

ELEME FLOORING

INSTALLATION GUIDE

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY, BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION. IMPROPER INSTALLATION OR INSTALLATION BY ANYONE OTHER THAN A PROFESSIONAL FLOORING INSTALLER WILL VOID WARRANTY. FOR ALL INSTALLATION CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION NOT COVERED SPECIFICALLY UNDER THESE INSTRUCTIONS, OR DEFECTIVE MATERIAL, CONTACT MANUFACTURER.

PLEASE NOTE: FLOATING FLOORS ARE DESIGNED TO EXPAND AND CONTRACT MONOLITHICALLY WITHOUT RESTRICTION.

SPECIAL ATTENTION NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

- AVOID EXCESSIVE HEAT, SUCH AS SUN ROOMS AND AREAS WITH EXTENDED DIRECT SUNLIGHT. EXCESSIVE HEAT CAN CAUSE UNEVEN EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION AND RESULT IN FLOORS BUCKLING. WINDOW COVERINGS CAN BE INSTALLED TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE HEAT.
- DO NOT APPLY BASEBOARD TOO TIGHT TO THE FLOORING OR NAIL THROUGH THE FLOORING, RESULTING IN RESTRICTED MOVEMENT.
- DO NOT RESTRICT MOVEMENT BY INSTALLING CABINETS, ISLANDS, OR OTHER HEAVY OBJECTS ON TOP OF THE FLOORING. HEAVY OBJECTS SUCH AS POOL TABLES AND REFRIGERATORS ARE ACCEPTABLE AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT EXCEED 1000 LBS ONTO THE FLOOR.
- ALL SUBFLOORS MUST BE SMOOTH AND FLAT, VOID OF WAXES OR OTHER CONTAMINATES THAT MIGHT ALLOW THE FLOORING TO STICK TO THE SUBFLOOR SURFACE, RESTRICTING MOVEMENT.
- ALWAYS ALLOW PROPER EXPANSION SPACE. AN EXPANSION GAP MUST BE PROVIDED, CONTINUOUSLY, AT ALL VERTICAL SURFACES, ALLOWING MATERIAL TO EXPAND AND CONTRACT WITH NO RESTRICTION.
- FLOORS THAT ARE RESTRICTED FROM FREELY EXPANDING AND CONTRACTING ARE SUBJECT TO BUCKLES AND GAPS. BUCKLING AND GAPPING DUE TO RESTRICTED MOVEMENT IS NOT COVERED UNDER WARRANTY.
- RADIANT HEATED FLOORING: THIS FLOORING IS NOT RECOMMENDED TO INSTALL OVER ANY HEAT SYSTEMS.

IMPORTANT: 6MIL THICKNESS MOISTURE BARRIER IS REQUIRED TO BE LAID BEFORE INSTALLING THE VINYL PLANKS.**QUALIFIED INSTALLERS REQUIREMENTS:**

- Recommended to hire a professional that is certified/licensed in his/her respected installation trades/schools for Resilient Installations per State regulations.
- Recommendations to DIY, Handyman services and or other Licensed or certified installation, or trade related installers are required to abide by All the ELEME FLOORING INSTALLATION.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS NEEDED

- Utility knife & straight edge
- Measuring tape
- Rubber Mallet
- Square Ruler
- Shears for cutting around irregular shaped objects
- Spacers
- Pull/Pry Bar
- Transition moldings and baseboards

TRICKS FOR MEASURING

Measure the length and width to determine the square footage of the room. Alcoves or offsets should be measured separately.

Purchase at least 10% extra to cover waste, trimming and for future replacement needs.

NOTE: If you have more than one run number, we recommend you install planks from 4 or 5 different cases from different run numbers together. This will limit shade variations. Replacement of material only.

