LVT SPECIFICATION GUIDE

A&A surfaces

LUXURY VINYL PLANKS & TILE

Luxury Vinyl Flooring is a versatile flooring material that mimics the appearance of natural materials like wood (LVP) or stone (LVT). 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 PVC vinyl core, a printed design layer that replicates the look of natural materials, and a clear 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 water resistance, 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.

WEAR LAYER

Luxury vinyl plank flooring is constructed with multiple layers, beginning with the uppermost wear layer, which may or may not have a coating. Beneath the wear layer lies the printed design, which is positioned atop the vinyl core. Depending on the installation method, some planks may come with or without an attached backing underneath the core. This transparent wear layer is crafted from either virgin or recycled PVC or vinyl and functions as the primary shield for the flooring. It plays a crucial role in safeguarding the paper print film that displays attractive wood- or stone-like designs, preventing spills and scratches from causing any damage.

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 40 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 40 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

THICKNESS CONTINUED

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.

2 MM VINYL FLOORING

Luxury vinyl tiles or planks that possess a 2 mm thickness are specifically designed for glue-down installation, as they are too thin to incorporate a click-lock system. Nevertheless, they present a more cost-effective option compared to thicker vinyl flooring choices. Given their adhesive attachment directly to the subfloor, these vinyl flooring installations do not require an underlayment, but necessitate additional supplies like adhesive and a trowel. Although it can be tackled as a do-it-yourself project, it's advisable to enlist the expertise of a seasoned professional, especially because additional preparatory work is involved to ensure a smooth and level surface. Additionally, the newly installed floor should not be walked on immediately. A pivotal consideration when contemplating a 2 mm vinyl floor purchase is the expected foot traffic, as it may not endure the demands of heavy use.

4 MM VINYL FLOORING

The majority of luxury vinyl flooring choices feature a 4 mm vinyl flooring with a click-lock system that securely joins the planks, simplifying the installation process. These floating floors can be laid over most existing flooring or subfloor surfaces, as they do not require direct adhesion to the substrate. No adhesive, staples, or nails are necessary for the installation. However, it is vital to use a vapor barrier underlayment to protect against moisture when installing over a concrete subfloor. Flooring options with a thickness of 4 mm or more can withstand heavier foot traffic, making them an excellent choice for active households and the preferred option for commercial settings.

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.

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

For daily upkeep, use a standard dust mop or broom. When needed, employ a damp cloth or mop along with a neutral pH cleaner. Using strong detergent cleaners excessively can result in a residue buildup over time, which can lead to a cloudy film. NOTE: Never use floor polish, cleaning wax, oils, soaps, and similar products. These substances can harm the flooring or leave a film. This result is not a defect in the flooring itself.