



SOUTHWIND FLOORS FOR LIFE

PREMIUM LUXURY VINYL FLOORING LOOSE LAY INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

All instructions and recommendations are based on the most recent information available. If you receive a printed copy of these instructions, please refer to www.southwindbp.com to ensure you have the most up to date version of our installation instructions.

By starting installation of this product, you are agreeing that you have read and understand all installer/owner's requirements and responsibilities and are aware that deviating from the instructions and recommendations in this installation guide may result in voiding the product warranty. If you need additional assistance, please contact Southwind Technical Services at 1-800-272-2808.

Handle cartons and flooring carefully to protect the edges. Always transport and store cartons in the original packaging, neatly stacked horizontally on a smooth, flat, solid surface. Never on their sides or ends.

In all residential applications Southwind's Loose Lay LV.F. is intended to be a loose lay floor and should **NEVER** have objects fastened through it to the subfloor. Do not install fixed objects, such as cabinets, islands, wall units etc. on top of the flooring or fasten trim/molding/transition pieces directly to the floor.

The flooring should only be installed after all the other trades have finished and the jobsite has been cleared of any/all debris that could damage a finished installation.

It is the sole responsibility of the installer/owner, prior to installation, to assure that the planned installation area is suitable for the flooring and meets local building codes; as well as the recommendations listed herein. The manufacturer accepts no responsibility for product failure extending from or related to failure to meet job environment and subflooring requirements.

The installer/owner assumes full responsibility for the final inspection of this product. Inspection should be done prior to installation and should include print/color/texture/ factory finish /visible conditions. If the product is not acceptable, **DO NOT INSTALL IT**. Contact your supplier immediately for assistance. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and quality accepted. Southwind will not accept any responsibility for any flooring installed with visible conditions.

TOOLS REQUIRED:

Safety glasses, utility knife, straight edge / square, chalk-line, tape measure, vinyl seam roller, saw or tile cutter and 100 Lb. roller.

General Guidelines

All areas where product will be installed must have a fully operational HVAC system prior to installation and remain in operation during and after installation. Conditions should be at the same temperature and humidity level expected during occupancy. Temperature within the space should never drop below 55° F (12.8 °C) after installation while the building is occupied.

Product should be acclimated in the climate-controlled location for 48 hours before starting installation.

Subfloor Preparation

Proper preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor. All subfloors should be smooth, flat and dust free with the tolerance not exceeding more than 1/32" in 1' (.30m), 1/8" in 6' (1.75M) or 3/16" in 10' (3m) span.

CONCRETE:

Must be fully cured (at least 60 days old). The flatness of concrete subfloors must meet or exceed the requirements of ACI FF25. Most concrete subfloors are not flat/smooth and must be properly prepared before installation. In all cases, verify the substrate is flat (See above subfloor and substrate requirements). Fill all holes and cracks with a latex fortified Portland cement-based patching compound. Southwind only recommend the use of latex fortified Portland cement-based products as a satisfactory patching or leveling compound. Grind down any high areas and fill any low areas with a Portland-based patching compound. (Do not use solvents or chemical adhesive removers to remove paint residue or adhesives).

While the product is a waterproof flooring, it is not a moisture barrier. It is recommended that concrete slabs be tested for moisture vapor emissions with either a Calcium Chloride or an In Situ Relative Humidity test. Corrective measures must be taken if the level of moisture emission exceeds 8 lbs. Calcium Chloride or 85% Relative Humidity. Southwind does not require the use of a vapor barrier under the Luxury Vinyl Flooring. Moisture in the substrate will not damage the panels. Water traveling over or around the outer edges of the flooring can damage the subfloor. Elevated moisture levels below your flooring can migrate through the joints as vapor emissions possibly causing a milky white appearance known as Blushing. Blushing is a site related condition and will dissipate once the moisture levels have decreased to the specified level. Water damage and or associated conditions are not warranted. In addition, other contaminants could migrate up as well. These are not manufacturing related conditions.

All gypsum-based floors must be sealed with an approved gypsum sealer, as directed by the manufacturer of the sealing system, prior to the installation of Loose Lay planks/tiles.

