

Installation Guide

Pre-Installation Considerations

Before beginning the installation process, it's crucial to ensure that certain conditions are met to guarantee a successful outcome. Here are the key factors to consider:

1. Sub Floor Preparation

The sub floor serves as the foundation for your vinyl flooring and must be adequately prepared:

Hardness: Use cement-based screeds to ensure a sturdy subfloor without any crumbliness.

Flatness: The sub floor should have minimal deflection, with surface irregularities smoothed out.

Dryness: Measure moisture content using appropriate tools, ensuring it meets relevant standards. Allow sufficient drying time, accounting for environmental factors.

Smoothness: Apply a self-leveling compound to minor surface imperfections, ensuring a level surface for installation.

Expansion Joints: Incorporate appropriate joints to accommodate for floor movement, ensuring they are covered adequately.

Sub Floors Direct to Ground: Install a damp-proof membrane to mitigate moisture issues.

Underfloor Heating: Follow specific guidelines for underfloor heating systems to prevent damage and ensure proper adhesion.

2. Preparation for Specific Sub Floors

Different sub floor types require tailored preparation:

Old Carpeting: Remove old carpeting, clean the sub floor, and apply a self-leveling compound.

Wooden Floorboards: Secure loose boards, fill knot holes, and cover with suitable material like hardboard or plywood.

Ceramic Tiles: Remove loose tiles, clean, prime, and apply self-leveling compounds as necessary.

Old Flooring: Remove previous vinyl, linoleum, or rubber flooring, and prepare the subfloor accordingly.

Prior to Installation

Ensure the sub floor meets cleanliness and structural requirements:

Cleanliness: Remove dust, debris, and contaminants that could affect adhesion.

Moisture Content: Check moisture levels, especially for concrete sub floors, ensuring they meet specified standards.

Temperature Considerations: Avoid extreme temperatures during installation, especially in areas exposed to sunlight.

Moisture Protection: Implement damp-proofing measures where necessary to prevent moisture-related issues.

Sub Floor Stability: Ensure floorboards and substrates are stable and adequately dried to prevent future damage.

Installation Process

Follow these steps for successful vinyl sheet installation:

Acclimatization: Unroll vinyl sheets and allow them to acclimate to room temperature for at least 48 hours.

Adhesive Application: Apply adhesive evenly using a serrated trowel, following manufacturer instructions.

Sheet Placement: Lay sheets along guidelines, ensuring they align with the direction of light.

Bonding: Press sheets firmly onto adhesive, smoothing out any bubbles and rolling with a flooring roller.

Joint Welding: Weld joints after 24 hours using appropriate equipment and techniques.

Post-Installation: Avoid foot traffic for 48 hours to allow adhesive to set properly.

Special Area Considerations

For specific areas like wet rooms or corners, follow specialized installation techniques:

Wet Room Installation: Ensure proper coving and sealing techniques are followed to prevent water damage.

Cove and Corner Fitting: Use precise measurements and adhesive application for seamless corners.

Pipe and Drain Fitting: Cut and fit vinyl around pipes and drains, ensuring tight seals to prevent water infiltration.

Adhesive Selection

Choose the appropriate adhesive based on flooring type and site conditions:

Water-based or Emulsion Adhesive: Suitable for most flooring types, applied with a notched trowel or roller.

Contact Adhesive: Ideal for specific flooring types, applied with a brush or trowel.

Two-Part Adhesives: Use for heavy traffic or damp areas, following manufacturer instructions.

Inspection and Maintenance

Conduct thorough inspections post-installation and follow proper maintenance procedures:

Inspection: Ensure flooring is free from defects and properly bonded.

Maintenance: Implement regular cleaning and maintenance routines using appropriate techniques and materials.

Preventive Measures: Take precautions to prevent damage, including using protective pads on furniture legs and minimizing exposure to solvents.

By following these guidelines and recommendations, you can ensure a successful vinyl flooring installation that meets both functional and aesthetic requirements. If in doubt, consult with professionals or refer to manufacturer instructions for specific guidance.