



APEXA

General Installation Guidelines Dryback LVT Flooring

Storage & Transportation

Cartons should be stored and transported on a flat surface in neat stacks, always store the cartons flat and never put them on-end. Do not store the cartons in very cold (less than 2°C) or very warm (more than 40°C) or humid places.



Prior to Installation

Visual Inspection



Please inspect the product prior to installation. Check that the colours correspond to those ordered, the quantities are correct and there is no visible damage to the boxes. Check the vinyl planks or tiles during installation for any visible defects. Do not install any planks or tiles that display any imperfections.

We recommend that you always use materials from a single production batch for each installation, as we cannot guarantee a shade match between different batches.

Prior to Installation

Suitability

- Dryback LVT products can be laid on concrete, cementitious screed, anhydrite (calcium sulphate), timber and ceramic tiles, which have been suitably prepared (see Floor Preparation).
- Dryback LVT products can be used with traditional water based underfloor heating and cooling systems. Electric wire systems are not recommended unless the system is encased in a minimum of 9mm of suitable levelling compound. Direct contact with wired heating systems must be avoided. If in doubt seek further advice.
- Dryback LVT products are only suitable for indoor installation.
- In areas that may be subject to excessive or uncontrolled heat 35°C or above (e.g. unprotected sun facing glass) the floor must be installed with an approved High Temperature (HT) Adhesive. It is particularly necessary to keep the temperature in conservatories at a constant temperature between 18°C and 27°C prior to, during, and for 72 hours after installation. It would also be advisable to shade windows to avoid direct intense sunlight. This should help to provide a constant temperature during the acclimatisation period, the installation and 72 hours after the installation.

Composition, construction & quality of subfloor

Knowledge of the composition and construction provides valuable information that allows you to correctly check the acceptable humidity, compressive and tensile strength of the subfloor. In addition, it tells you what type of floor preparation, levelling compound and possible moisture barrier you may need during the installation process. above (e.g. unprotected sun facing glass) the floor must be installed with an approved High Temperature (HT) Adhesive. It is particularly necessary to keep the temperature in conservatories at a constant temperature between 18°C and 27°C prior to, during, and for 72 hours after installation. It would also be advisable to shade windows to avoid direct intense sunlight. This should help to provide a constant temperature during the acclimatisation period, the installation and 72 hours after the installation.



When there is ambiguity or doubt about the quality or composition of your subfloor check with your floor preparation, levelling compound manufacturer/supplier.

National Regulations: Site and installation conditions must always comply with current NHBC standards & BS8203 – The installation of resilient floor coverings.

Subfloor Preparation

IRREGULARITIES IN THE SUBFLOOR

Good preparation is essential for a trouble-free installation. It is vital for an excellent LVT floor finish. The appearance of LVT floors will only be as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed. Any irregularities in the subfloor will show through the finished floor and must be suitably prepared before installation.



The subfloor must be hard, smooth, clean and dry, as well as being free from defects and fit for purpose. When required, scrape off and remove old adhesives and loose laying levelling compound. Make sure the subfloor is flat and free from dust, debris and other contamination.

As recommended by BS8203 section 6.2.3 when using thin flooring the unevenness of the subfloor should be of the highest standard (SR1) and not be greater than 3mm measured over a width of 200cm. Avoid high spots and steps.

A suitable plywood/levelling compound should be selected to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. However, the selection of suitable materials, including plywood, smoothing/ levelling compounds and any ancillary products, is dependent upon the occupational use of the area and must be agreed by the supplier of the preparative materials and the flooring contractor. All floor preparation materials used must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and in accordance with the national standards for resilient floorcoverings.

THE MOISTURE CONTENT OF THE SUBFLOOR

The moisture content of the subfloor must be taken prior to installation in accordance with Annex B of BS8203, The Installation of resilient floor coverings.

- Unheated cementitious screeds less than 2.0CM% - 75% RH (UK)
- Underfloor heated cementitious screeds less than 1.8CM% - 75% RH (UK)
- Unheated anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds less than 0.5CM% - 75% RH (UK)
- Underfloor heated anhydrite (calcium sulphate) less than 0.3CM% - 75% RH (UK)

Direct-to-earth concrete and stone subfloors must have an effective damp proof membrane (DPM) in accordance with BS8203 for the installation of resilient floorcoverings. Follow the screed manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface applied DPM and the use of levelling compound. An overview of recommended manufacturers and suppliers can be provided

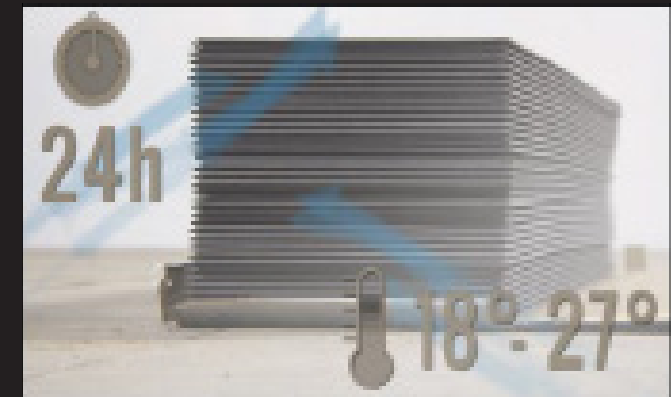


Important:
Floor installation
should not begin
until the installer
has assessed and
approved the
subfloor and
installation
conditions



ACCLIMATISATION

LVT floor products must acclimatise in the room of installation, or an equivalent area for at least 24 hours prior to installation, or until the product has achieved an ambient temperature. Again, this is a minimum temperature of 18°C and a maximum of 27°C.