Radiant Heated Systems: The Hydronic or Embedded radiant heating system needs to be operational and working for one week prior to install date to reduce any residual moisture. Should the radiant heating system be in use at the time of installation it is necessary to lower the temperature to 65°F (18.3°C) for a minimum of three days prior to the installation date, during the entire installation, and for 24 hours following upon completion of the installation. The temperature can then be gradually increased in 5° increments. Temperature must never exceed 85°F (29°C). Mesh wire systems and heating mats (if applicable) must be imbedded with a self-leveling compound by at least ½" (refer to the RH manufacturer's guidelines for required depth). It is the responsibility of the purchaser to confirm the suitability of the radiant heating system with its manufacturer for use with this product. Any conditions associated with the radiant heating system will not be covered by the product warranty.

Existing Ceramic Tile, Quarry Tile, and Terrazzo Flooring: All existing tile must be well-bonded to the subfloor or substrate. Terrazzo flooring should be sound and stable. Any weak area should be filled using a Portland based patching compound. The floor must be clean and contaminate free. Southwind recommends that you skim coat any existing grout lines exceeding the specifications with a latex fortified Portland cement-based patching compound. Grind any irregular surfaces.

WOOD SURFACES:

Any wood and wood composition panels should be APA rated and approved, and intended for subfloor use provided they are smooth, flat, structurally sound, and free of deflection.

Existing Resilient Floor Covering: The existing resilient must be single layered, non-cushioned backed, well bonded, fully adhered, and smooth. The flooring should show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.

Old Adhesive Residue: Southwind does not recommend skim coating over existing adhesive. Because we cannot control how the adhesive was applied, the existing adhesive may break down possibly leading to a failure. Remove existing adhesives using a scraper such as a razor scraper designed for scraping flooring surfaces. The adhesive must be removed to the level of a film followed by skim coating the floor using a latex fortified Portland cement-based patching compound. Do not use solvents or chemical adhesive removers to remove old residue. These products can leave a residue in the concrete that may affect the performance of your new flooring. Metal and Painted Floors: Remove any loose paint or rust.

WARNING

For installation over, old resilient floor coverings or when considering removing existing resilient floors, please

be advised that these products may possibly contain asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Please follow all recommended Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) work practices as www.rfci.com

Tools Needed

Utility Knife, Carpenters Square, Straight Edge, and Tape Measure

Installation Requirements

While it is possible to install glue down installations with four corners together, it can complicate the installation.

With tile installations a half stagger (Ashlar/Brick) stagger is normal (see Illustration A).

With plank installations a random stagger will provide a realistic appearance (see Illustration R).

Illustration A

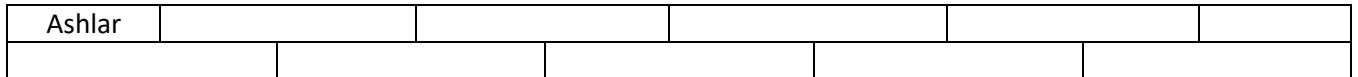
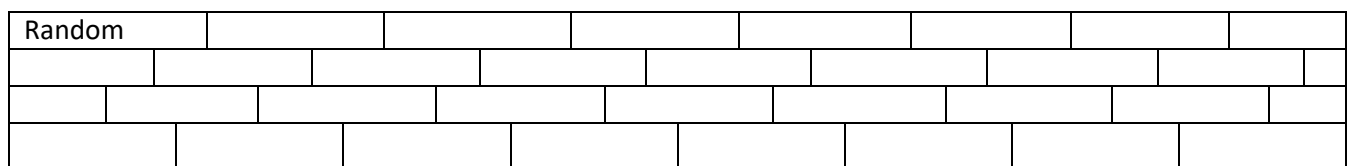


Illustration R



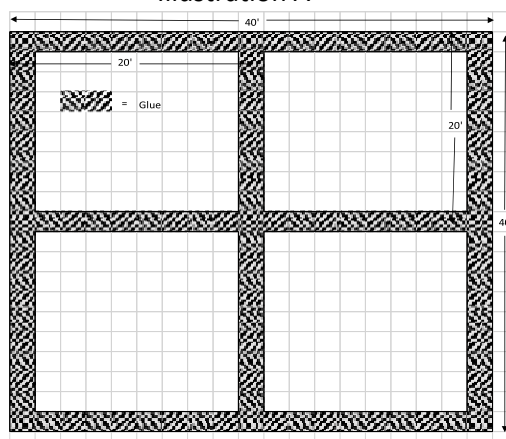
With plank installations a good rule of thumb is to never have a stagger less than the width of the plank and never place the stagger side by side or directly across every other row. Southwind recommends a random 8" (20cm) stagger to achieve the most natural look with your installation and having no less than 8" (20cm) in length with any starter or finish panel.

