

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. Ensure substrate, flooring and adhesive are fully acclimated prior to installation 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%).

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 3lbs 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.

EarthWerks Over Radiant Heat

EarthWerks Flooring can be installed over radiant heat if the following guidelines are followed. Complete system must be operational for a minimum of one week. System should be turned off 72 hours prior to installation of EarthWerks flooring and remain off 72 hours after installation is complete. Turn system back on to its normal room temperature setting. The subfloor surface must never exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the life of the floor. Flooring and adhesive should never come in direct contact with heating system.

All other standard installation instructions apply.

INSTALLING EARTHWERKS TILE AND PLANK

Maintain room temperature, adhesive and flooring between 65-85° F / 18-29° C for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. The area should have a permanent heat and air conditioning system in operation prior to, during and after installation of the flooring.

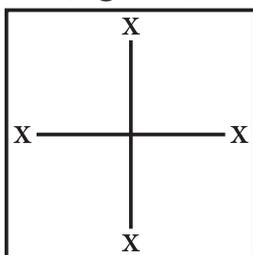
For best results, remove tile from the carton and separate into small piles. This will assure that the tiles are acclimated to the jobsite conditions. Tile should always be inspected for any dye lot variations. The Manufacturer will not warrant that different dye lots will match each other.

Best results are obtained by installing the tile 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.

When tiles are installed over concrete, wood, or pre-existing resilient floors apply ST 100 Adhesive (or other approved adhesive) using a 1/16"x1/16"x1/16" square-notched trowel. Allow adhesive open time so it can dry to the consistency of contact cement. Tack time will vary depending upon temperature and humidity, and you will also observe the color change from white to yellow. Observing this open time is very important to ensure proper bonding and to prevent possible bleed through. At that point, you can apply tiles.

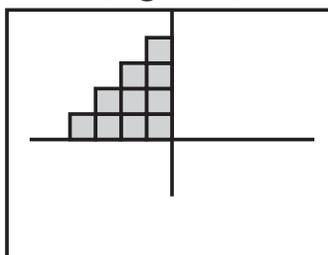
If you are in the U.K. or Europe, you may also use F44/F46 by F. Ball & Co. Ltd., UK. Trowel size and usage recommendations are stated on the pails of adhesive, and are also available from F. Ball & Co. Ltd., UK.

(Figure 1)



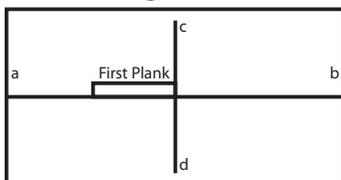
Carefully place first tile (Figure 1) at the junction of the chalk lines. Continue laying the tiles, making sure each one is flush against the chalk line and tight against the adjoining tile.

(Figure 2)



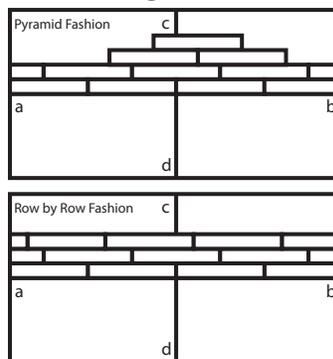
Be sure they are well seated into the adhesive. The tiles should be laid in the pyramid fashion. (Figure 2)

(Figure 3)



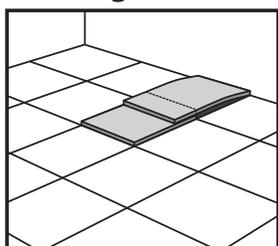
When Installing EarthWerks Luxury Vinyl Plank position the first plank at the junction of the chalk lines. (Figure 3)

(Figure 4)



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)

(Figure 5)



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. (Figure 5)

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EarthWerks™ Vinyl Tile Flooring
Installation Instructions