CAUTION: Do not install this Vinyl plank over carpet or regular underlayment. Vinyl plank can be installed over an approved underlayment such as Ultra Fold. This product is not suitable for outdoor use, sunrooms, solariums or saunas. Vinyl plank will warp if subject to excessive heat and will shrink if exposed to excessive cold. We also highly recommend you do not install in rooms or homes in which the temperature is not controlled. Exposure to long term direct sunlight can cause expansion damage to your floor. We strive to maintain strict quality control during the manufacturing process but we recommend checking all planks to ensure uniform appearance.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

Place ELEME Vinyl plank horizontally in the room where it will be installed. The room should remain between 18 and 22 degrees Celsius 48 hours before installation, and during the installation period. Do not remove the planks from the box during this acclimatization period. Acclimate cartons laying flat, not on end or on side, stacked no more than 5 cartons high.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION

The sub-floor surface must be smooth, dry, clean and free all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils and old adhesive residue. Any adhesive residue must be removed to ensure proper installation.

The subfloor should be flat within a tolerance of 1/12" (2mm) over a span of 4 feet. Any unevenness over 1/12" (2mm) must be sanded or filled with a floor leveler. Voids or humps in the sub-floor will prevent Vinyl plank from locking properly. Vinyl flooring is waterproof but any moisture problem (below 35% or greater than 60%) needs to be corrected prior to installation. New concrete floors need to cure for a minimum of 60 days. When installing on cement on the first floor, it is necessary to apply a polyethylene of a thickness of 6-8 mil, thus sealing the

joins in order to prevent moisture from seeping through, which could create residue on your flooring surface.

APPROVED SUBFLOORS:

- CONCRETE, PROPERLY PREPARED CONCRETE, CEMENT PATCH AND LEVELING COMPOUNDS (MINIMUM 3500 PSI). MUST NOT EXCEED 55% RH (ASTM F2170) AND MUST NOT EXCEED 10LB MVER (ASTM F1869). PH LEVELS MUST BE BETWEEN 5-9.
- GYPSUM, PROPERLY PREPARED GYPSUM (MINIMUM 3500 PSI). MUST BE DRY BASED ON GYPSUM AND ADHESIVE MANUFACTURER STANDARDS, MAXIMUM 55% RH (ASTM F2170).
- WOOD, PROPERLY PREPARED WOOD (UNDERLAYMENT GRADE PLYWOOD, OSB & OFB) MUST BE A MINIMUM 1" THICK (CAN BE 3/4" THICK WITH A 1/4" PLYWOOD UNDERLAYMENT). SUBFLOOR MUST HAVE A MINIM 18" CLEARANCE BETWEEN THE BOTTOM OF THE JOIST AND THE GROUND. GROUND MUST BE COVERED 100% WITH 6-MIL POLY FILM.
- EXISTING FLOOR COVERING THAT IS FIRMLY BONDED TO THE SUBSTRATE; DENSE NOT CUSHIONED, AND ONLY ONE LAYER THICK.

NON-APPROVED SUBFLOORS:

- SLEEPER TYPE FLOOR SYSTEMS.
- PLYWOOD INSTALLED DIRECTLY OVER A CONCRETE SLAB.
- SOFT PLYWOOD, LUAN, PRESSURE TREATED, OR PLYWOOD NOT APPROVED AS "UNDERLAYMENT GRADE" CERTIFIED BY THE PLYWOOD ASSOCIATION.
- MASONITE OR HARDBOARD.
- CONTAMINATED SURFACES: ABATEMENT CHEMICALS, PAINT, OIL, MOLD, MILDEW, GREASE OR ANY CONTAINMENTS.
- STRIP PLANK WOOD FLOORING.
- UNEVEN (EXCEED 63/800" IN 6.56 LINEAR FEET) OR UNSTABLE SUBSTRATES.

INSTALLATION

- Installation should begin with a corner and proceed from the wall with the tongue facing away from the wall. Allow a minimum gap of 3/8" (10mm) for product expansion. Transition moldings or baseboards will cover the gap.

- When laying the first row in a straight line interlock the short ends by inserting the tongue into the grooves at an angle of about 15 to 30 degrees. Install sequential plank on the short end (5.75") and be sure to line up evenly. Place his first row along the chosen wall respecting the minimum gap by using spacers.

- Keep the seams tight between planks. You will feel and hear the click when locking the planks together to create a tight seam. There should be no visible gap between planks. If seams do not appear tight, pull the planks apart immediately and try again.

- It is strongly suggested to stagger the rows so that the short edge seams are not in a straight uniform line.