Replace or install new coordinating baseboards and quarter rounds in all areas. Baseboards are to be nailed into the wall and quarter rounds into the baseboards. **DO NOT** nail either of these into the LVF flooring. Hint: When possible, select a tile or plank from the cartons that will best coordinate with the molding to avoid moderate and above variances. For areas 20' (6m) and under in length and width Southwind Loose Lay Flooring must be installed tight to the wall. No expansion joint is required. For areas exceeding 20' (6m) in length and width please treat installation as a "Grid Stick" installation.

Grid Stick

In rooms with lengths and or widths longer than 20' (6m), the perimeter of the room requires a minimum 4" (10cm) strip of Pressure Sensitive Adhesive (PSA) or a premium "double stick" tape to be applied to perimeter of the subfloor and at 20' (6m) distances parallel to the perimeter, forming a "grid". The tiles/planks are then considered to be installed tight across the room. Illustration A has a 40' (12m) x 40' (12m) area with the glue grids applied.

Illustration A



CORRIDORS

Corridors do not need to be perimeter glued; however, you will need to apply a minimum 8" (20cm) band of premium PSA adhesive across the width of the corridor every 20' (6m). All glued areas require rolling those

panels with a 100 Lb. roller.

COMMERCIAL:

For commercial applications, areas with high foot traffic (e.g., entrances, high frequent wheeled traffic) or high temperature variations (e.g., panoramic windows/doors), we recommend installing tiles/planks glue down method.

For residential and commercial full spread glue down applications please refer to our “Luxury Vinyl Flooring Glue Down Installation Guidelines”.

In areas with higher levels of rolling loads or under office chairs, we recommend applying a premium Pressure Sensitive Adhesive, or double face/pressure sensitive tape under the planks to prevent the planks from gapping and lifting.

PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE:

- It is recommended that you sweep & vacuum the area immediately after installation to remove potential damaging soil and debris. Allow 72 hours before wet mopping the floor. This will provide ample time for the adhesive (if used) to cure.
- Southwind recommends using a pH neutral vinyl floor cleaner as required. Examples of pH neutral floor cleaners are Bona Stone, Tile, and Laminate Cleaner, ZEP, Diversey Stride, Hilway Direct HD pH Neutral Cleaner, Armstrong’s Once-n-Done, etc. **NOTE:** The listed cleaning agents are a representation of flooring cleaners that Southwind recognizes as acceptable for our products. Other neutral pH cleaner may provide satisfactory results as well. Southwind does not warrant any of the cleaning agents or conditions associated with them as the application of them is beyond our control.
- For commercial installations, we approve the use of a low speed (175 rpm) floor cleaning machine with 3M red or white pad. Southwind is not responsible for damages associated with any floor cleaning products or machinery.
- Always rinse the floor thoroughly with clean water and allow to dry as the floor may be slippery when wet. Air movers or fans will speed up drying time. Never saturate your flooring.
- Do not buff, wax, or use cleaning products that contain surfactants. Dish lotions, laundry detergents, or Murphy Oil Soap cleaners should not be used to maintain your flooring.
- **Never steam clean or use a steam mop on the floor.**
- Furniture & appliances: When moving heavy furniture or appliances place a hard surface between the item and the floor and roll or slide the item on it. **DO NOT** roll or slide them across the floor without this protection. When possible, lift the object being careful to avoid injury. Using furniture glides to slide your furniture over the flooring may cause damage to your flooring.
- Felt pads on chair and furniture legs should be installed and replaced periodically, as they wear and accumulate abrasive materials with use that can damage the floor.
- Hard surface mats are required under office chairs. Rolling traffic may damage your flooring and is not warranted.
- Southwind recommends the use of non-staining walk off mats at all entryways. Note: Always use non-staining area rugs and mats as they can reduce the risk of permanently staining your flooring caused by latex and rubber backed rugs. Woven rugs may have dye’s that can permanently stain your flooring. Using a non- staining padding / mat under it will help reduce that risk.
- High heels and spiked shoes, may mark, abrade, or otherwise damage the surface and finish of your floor. This is not a warranted condition.

For information regarding our products and warranties please visit our website: www.southwindbp.com