- Unpack the LVT floor product and check all planks or tiles in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour.

- Stack the plank or tiles in straight piles away from heating, cooling or windows with direct intense sunlight. This is to achieve a gradual acclimatisation.

TEMPERATURE CONDITION BEFORE INSTALLATION

LVT floor products should be installed with a room temperature of between 18°C and 27°C and a subfloor temperature of above 15°C.

Installations in areas colder than recommended will influence the installation properties of the product. The planks or tiles will be less flexible, cutting will be harder and small pieces difficult to cut out. The lower the temperature, the more difficult the installation. Other installation products will also be influenced by the installation temperature.

For installation in areas warmer than recommended, we advise consultation with your local retailer/installer on how to create the appropriate installation conditions.

Starting Installation

Temperature Condition During Installation



A constant temperature, fluctuating no more than 5°C per day, not below the required 18°C room temperature and 15°C subfloor temperature, should be maintained 24 hours before, during and 72 hours after installation

Underfloor Heating

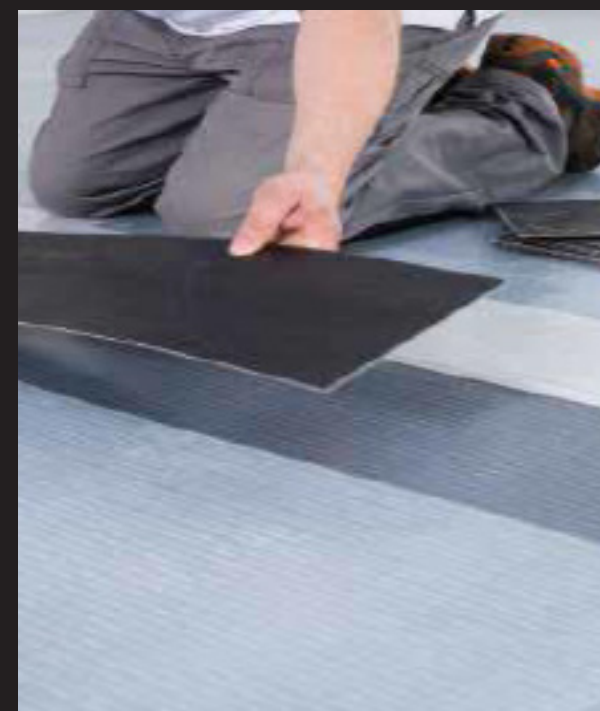
LVT floor products can be used with traditional water based underfloor heating systems provided that the guidance laid out in section 7.7.1 of BS8203 is followed. There must be a constant ambient room temperature of 18 to 27°C for the acclimatisation period, installation and for 72 hours after installation. 24 hours after installation the underfloor heating must be re-commissioned, the system temperature is gradually increased by increments of 3 to 5°C per day, until it reaches the standard operating temperature. For the suitability of the system please check the manufacturer's instructions.

Underfloor Cooling

LVT floor products can also be installed over floor cooling systems. However, the supply temperature of the cooling water must not be reduced below the dew point temperature. Temperatures below this point will produce condensation and can therefore damage the floor covering. Thermostats in the room must never be set at a temperature, which is more than 5°C lower than the room temperature.



Recommended Underlay



Xtrafloor® Flex Pro: Heavy Duty Use

- Improved sound insulation ($L_w=10$ dB with 2.5 mm LVT floor products)
- High grab, pressure sensitive adhesive under a removable protective film for easy installation.
- Suitable for underfloor heating and cooling
- Provides excellent dimensional stability
- Suitable for Roller Castor Chairs & rolling loads up to 250kg

Xtrafloor® Flex Pro can bridge small gaps of a maximum 3mm wide and 2mm deep. This allows for installation over existing floor coverings, such as ceramic tiles, linoleum, compact PVC floors, chipboard and wooden floorboards.

LVT floor products installed on Xtrafloor® Pro is a “floating” floor. Therefore, a 3mm expansion gap must be incorporated at the perimeter of the room/area for the underlay and 1.5mm to 2mm for the LVT. For smart solutions to cover the expansion gap, see ‘finishing your floor’.

For the installation of Xtrafloor® Flex Pro, lay the sheets butted, edge-to-edge, at a 90 angle to the laying direction of the new floorcovering. Xtrafloor® Flex-Pro is to be laid PET Film side up. There is no need to fix one sheet to another. Separate the PET-film from the underlay sheet and begin laying your new floor according to the fitting instructions. Do not use tape or adhesive to fix the underlay. Please see the full Xtrafloor® Flex Pro Underlay installation recommendations.

Important part from the warranty:

- Almost all flooring will vary in colour over time when exposed to UV light. Avoid this by using curtains or sunscreens when the sun is very bright. PVC also has a tendency to yellow in the dark. The combined effect can cause covered areas (under furniture, under permanently closed doors, etc.) to differ in colour compared to non-covered areas. This is a characteristic of all PVC floorcoverings and is excluded in our warranty conditions.
- Avoid rubber or latex backed mats as they may leave stains. Also, rubber and latex castors (we advise castors type ‘W’ in accordance with EN 12529) or protection caps under furniture cannot be used.
- Protect against scratching from furniture feet by using wide free-moving castors, glides, rollers or felt pads. Use furniture cups under heavy items or appliances to prevent indentation.
- In case of loose lay installation, damage of the vinyl flooring caused by heavy overload or sliding activities is not covered by the warranty conditions.
- Do not allow cigarettes, matches and other very hot items to contact the floor as this causes permanent damage.

Contact Furlong Flooring for the complete warranty conditions