PANELCRAFT
NEXT-GEN WALL SOLUTIONS

VINYL LOCKING -Installation & Maintenance

Tools Required

- Utility Knife
- Tape Measure
- Straight Edge
- Spacers

Do not use foam underlayment under VINYL FLOORS

Prior to installation

- Carefully check flooring material for any defects. Contact your supplier immediately if any defect is found.
- Room temperature shall be no less than 65°F (18°C) for 24hours before, during and after installation.
- Remove quarter round, baseboard molding or cove base.
- Undercut doorway moldings the thickness of the flooring.
- Cartons must be stored horizontally at all times.
- Protect carton corners from damage

Wood Substrates

Wood floors must be double construction with a minimum thickness of 1", free from spring / detection. Top layer of plywood shall be ¼" minimum thickness underlayment grade plywood. BBL recommended underlayments include APA Underlayment Grade Plywood A-C, B-C or C-C Plugged, ACCU-PLY, SurePly, TECPLY, ULAY, C.S.A. (CanPly) and Proboard.

Concrete Substrates

VINYL FLOORS may be installed over on grade, above grade or below grade concrete subfloors. Concrete floors shall be constructed in accordance with the American Concrete Institute (ACI) 302.1 Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction. Concrete shall be finished and cured according to ACI and have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi. Installation of moisture vapor barrier is recommended prior to pouring of on or below grade slabs. Moisture vapor transmission shall not exceed 3 lbs. /1000 ft^2 / 24 hours per ASTM F-1869(Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test). Moisture may also be tested according to ASTM F 2170 (Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes). When tested according to this method, the internal relative humidity shall not exceed 75%.
VINYL FLOORS may be installed over gypsum based underlayments.

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Existing Floors

VINYL FLOORS may be installed over most smooth, single layer, hard surface existing flooring. Check flooring for any curled areas around the perimeter or at seams and repair if necessary. Use of a good quality cementitious based embossing leveler to smooth and ill the existing floor.

WARNING: Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt or asphaltic "cutback" adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content.

Substrate Preparation

- All substrates must be dry, clean, smooth, level, free from all existing adhesive residues, and free from movement or deflection.
- The substrate must be level within 3/16" in 10 ft. (4.7 mm in 3 m).
- Fill and level all plywood seams and concrete cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves or other irregularities. Use a latex fortified, cementitious patching compound.
- Sweep and/or vacuum substrate to remove all dust and debris.

Getting Started

1. VINYL FLOORS is a floating floor and should not be glued or nailed to the substrate.
2. VINYL FLOORS is intended for indoor use only.
3. Determine in which direction the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger or if installing in very small rooms or hallways, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension.
4. Do not install cabinets on planks.
5. Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and also to determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row of planks is less than 2" (50mm), excluding the tongue, the width of first row of planks will have to be cut accordingly.
6. A minimum 5/16" (8.2mm) expansion space is required around the perimeter of the room and all vertical objects.
7. Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Do not install damaged planks. We will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects.

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During installation, inspect the groove area and remove any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks.

Installation

1. Begin laying planks from the left side of the starting wall and work to the right side. The tongue side of the plank shall face the starting wall.
2. Place 5/16” (8.2mm) spacers between the short and long side of the planks and the wall. Always position one spacer between the wall and where the planks join.
3. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side of the previous plank at a low angle. Gradually lower the plank down lay until the end joint closes, insuring that the planks are perfectly aligned. Install remaining full planks in the first row.
4. The last plank in the first row will need to be cut. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank. Subtract 5/16” (8.2mm) from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 8” (20.3cm), the length of first plank in the row must be cut. This will allow for a longer plank at the end of the row. The first and last plank in each row must be at least 8” (20.3cm) in length. Planks are cut using a sharp utility knife and straight edge/carpenters square. Score the surface of the plank with a utility knife, and then snap the plank at the score line.
5. The remaining piece cut off from the last plank in the first row may serve as the first plank in the second row provided it is at least 8” (20.3cm) long. Always stagger end joints from row to row a minimum of 8” (20.3cm).
6. Install the long side of the first plank of the second row. Remember to place a 5/16” (8.2mm) spacer between the wall and the short side of the plank. Insert the tongue side into the groove side of the previous row at a low angle and lower lay to the substrate.
7. Install the second plank in the second. Position the long side of the plank with the tongue side overlapping the groove of the planks in the previous row approximately 1/8”. Then, angle the end joint into the previous plank. Angle the plank up and gently push forward until the plank locks into the previous row. Continue installing remaining planks in second row. It is important to make sure that the first two rows are straight and square as they can effect the entire installation.
8. Continue working from left to right, row by row. Be sure to maintain a 5/16” space around all walls and vertical objects and maintain a random appearance. Offset end joints a minimum of 8” (20.3cm).

Finishing the installation

- After all planks have been installed, remove spacers from perimeter of room.
- Install transition moldings. Do not fasten any moldings through the flooring.

- Predrill and install quarter round or baseboard molding. Molding must be sufficient size to cover the 5/16” (8.2mm) space. Do not fasten moldings through the flooring. Fasten into the wall.
- Use plywood to cover the top of the flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
- Use proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture.
- Post installation temperature MUST be maintained between 65º F and 100º F(flooring temperature). Relative humidity must be maintained between 40% and 70%.

Maintenance

Please follow the recommendations in this guide to retain the fresh look and protect the finish. After installing the floor, we recommend a first cleaning to remove and loose dirt or debris that may have been introduced during the installation process. Also, in order to protect the flooring surface from abrasive dirt and debris we recommend installing an effective barrier system to limit the amount of moisture, dirt, and grit that may enter the flooring area. Please check any new cleaning agents on a small test patch of the floor in an inconspicuous area, and avoid using harsh cleaners or ammonia based cleaning products.

1. First, sweep and vacuum the floor surface to ensure removal of all loose dust, dirt, and debris. Using a mop scrub the flooring surface. Use warm, clean water, ring several times or as needed, the use a dry mop or wet vacuum to remove the water and allow to dry.
2. Do not allow pets with unclipped nails to damage your vinyl flooring. It may result in severe scratching to the surface. The same is true for any high heeled shoes that do not have proper tips on the heels.
3. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. During peak sunlight hours, use drapes or blinds to minimize the direct sunlight on the vinyl flooring. Most types of flooring will be affected by continuous strong sunlight. In addition, excessive temperatures are not good for resilient floors. Some natural ventilation or intermittent air conditioning in vacant homes should be considered. Long term continuous inside temperatures over 95 F combined with strong direct sunlight will damage the flooring and cause the installation to fail.
4. Do not wax your vinyl flooring. The surface of your floor is very dense and nonporous, which prevents wax from penetrating and thus builds up a bed for yellowing and dirt collection. The same non porous feature also provides all the protection against wear and staining that you will need.
5. If your floor has been exposed to excessive amounts of water due to flooding, do not panic, Vinyl floor is waterproof. Simply remove the water as quickly as possible.

A dehumidifier should be promptly turned on in the room to reduce the moisture levels back to normal. Do not dry the room below the normal moisture level that existed previously.