

Favored Nation Luxury Vinyl Flooring Installation and Maintenance Instructions

NOTE TO INSTALLER: BEFORE INSTALLATION, PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY. FAILING TO FOLLOW ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS MAY VOID WARRANTY

Prior to installation, the floor MUST be inspected for:

- **QUALITY** — Check quality and verify the material is as requested.
- **QUANTITY** — Verify that the quantity is correct prior to starting any installation.
- **COLOR/FINISH** — verify that the material is the color, finish and sheen level requested.
- **DYE LOT** — Verify that the material is of one dye lot. **Landmark interiors** does not guarantee different dye lots will match each other.

Make sure to maintain the building's temperature at 65-85°F (18-29.5°C) all year round. This warranty may be voided if you fail to follow this instruction.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION, THE OWNER/INSTALLER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FINAL INSPECTION. PRODUCT THOUGHT TO HAVE ANY POSSIBLE DEFECT BY THE PERSONS PERFORMING THE INSTALLATION SHOULD BE RETURNED FOR INSPECTION AND POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT. ALL QUESTIONS OF PRODUCT QUALITY, GRADING OR COLOR/SHEEN LEVEL MUST BE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION OF THE LVP/LVT FLOORING, THE OWNER/INSTALLER MUST DETERMINE THAT THE JOB-SITE ENVIRONMENT AND SUB-SURFACES INVOLVED MEET OR EXCEED ALL APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND ALL REQUIREMENTS WHICH ARE STIPULATED IN THE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDED IN EACH CARTON. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS INDUSTRIES, AS WELL AS LOCAL CODES MUST BE FOLLOWED. THESE INSTRUCTIONS RECOMMEND THAT THE WORK AREA AND SUBFLOOR BE CLEAN, DRY, STIFF, FLAT AND STRUCTURALLY SOUND. VARIATIONS IN SUBFLOOR ARE NOT TO EXCEED 3/16" IN 10' (5MM IN 3 M) RUN IN ANY DIRECTION. FLOOR MUST BE FLAT PRIOR TO INSTALLATION. ANY RESIDUE OR DEBRIS HAS TO BE REMOVED BEFORE THE INSTALLATION.

THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING IF THE SUBFLOOR IS DRY ENOUGH FOR INSTALLATION OF THE LVP/LVT FLOORING LIES WITH THE FLOOR COVERING INSTALLER. ALTHOUGH OUR LVP/LVT PRODUCT IS NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO DAMAGE FROM MOISTURE, EXCESSIVE SUBFLOOR MOISTURE IS AN IDEAL BREEDING GROUND FOR MOLD, MILDEW AND FUNGUS. LIMITED WARRANTIES DO NOT COVER DISCOLORATION FROM MOLD OR FROM FLOODING, LEAKING PLUMBING OR APPLIANCES, WATER ENTERING THROUGH SLIDING GLASS DOORS OR SIMILAR CONDITIONS. MAKE SURE THE PANELS ARE MIXED SUFFICIENTLY FROM MULTIPLE CARTONS WHEN INSTALLING THEM, SO THAT YOU DO NOT END UP WITH TOO MANY IDENTICAL, LIGHT OR DARK PANELS NEXT TO EACH OTHER.

AFTER INSTALLATION, IT IS THE INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE THE HOME OWNER WITH THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN EACH CARTON. THESE INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE LIFE OF THE FLOOR.

General

Acclimation: This is a necessary step to ensure the LVP/LVT product will function as it is designed and make the installation easier. Store UNOPENED BOXES, laying flat, in the rooms where the flooring will be installed for at least 48 hours prior to installation. Make sure the temperature in the rooms is between 65-85°F (18.3-29.5°C).

Subfloors: **Favored Nation LVT** product may be installed over concrete, approved wooden subfloors, as well as some existing floor coverings. Proper preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor covering, resulting in an unsightly surface and excessive wear on high spots. No matter what subfloor the LVP/LVT is installed over, the subfloor MUST be dry, clean, smooth, flat and leveled, free from all existing adhesive residue, and must be structurally sound with no abnormal deflection.

Wooden Substrate: All wood floors must be suspended at least 18" above the ground. Adequate cross-ventilation must be provided, and the ground surface of a crawl space must be covered with a suitable vapor barrier. Wood floor must be at least 5/8" (15.5mm), exterior grade T&G plywood, or 23/32" (18mm) OSB, with no abnormal deflection. Particleboard, chipboard, construction grade plywood, hardboard and flakeboard are not recommended as underlayment for this installation. **Landmark Interiors** will not accept responsibility for installation over these subfloors.