- To start the second row, measure and mark the plank, then using a straight edge and utility knife, score the plank and snap it.

- Interlock the first plank of the second row again at a 15-30 degree angle. For the next planks, interlock the short side first, leaving it slightly away from the long side and then slide it into the long side in the same manner. Start the third row with the last plank remaining from the previous row.

- Fitting around irregular objects is very easy with our vinyl plank. Simply make a pattern out of heavy paper to fit around pipes or irregular objects. Place the pattern on the plank and trace. Cut along trace lines using a utility knife or heavy duty scissors, and lay plank.

- Allow for expansion gaps along each wall. The humidity of a room can vary due to differences between the

seasons. Therefore your floor must be able to expand and contract in all directions. This expansion can amount to 2mm per meter (1/12 in. per 3.28 ft.), so the greater the surface area, the greater the room for expansion required. To allow for this variation, an expansion gap is provided at all walls. A gap must also be provided around pipes or at thresholds or obstacles. For rooms up to 20 ft. (6m) wide and 30 ft.(9m) long, allow between 2/5 in. and 7/10 in. (10mm-18mm) for expansion along each wall. For rooms over 20 ft.(6m) wide or over 30 ft. (9m) long, an additional expansion joint must be inserted. Expansion joints are also required in doorways, and between adjoining rooms or areas where adjacent flooring is installed. Use a T-molding to cover the expansion joint.

- DO NOT fit flooring full or under compression.



- FOR AREA LESS THAN 15'x20', USE 10mm EXPANSION GAP.
- FOR AREA LESS THAN 20'x25', USE 15mm EXPANSION GAP.
- FOR AREA LESS THAN 20'x30', USE 18mm EXPANSION GAP.

THE WIDTH DIRECTION OF CONTINUOUS FLOOR PAVING SHOULD NOT EXCEED 20'(6 METERS), AND THE LENGTH DIRECTION SHOULD NOT EXCEED 30'(9 METERS). THE EXCESS PART SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH BRIDGE CONNECTIONS, EXPANSION JOINTS SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR ADJACENT FLOORS, AND DOORWAYS SHOULD BE PARTITIONED.

EXPANSION TRANSITION TRIM

- BETWEEN AREAS OF UNEVEN HEATING, WHERE ONE AREAS TEMPERATURE MIGHT BE MAINTAINED DIFFERENTLY THAN AN ADJOINING AREA.
- AT DOORWAYS AND SLIDING GLASS DOORWAYS, USE AN END CAP SQUARE EDGE TRANSITION.
- USE TRANSITION TRIM IN ADJOINING AREAS OF IRREGULAR SHAPE, SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO: L-SHAPE, U-SHAPE, T-SHAPE.
- DO NOT NAIL OR STAPLE TRIM SO THAT IT RESTRICTS FLOOR MOVEMENT SUCH AS NAILING INTO FLOOR OR TOO TIGHTLY AGAINST FLOOR SURFACE.
- IF EXISTING BASEBOARD MOLDING IS DIFFICULT TO REMOVE, QUARTER ROUND MOLDING WILL BE REQUIRED TO COVER THE EXPANSION SPACE NEED BETWEEN FLOORING AND BASEBOARD.
- UNDERCUT DOOR JAMBS AND OTHER VERTICAL SURFACES TO ALLOW FLOORING TO FREELY FIT UNDERNEATH. WITH A FLOATING FLOOR YOU MUST ALWAYS ENSURE YOU LEAVE A 2/3" GAP BETWEEN WALLS AND FIXTURES SUCH AS PIPES AND PILLARS, STAIRS, ETC. THESE GAPS WILL BE COVERED WITH TRIM MOLDINGS AFTER THE FLOOR IS INSTALLED. TIP: WHEN INSTALLING AROUND PIPES, DRILL THE HOLES 3/4" LARGER THAN THE DIAMETER OF THE PIPES.

IT IS FIXED TO THE WALL BUT NOT GLUED TO THE FLOOR TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTION OF THE SHRINKAGE JOINTS.

INSTALLING ON STAIRS

- WHEN INSTALLING ON STAIRS, A STAIR NOSING MUST BE USED.
- WHEN ADHERING FLOORING TO STAIRS USE A PERMANENT BONDING ADHESIVE (URETHANE ADHESIVE OR SOLVENT-FREE CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE).

