide this joint apart will damage the drop lock mechanism and prevent proper re-installation of the affected plank.

Layout

Determine the layout of your floor prior to installation. Planks typically look better when installed parallel to the longest walls. To avoid narrow piece widths or short piece lengths, it is important to dry lay the flooring from the center of the room and adjust the centerline to alleviate narrow pieces. Or, using the width of the room, calculate how many full pieces will fit into the area and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial planks. Do the same along the length of the room. Be sure to avoid planks that are less than 9" in length and less than half the width of the plank. Lay out planks so the long edge is perpendicular to sunlight sources.

NOTES:

- If the first row of flooring does not need to be trimmed in width it is necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge is toward the wall.
- Flooring should be laid with the long edges perpendicular to any significant sources of direct sunlight such as large windows, sliding doors, etc.
- Expansion gaps of 5/16" (8mm) must be maintained against all vertical surfaces, regardless of the deviation in flatness of the surface. This will allow the finished flooring to expand and contract normally during temperature fluctuations in the home.

Installation:

1. From the top, left corner of the room put the first plank in place so both the head and side seam grooves are exposed. Planks are to be installed from left to right. Cut off the tongue on the long side of each piece in the first row with a utility knife.
2. Install the second piece in the first row by laying the short-end tongue onto the previously installed piece short-end groove. Fasten the piece together by firmly pressing down with your thumb along the seam to lock the planks together. This will engage the 5G locking clip into the piece you just placed; you will hear and feel the pieces lock together as the locking tab engages in the joint. Use of a soft, white No. 2 rubber mallet is also recommended to vertically engage the joint.
3. Continue in this manner for the rest of the first row. The last piece in the row should be cut to length while maintaining the 5/16" (8mm) expansion space along the perimeter of the room.
4. Cut a piece in half of the lengths to start the second row or use the cutoff from the previous row, keeping in mind the length requirements above. Install the first piece in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the piece in the first row at a low angle (25°) to the installed piece. Then firmly lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure toward the installed piece. The pieces should fit snugly together and lay flat. Ensure that expansion space is kept along this wall.
5. To install the remaining planks in the second row, first align the long edge tongue into the groove of the previous row at a shallow angle. Slide the piece to the left until the piece meets the previously installed piece.
6. Firmly lower the piece while maintaining a slight pressure towards the installed piece. The pieces should fit snugly together and lay flat. Engage the short edge joint as in #2 and #4 above.
7. Work across the length of the room installing pieces in the second row. It is critical to keep these first two rows straight and square, as they are the "foundation" for the rest of the installation. Check often for squareness and straightness while installing the floor.
8. Use of several 5/16" (8mm) spacer blocks along the first wall will ensure the proper spacing is achieved and that floor does not 'walk' back towards the wall during installation.
9. Continue installing flooring, being certain to maintain a random appearance (planks) or the pattern and offset end seams by at least 6". Maintain a 5/16" (8mm) expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces. Check to be certain all planks are fully engaged; if slight gapping is noticed or the pieces will not lay flat, simply disengage the long/top side joint and then carefully slide the short/end joint apart. Do not pull up on this joint as it will damage the locking mechanism! Reinstall the piece.
10. Install wall moldings and door transition moldings last. Be sure that all moldings are fastened directly to the wall studs or directly into the flooring; do not place any fasteners through the floating vinyl flooring!

AFTER INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Be sure all pieces are set flat and have tight edges. Sweep, dust mop, or vacuum the floor to remove any debris. In the event that the 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#) to cover the floor. Make sure no debris is under the paper.

Initial maintenance:

- After installation, thoroughly sweep the floor and then clean with a neutral pH cleaner. Do not soak the floor as the water will migrate through the joints and lay on the subfloor, possibly causing condensation and moisture issues.
- If necessary to remove stubborn dirt or build up, a slow speed (275-350 rpm) buffer can be utilized with a white, non-abrasive pad.
- Be sure to rinse the floor thoroughly and allow to dry.
- Use of commercial, heavy duty auto-scrubbers is discouraged for cleaning solid vinyl flooring.

Regular maintenance:

- Regular sweeping or vacuuming with a brushless vacuum will keep dirt and debris off the vinyl floor.
- To avoid possible permanent indentation or damage, proper floor protection devices must be used under furniture and appliances. Exercise care when removing and replacing furniture or appliances.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly and damp mop weekly to remove dirt; a small amount of a neutral pH cleaner can be used to help remove dirt and buildups. We recommend using Earthwerks Floor Cleaner EWFC32 for routine cleaning. This can be purchased from the flooring dealer where the Product was purchased. Do not use soap based detergents or abrasive cleaners.
- Clean up spills immediately. Earthwerks does not recommend the use of steam cleaners on our flooring.

These instructions are general guidelines for the proper procedures for installing and maintaining this flooring product. For detailed instructions on Installation and Maintenance, please contact: