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INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS LVT FLOORING



General Advice

Atkinson & Kirby Luxury Vinyl Click (LVT) flooring is the newest generation of high quality resilient flooring. The unique interlocking-edge design makes for very easy installation.

- LVT offers a top of the range lock technology which makes for a quiet, fast and clean floating installation process that requires minimal hand tools.
- LVT is intended for internal installations only on any floor level, provided the substrate is not exposed to weather elements.
- As a floating floor, it should be allowed to expand and contract freely - as such, all permeant fixtures should be installed prior to the flooring installation.
- A minimum 8mm expansion gap is required in all areas, at all vertical surfaces to the floor.
- Areas larger than 9m x 9m and doorways narrower than 1m in width require a transition strip.
- Acclimatisation for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation must be carried out - this is achieved by placing all packs of flooring in the room in which it is to be installed for the acclimatisation period.
- Direct exposure to sunlight may cause fading of the floor colour and/or joint separation - as always, direct sunlight should be reduced by using curtains or blinds.
- LVT flooring is not recommended for installation in sunrooms or conservatories.
- LVT is highly water resistant, however, constant or prolonged exposure to excessive moisture/humidity may affect the product. Moisture/humidity issues must be addressed and corrected prior to installation.
- All packs of flooring should be checked prior to commencing installation and any defective products should not be installed.

Pre Installation

Please refer to the British Standard BD 8203:2001 +A1:2009, code of practice for installation of resilient floor coverings. Both installer and final end user must read the following instructions.

The installer has the responsibility to properly inspect the following conditions before installing. If your flooring has issues with any of the following it should be reported immediately to the seller, failure to do so before installation or within 30 days of purchase may invalidate your warranty.

- **Quality:** Ensure that the quality of the material is as you requested.
- **Quantity:** Ensure you have ordered and received the proper amount of flooring to complete your project.
- **Colour/Finish:** Ensure that the material has the colour, finish texture and gloss level you were expecting.

Tools & Materials Needed

- Utility knife & straight edge
- Measuring tape
- Shears for cutting around irregular shapes and objects
- 1/8-3/8" spacers
- Transition mouldings and baseboards

Tricks for Measuring

- Measure the length and width of the room to determine square meterage of the room.
- Alcoves or offsets should be measured separately.
- Purchase at least 10% extra to cover waste, trimming or future replacement needs.

Before Installation

- Place LVT flooring horizontally in the room where it will be installed.
- The room temperature should remain between 18-22°C for 48 hours prior to installation and during the entire installation period.
- For best acclimatisation practice, flooring should be removed from packaging and separated into small piles within the room.
- For installation over water based underfloor heating systems the acclimatisation process should be increased to 72 hours.

Subfloor Preparation and Installation

- Subfloor surface must be smooth, level, dry, clean and solid.
- Any previous adhesive residue must be removed to ensure proper installation.
- The subfloor should be flat with the following tolerances
 - 5mm over a span of 3m²
 - Or
 - 3mm over a span of 2m²
 - Any unevenness outside of these tolerances must be sanded or filled with a floor leveller
- Voids or bumps in the floor will cause telegraphing and might prevent the LVT from locking properly - these subfloor defects should be rectified before installation.
- New concrete floors must cure and dry for a minimum of 60 days prior to the installation of LVT flooring.
- When installing over cement:
 1. It is necessary to apply a polyethylene of 0.2mm thickness
 2. Overlap the edges of the polyethylene by a minimum of 0.2mm
 3. Seal the junction with moisture-proof self-adhesive tape
 4. These steps will avoid moisture seeping through the subfloor and creating residue and swelling on the floor surface
- When installing over water based underfloor heating systems:
 1. Water based heating systems should be activated and run at 20°C for a minimum of 1 week prior to installation of flooring
 2. After installation heating levels at the floor surface should never exceed 27°C
 3. When changing temperature, a maximum increase or decrease of 2°C should be observed

Please note: We do not approve our LVT for installation on electric heating systems because of their rapid temperature changes.