- THE ATTACHED PAD MUST BE REMOVED.

POST INSTALLATION

FLOOR PROTECTION:

- IF OTHER TRADES ARE WORKING IN THE INSTALLATION AREA, PROTECT FLOORING WITH AN APPROVED BREATHABLE FLOOR PROTECTION MATERIAL SUCH AS A BUILDER BOARD OR REINFORCED 60LB KRAFT PAPER.

MAINTENANCE

INITIAL MAINTENANCE

- ALWAYS USE A NEUTRAL PH CLEANER, SUCH AS WF TAYLOR FRESH FLOORS. DO NOT USE ABRASIVE CLEANERS, BLEACH OR WAX TO MAINTAIN THE FLOOR.

DAILY & WEEKLY MAINTENANCE

- SWEEP, DUST MOP, OR VACUUM THE FLOOR AS NEEDED TO REMOVE LOOSE DIRT AND GRIT. DO NOT USE A VACUUM WITH BRISTLES OR A BEATER BAR.
- DAMP MOP AS NEEDED AND USE CLEANERS RECOMMENDED WITH NO-WAX OR OIL.
- WHEN DEALING WITH CONTAMINATION, IT IS FORBIDDEN TO SCRAPE WITH BLADES, CLEANING BALLS, ETC.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

- CHAIR PADS ARE REQUIRED UNDER ROLLER CASTOR CHAIRS.
- FURNITURE LEG PROTECTORS, MINIMUM 1.5" DIAMETER, ARE REQUIRED UNDER ALL FURNITURE LEGS.
- DO NOT DRAG OR SLIDE HEAVY OBJECTS ACROSS THE FLOOR.
- NEVER APPLY RUBBER MATS DIRECTLY ON TOP OF VINYL FLOORING.
- PLACE WALK OFF MATS OUTSIDE ENTRY DOORS TO PREVENT DIRT AND SAND FROM ENTERING INTO THE INSTALLATION.
- PROTECT FLOORING FROM DIRECT SUNLIGHT WITH WINDOW AND GLASS DOOR COVERINGS TO PREVENT FADING. CLOSE BLINDS OR DRAPES DURING PEAK SUN LIGHT HOURS.
- ANY ADDITIONAL FLOOR FINISHES ARE NOT REQUIRED AND NOT APPROVED. THE APPLICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL FLOOR FINISHES WILL VOID ALL WARRANTIES.
- SAND AND GRAVEL PROTECTION: AVOID THE CRUSHING AND WEAR OF FINE GRAVEL. MATERIAL HANDLING AND MAINTENANCE: AVOID SHARP SCRATCHES AND CUTS ON TABLES, CHAIRS AND CABINETS.
- FIREWORK PROTECTION: AVOID BURNS FROM CIGARETTE BUTTS, MOSQUITO COILS, HIGH TEMPERATURE IRONS, MATCHES OR OTHER VERY HOT OBJECTS, ETC.
- CHEMICAL PROTECTION: AVOID SOAKING IN WATER FOR A LONG TIME, AVOID STRONG ACIDS AND ALKALIS.
- SUN PROTECTION: AVOID DIRECT SUNLIGHT TO PREVENT DISCOLORATION AND FADING. DO NOT USE COLORED FLOOR PROTECTORS.

DISASSEMBLING

DISCONNECT THE WHOLE ROW, LIFTING IT AT A SLIGHT ANGLE. LEAVING IT ON A HORIZONTAL SURFACE, SMOOTHLY DISCONNECT THE END FACE CONNECTION, MOVING THEM IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. IF THE PLANKS ARE DISCONNECTED WITH SOME FORCE, YOU CAN DO IT BY LIFTING THEM AT AN ANGLE OF 5°, MOVING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

INSTALLER/ OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the installer and owner to ensure that job site environmental, sub-floor and subsurface conditions involved meet or exceed all requirements as outlined in installation instructions prior to installation. Manufacturer declines all responsibility for product performance or installation failure due to sub-floor, substrate or environmental deficiencies or job site conditions.