Concrete Surfaces: **Favored Nation LVT** can be successfully installed over concrete substrates on grade, above grade or below grade.

- a. Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth and free from dust, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, curing compounds, asphalt sealing compounds and other extraneous materials. The concrete should be constructed in accordance with local construction standards, and shall have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi. Installation of a moisture vapor barrier is recommended prior to the pouring of on or below grade slabs. Moisture vapor transmission shall not exceed 3lb/1000 sq.ft. per 24 hours, per ASTM F-1869.
- b. New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry (at least six weeks) and completely cured. Moisture should be tested according to ASTM F2170. When tested according to this method, the internal relative humidity shall not exceed 75%.
- c. Holes, grooves, and other depressions must be filled with cementitious leveling underlayment or patching compound, and troweled smooth with the surrounding surface.
- d. Concrete floors with a radiant heating system are satisfactory, provided the temperature of the floor does not exceed 85°F at any point. Before installing the flooring, the heating system must be turned on to eliminate residual moisture.

Existing Floor Covering:

Favored Nation LVT may be installed over certain existing floor coverings. Existing floor covering must be sound and solid. Check resilient flooring for any curled area around the perimeter or at seams and repair if necessary. Ceramic tile should be made smooth by applying a cement overlay such as patching or leveling compound. These products must be installed according to their manufacturer's instructions.

Do not install Favored Nation LVT over:

- Single layer wood floors
- Existing plank floors that are on or below grade concrete
- Existing cushioned-backed vinyl flooring
- Asphalt plank or tile
- Carpet
- Self-adhering plank or tile
- Laminate or other floating flooring
- Adhesive residue

When installing over an existing resilient flooring material an embossing leveler may be required to prevent the existing material pattern from telegraphing through the new material.

Landmark Interiors is not responsible for damages or performance issues as a result of the substrate.

Radiant Heated Systems:

LVP and LVT can be installed over in-floor radiant heating systems provided the subfloor surface does not exceed 85°F or (29°C) at any point. The initial floor temperature should not exceed 70°F for 24 hours prior to and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter the temperature should be gradually increased by no more than 5°F per day to the desired setting up to 85°F or (29°C). Radiant heating systems that are installed on top of the subfloor surface are not recommended under any circumstances.

CAUTION! Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings.

WARNING: Do not sand, dry scrape, bead-blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic "cutback" adhesive or other adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/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. RFCI's Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings are a defined set of instructions addressed to the task of removing all resilient floor covering structures.

Preparation

- a. Subfloor must be level with 3/16" within 10 ft. (5mm in 3m). Fill and level all plywood seams and concrete cracks, control joints, depressions, grooves or other irregularities using approved materials. Sweep and vacuum the subfloor to remove all dust and debris.
- b. Room temperature should be between 65-85°F (18.3-29.5°C) for more than 48 hours before the installation and should be maintained within this range during and after installation.
- c. Remove all existing moldings and undercut the door jamb to the thickness of the flooring.
- d. Determine in which direction the flooring will be installed. For better appearance, it is preferable to install the LVP/LVT parallel to the longest room dimensions.

Tools & Accessories Needed

•Adhesive: DriTac 5800, PH-6373, Henry 695, MAPEI 360, Mapei 373, or Spraylock 6500.

Utility Knife •Broom •Pencil •Moisture Meter. (wood, concrete or both) •Tape Measure •Carpenter Square •Straight Edge •100lb Floor Roller •Notched Trowel (as per adhesive manufacturer's recommendation).

•Transition and Wall Moldings as needed. •Primer (if necessary) •Acetone (if necessary) •Vinyl Tile Cutter (optional) •Wood Putty (if necessary) •Cement Based Embossing Leveler (if necessary) •NIOSH-Designated Dust Mask •Safety Glasses •Depending on the required floor preparation, other materials required may include cement based floor patching compound and or embossing leveler, flat trowel, scraper, sander or grinder.

Installation Procedures

Favored Nation LVT can be installed with full spread pressure Sensitive acrylic based adhesives like DriTac 5800, Powerhold 6373, Henry 695, Mapei 373 or with Spraylock 6500.