Installation

Do

- ✓ Always mix planks from multiple packs during installation to limit shade variation
- ✓ Allow expansion gaps at all perimeters to allow the floor to expand and contract during temperature changes
- ✓ Follow instructions from your glue manufacturer if using a glue down method
- ✓ Place your body in a manner that you will be pushing on the pieces whilst installing, as opposed to pulling on them

Don't

- X Screw the LVT flooring to its substrate
- X Install permanent, heavy furniture such as cabinets on top of the LVT flooring, unless using a glue down installation method
- X Hit on the pieces of flooring - they simply need to be pressed on firmly for the locking system to activate

Installation Steps

1. Begin installation at the corner of the room and proceed from the wall with the tongue facing the wall. Allow a minimum gap of 10mm for product expansion. Transition mouldings or baseboards will cover the gap.
2. The temperature of a room can vary due to differences between the seasons. There your LVT flooring must be able to expand and contract in all directions. The greater the surface areas, the greater the room for expansion required.
3. For rooms up to 7.7m wide and 12.3m long, allow 100 expansion gap around the perimeter and 10mm expansion gap at all walls or near anything that is fixed to the flooring substrate.
4. A gap must be allowed around all pipes and at all thresholds or obstacles.
5. For rooms over the above stated sizes, an additional expansion joint must be inserted so that the maximum runs are limited to the above sizes.
6. Expansion joints are also required in doorways, and between adjoining rooms or areas where adjacent flooring is installed. Use a T-moulding to cover the expansion joint.
7. In circumstances where movement of the floor may be restricted by heavy furniture or accentuated by high traffic, we recommend to glue the floor to its substrate by using a non-releasing glue that is recommended for vinyl flooring.
8. When laying the first row in a straight line, interlock the short ends by dropping the tongue into the groove and then pressing firmly on the short end until a sound is heard - **never hit on the pieces.**
9. Install sequential plank on the short end and ensure to line up evenly.
10. Place this first row along the chosen wall respecting the minimum 10mm gap by using spacers. There should be no visible gap between the planks.
NB: To separate short sides, do not lift the pieces but rather slide them apart
11. When installing LVT flooring you must stagger the short ends from one row to another by a minimum of 203mm.
12. To start the second row, measure and mark the plank, then using a straight edge and utility knife score the plank and snap it.
13. Always start the next row with the piece remaining from the previous row, unless that piece is less than 203mm long.
14. Engage long side with the receiving row while aligning the short end to that of the previous piece. Lock the long side by dropping it to the floor while dropping the short sides into one another.

15. Run your thumb along the short side until you hear a 'clicking' sounds which confirms the clip is engaged.
16. Fitting around irregular objects is very easy with our LVT flooring:
 - a) First make a template out of heavy duty paper to fit around pipes or other irregular objects
 - b) Place the template on the plank and trace around it
 - c) Cut along the trace lines using a utility knife or heavy duty scissors and lay plank in desired location
 - d) Continue to allow for expansion gaps along each wall
17. When installing the last row, cut the pieces lengthwise while ensuring to keep proper expansion space from the wall as mentioned above.
18. Complete the installation by removing all spacers, installing your baseboard mouldings or scotia/quadrant to cover the flooring's expansion gaps.
19. To install transition mouldings, glue the moulding to its track or subfloor but never to the LVT flooring itself.
20. Sweep or vacuum any remaining debris and clean if necessary with a suitable vinyl floor cleaner.

Post Installation

LVT flooring should be thoroughly cleaned immediately after installation is completed in order to remove any and all residues. The initial cleaning can be carried out by:

- Damp mopping
- Low speed single-disc machine (maximal red pad or soft nylon brush)
- Roller cleaning system

A basic cleaning agent, suitable for LVT flooring, should be used in the recommended diluted proportions (please fully read and follow all supplier instructions before applying). Once the cleaning procedure is complete, any residue from the cleaning agents should be fully removed and the floor rinsed with clean water using a damp mop.

Ensure you are familiar with the maintenance guidance for LVT flooring by downloading the maintenance guide from www.akirby.co.uk. All maintenance guidance should be adhered to following installation of LVT flooring to ensure high performance of the product.