HOME DECORATORS COLLECTION®

LUXURY VINYL FLOORING SPECIFICATION GUIDE

LUXURY VINYL PLANKS & LUXURY VINYL TILE

Luxury Vinyl Flooring is a versatile flooring material that mimics the appearance of natural materials like wood or stone. It's a popular choice for both residential and commercial spaces because of its durability, ease of maintenance, and various design aesthetics. This flooring is typically composed of several layers, including a stone polymer core, a design layer that replicates the look of natural materials, and a protective wear layer on top. It consists of two available installation methods, including glue-down or rigid core click-lock methods, making it suitable for different applications and environments. This affordable flooring option is also known for its waterproofness, which makes it a suitable choice for areas prone to moisture, such as kitchens, bathrooms, mudrooms, and more.

RIGID CORE WITH CLICK-LOCK INSTALLATION

Rigid core flooring features a click-locking easy installation system that can be applied to various subfloor types including wood, non-cushioned vinyl or linoleum, concrete, and ceramic/porcelain tile if the existing flooring is intact and properly secured to the subfloor. This floating floor is an ideal alternative to laminate and engineered hardwood while offering the same benefits of realistic wood or stone look designs but with the durability and waterproof qualities of luxury vinyl flooring. When installing rigid core flooring the subfloor must be **flat**, **dry**, and **clean**.

GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION

Glue-down vinyl plank flooring attaches to the subfloor through the application of one of two adhesive types: hard-set or pressure-sensitive. The hard-set adhesive is evenly spread on the subfloor, after which the vinyl planks are placed on top. Subfloors can consist of concrete or wood. It's important to ensure that all subfloor surfaces are flat, clean, dry, smooth, and devoid of any movement.

WATERPROOF

Waterproof luxury vinyl flooring ensures that surface water will not harm the flooring in any way. This characteristic makes it an ideal choice for residential and commercial spaces that may encounter spills and pet mishaps. It is also an excellent solution for areas prone to water exposure, including kitchens, bathrooms, and mudrooms. Water should be cleaned up within 15 minutes.

WEAR LAYER

Wear layers are typically measured in MIL, which is equivalent to one-thousandth of an inch, not to be confused with millimeters (mm). The thickness of wear layers can range from 4 MIL to 30 MIL. The thickness is typically determined by the level of foot traffic, from household residents and guests to pets. For residential applications experiencing high foot traffic, such as entryways or homes with pets, it's advisable to opt for a wear layer within the 12 MIL to 20 MIL range. In areas with less frequent use, a thinner wear layer may suffice. In commercial settings, it's recommended to select a wear layer ranging from 20 MIL to 30 MIL for optimal protection.

PRE-ATTACHED UNDERLAYMENT

Pre-attached underlayment in luxury vinyl flooring is a cushioning material affixed directly to the underside of each flooring plank or tile. Typically, this cushioning material is composed of foam or cork, and it is frequently associated with Rigid Core Flooring. This integrated backing serves to deliver exceptional sound insulation and a comfortable surface to walk on.

THICKNESS

The thickness of luxury vinyl planks, measured in millimeters, pertains to the vinyl core itself. The thickness of these planks varies, with options ranging from 2mm to 4mm and even 8mm and above for higher-quality offerings. The choice between thinner and thicker products necessitates specific subfloor requirements and entails distinct installation methods. Knowing the thickness of your vinyl planks is crucial, particularly if you intend to match them with existing floors in other rooms. It's an aspect that should be gauged prior to purchase to prevent any unevenness.

NO ACCLIMATION VS. ACCLIMATION

No Acclimation requirement permits you to buy and install flooring materials immediately after your purchase, streamlining the installation process. In contrast, the acclimation process ensures that both the flooring products and the surrounding environment maintain uniform humidity levels and temperature. This acclimation period usually lasts for 48 hours before installation.

RADIANT HEAT

Radiant heating is an efficient flooring system installed beneath your floors, providing convection heat that starts at the floor and gradually warms the entire room. It's particularly effective in homes with high ceilings or large spaces, as it offers superior heat distribution compared to forced hot air systems. This quiet heating method is ideal for allergy sufferers due to its improved indoor air quality. There are two main types: hydronic radiant heating, which uses hot water from a boiler or water heater, and electrical radiant heating, which employs electricity to heat cables under the floors. The choice between them depends on your specific circumstances. It's important to select flooring that allows for effective heat transfer, and it's best to use smaller accent rugs to avoid obstructing the heat transfer from the floor.

Luxury vinyl flooring compatible with radiant heating systems is crucial because the comfort of warm underfoot surfaces significantly enhances the overall sense of warmth. This is particularly valued in spaces like bathrooms, where you can step out of the shower onto a pleasantly heated floor. Vinyl flooring is renowned for its adaptability and makes an excellent option for bathroom installations. When the aim is to infuse warmth into a cold room, this pairing emerges as an ideal choice for virtually any living space.

NOTE: Not all luxury vinyl flooring products can be installed over a radiant heating system.

If considering **Radiant heat**, only Hydronic radiant heat is allowed. The heating components must have a minimum of 3/8" separation from the product. System must be operational for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation. Five days prior to installation, the temperature should be reduced to 65°F (18°C). After installation, the temperature can be raised gradually (5°F per hour) to a maximum operation temperature of 85°F (29°C). An in-floor thermostat is recommended to avoid overheating and a transition strip must be used for any installation longer than 40' in any direction. It is also suggested to use T-Molding in doorways.

GREENGUARD GOLD

The GREENGUARD Gold Certification standard encompasses health-related guidelines for added chemicals and mandates reduced overall VOC emission levels, ensuring that products are suitable for use in households as well as settings like educational institutions, healthcare facilities, or other commercial environments.

MAINTENANCE

- Dust-mop, broom, and/or vacuum on the correct hard surface setting can be used for daily maintenance.
- When necessary occasionally damp mop with water only, making sure the mop is thoroughly wrung out. **DO NOT** pour water or any liquid directly on the floor or use an excessively wet mop that will puddle or leave excessive moisture on the planks. Dry immediately.
- **NEVER** use harsh or abrasive cleaners that contain ammonia, bleach, oil, polish, strong alkaline agents, solvents, or wax. Instead, use a neutral PH cleaner.
- **NEVER** use floor polish or floor cleaning wax.
- **NEVER** use rotating beater bars, scrubbers, jet mops, buffers, etc.
- Liquids and spills must be wiped dry immediately.
- **DO NOT** use steam mops.
- **NEVER** slide heavy furniture across the floor.

ADDITIONAL DAMAGE PREVENTION AND CARE

- To protect flooring from scratches, area rugs or mats are recommended, especially in exterior doorway areas to prevent gravel and dirt from tracking onto the floor.
- Use felt pad protectors on chairs and furniture to prevent scratches.
- Replace plastic or metal casters on chairs with rubber wheels and lift instead of sliding heavy objects across the floor.
- If there are stubborn residues or gunk that get on the flooring surface, use a mild dish detergent and water mixture to spray onto the area. Quickly wipe up the sprayed area with a microfiber cloth/mop. Repeat this step as needed until the residue is clear and the surface is completely dry.