Remove thresholds and baseboards before you measure the room to see how much flooring to purchase. Your surface to cover will be the length times the width of the room plus the area of any nooks and closets. To this total surface, you will need to add 10 percent for trimming.

Strip the existing flooring if necessary. Substrate should be clean, free from dust, oil, dirt, grease, curing agents, sealers, loose toppings, adhesive residue, and any other substance that may prevent adhesion.

Use ARDEX patching compound to fill in any cracks and holes in your subfloor. (For a list of approved patching compounds, contact Landmark Interiors.) Work the compound into the hole with a putty knife or trowel and level it off. Once you have a smooth, even surface, Clean thoroughly. The smoother the subfloor, the better vinyl planks/tiles will bond to it. It may be necessary to seal extremely porous subfloors, or difficult to bond to surfaces, with appropriate primer.

Planks are to be installed parallel to the wall that is the main line of sight in the room (usually this is the wall opposite to the room's main entrance). Measure to determine the center of the room and adjust the center point so that planks are evenly distributed on each side. Mark this straight center line on the floor using a chalk line or fine felt pen. Planks of first and last rows may need to be cut to ensure even layout throughout the room.

Spread adhesive with the recommended notched trowel. Use only recommended adhesives and closely follow instructions for their use. Wait the appropriate time according to the manufacturer's directions before commencing to lay flooring.

Starting on your center line, be very careful to line up the first plank perfectly straight since all the remaining planks will key off the first. Cut a vinyl plank in half to begin your second row. Use a vinyl plank cutter (recommended) or a utility knife and square to cut the plank at a 90-degree angle to its length. Staggering the vinyl planks creates a more authentic appearance; commence subsequent rows using the cut-off pieces from previous rows, alternating them randomly. Pieces should be a minimum of 8 inches (20 cm) in length, as should the stagger from one row to the next.

Use a 100 lbs. floor roller to ensure all planks are firmly bonded. Locate any gaps between planks, if any, use a putty knife to fill gaps with wood putty and wipe away any excess. Should there be adhesive residues on the surface of the floor, use a clean white cloth dampened with water while the adhesive is wet. Use acetone or mineral spirits to clean tools if adhesive is set.

Finishing the installation

Install transition moldings.

Pre-drill and install quarter round or baseboard molding.

After installation, the temperature in the areas or rooms that our LVP/LVT is installed must be maintained between 65-85 °F (18.3-29.5 °C). Relative humidity must be maintained between 40% and 50%. As with all floor coverings, protect the finished flooring from exposure to direct sunlight.

Close your curtains or blinds where extreme sunlight hits the floor. A combination of heat and sunlight can cause most home furnishings to fade, discolor or cause thermal expansion. The same applies to your floor.

Use high quality barrier matting system at exterior entrances. This will reduce cleaning costs and extend the life of the floor. Use appropriate protection to cover the top of the flooring when moving heavy objects into position. Use proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture. This protection should be designed for use with resilient flooring. Use soft casters or wheels designed for resilient flooring under movable tables and chairs. Caster and wheel damage can be avoided by using chair mats designed for use with resilient flooring.

REPAIRS

Favored Nation LVT is tough and durable; however, if a plank or tile becomes damaged, it can be replaced.

The following procedure should be used: Using a straight edge and a sharp utility knife, cut out and remove the center of the damaged item, leaving approximately a 1 inch strip attached to the surrounding items on all sides. Carefully cut back from the corners of the plank or tile to the inside edge. Carefully remove the remaining edge pieces. Remove any adhesive residue from the subfloor in the area being repaired. Use caution not to damage adjacent material. Spread new adhesive, with the appropriate notched trowel, in the area to be repaired. Wait the appropriate time according to the manufacturer's directions before beginning to lay flooring. Position the replacement flooring in the opened space and use a hand roller to ensure all the planks are firmly bonded to the floor, and to assist in aligning the edges into position. Weigh down the replaced flooring until it is fully bonded to the subfloor.

Daily / Regular Maintenance

Sweep, dust mop or vacuum the floor daily to remove dust, dirt, grit and debris that can damage the LVT/LVP and become ground into the surface. Spot mop as needed. Any spills should be cleaned up immediately.

Damp mopping of the LVT/LVP should be performed on a regular or daily basis depending upon traffic and soil levels in the area. Use a properly diluted neutral detergent cleaning



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