

EF Contract requires all vinyl flooring supplied by EF Contract to be installed according to our most current installation instructions in order to maintain full product warranty coverage. The most current installation documents and videos can be found online at www.engineeredfloors.com. Instructions on replacing damaged planks as well as maintenance and warranty documentation are also available online. Best practice is to have the flooring installed by professional installation technicians. Keep the original sales receipt as proof of purchase, all moisture/relative humidity testing, and date/installers receipt for warranty purposes. EF Contract requires that the flooring be maintained according to our most current care and maintenance guidelines. Please contact Engineered Floors Commercial Division Customer Relations: 800.241.4586 | customer.relations@engineeredfloors.com for any additional questions not covered in this document.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Acclimation of material prior to installation is required (24 hours). But is not required.

- The HVAC system should be operational and set between 55°F - 85°F (18.3°C - 29.4°C) before, during and after the installation period. Keep in mind a concrete floor can be up to 10° colder than the ambient temperature.

- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, doing so may result in discoloration. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the window tint or treatment is recommended. Excess temperature due to direct sunlight can result in thermal expansion and UV fading.

- EF Contract DLVT can be installed concrete that floors that are on, above, or below grade.

- EF Contract requires a 6-8 mil polyethylene vapor barrier to be installed under our floating floors that are installed on concrete that is on or below grade.

- We do not recommend using a vapor barrier on flooring installed on wood subfloors.

- When properly installed, this flooring is waterproof from topical moisture and secures the flooring on all four sides. However, excessive moisture in the subfloor could promote mold, mildew, and other moisture related issues by trapping moisture emissions under the flooring, which may contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment.

- Do not install EF Contract DLVT in areas subject to frequent standing water or in high moisture areas.

- EF Contract DLVT is intended for indoor use only and is warranted as floor covering only.

- EF Contract DLVT should only be installed after all the other trades have finished and the job site has been cleared of any/all debris that could damage a finished installation.

- Install cabinets and/or permanent 'islands' prior to installing flooring. Do not install cabinets, islands and such on top of floating flooring.

- EF Contract floating DLVT has an attached underlayment. Do not install over an additional cushioned underlayment.

- When ordering flooring, order 5% more footage than the measured space to receive flooring. Where numerous angles or obstacles exist, more than 10-15% overage may be necessary.

- It is recommended to keep a minimum of one carton for future repair, replacement or for testing purposes.

- Inspect all flooring. Confirm the product to be installed is the correct style and color. Do not install flooring that is not the correct style and color or that is from multiple production runs. Do not install damaged or defective flooring. EF Contract will not be liable where incorrect flooring, damaged flooring, or flooring with visible defects is installed.

- Heavy loads can pin the floating product to the substrate which may prevent the product from expanding and contracting evenly, causing side or end separation, peaking, or gapping. Damage is not covered under warranty.

TRANSITIONS

- The transitions for EF Contract DLVT are color coordinating. The trim pieces will be close in color and grain but will not be an exact match to the flooring.
- Using the trim as a guide, installers will need to find the plank(s) that have a similar grain and color as the transition. These pieces will need to be put in the area where will be installed.
- The ¼" expansion gap must be maintained between the transition and the flooring.

GENERAL SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- The subfloor must be clean, dry, structurally sound, firm, and secure. The subfloor must be flat within 3/16" per 10' radius (4.7 mm per 3 m). High areas should be ground and low areas should be filled.
 - All construction seams, expansion joints, low areas, grout lines, etc. larger than 1/4" should be filled to level with the surrounding surface using cementitious patching and leveling compounds that meet or exceed maximum moisture level and pH requirements. Use of gypsum-based patching and/or leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3,000 psi are acceptable.
- The subfloor should be free of dust, debris, paint, varnish, wax, grease, oils, curing agents, sealers, solvents, and other foreign matter. Any adhesive residue should be reduced to a thin well-bonded residue.
- Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.
- Do not install EF Contract DLVT over cushion-backed vinyl flooring, asphalt-based floors, carpet and/or carpet pad, self-adhering plank or tile, laminate or other floating flooring, or structurally-damaged concrete.
- The final responsibility for determining if a subfloor is acceptable for installation of the DLVT lies with the floorcovering installer.

WOODEN SUBFLOORS

- Do not install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete. Refer to ASTM F1482 for panel underlayment recommendations.

- Basements and crawl spaces should be dry. Crawl spaces must have a minimum of 18" (46 cm) clearance from the ground to the underside of the joists. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. A vapor barrier of 6 mil (minimum) black polyethylene film is required to cover the entire crawl space. Film seams must overlap 6" (15 cm) and must be sealed with moisture resistant tape. Where necessary local regulations prevail.
- Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance. It should have a smooth finish and be free from spring and deflection. If this requirement is not met or known, a minimum of 1/4" (6.35 mm) APA approved underlayment grade wood must be adhered to the existing subfloor.
 - All fastener indentations and joints should be level and smooth. Use an appropriate patching compound as necessary.
 - We do not recommend installing our DLVT over pressure treated or fire-retardant treated plywood. An additional layer of 1/4" APA approved plywood should be installed over these types of plywood.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS (PORTLAND OR GYPSUM BASE)

- New concrete slabs must be dry and completely cured prior to installation of flooring.
- Concrete should meet the guidelines of ASTM F 710 "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring" (see www.astm.org/standards/F710).
- EF Contract requires that all concrete subfloors be tested for moisture. The moisture vapor emission rate should not exceed 8 lbs. /1000 sq. ft. per ASTM F1869 and the internal relative humidity should not exceed 90% per ASTM F2170. Records of the testing locations and results should be documented. Three internal relative humidity tests should be conducted for areas up to 1000 SF. One additional test, for each additional 1000 SF after the first 1000 SF.
- The pH level must be between 5 and 9.
- Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions. Excessive moisture in the subfloor could promote mold, mildew, and other moisture related issues like the trapping of moisture emissions under the flooring, which may contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment. EF does not warrant nor is responsible for damage to floor covering due to moisture related issues.
- EF Contract requires a 6-8 mil polyethylene vapor barrier be installed under our floating floors that are installed on concrete that is on or below grade.

- All recommendations and guarantees as to the suitability and performance of lightweight concrete under resilient flooring are the responsibility of the lightweight concrete manufacturer. The installer of the lightweight concrete product may be required to be authorized or certified by the manufacturer. Correct on-site mixing ratios and properly functioning pumping equipment are critical. Slump testing is recommended.
- Lightweight aggregate concretes having dry densities greater than 90 lbs. per cubic foot may be acceptable under resilient flooring.
- Concrete slabs with heavy static and/or dynamic loads should be designed with higher strengths and densities to support such loads.

POLYETHYLENE VAPOR BARRIER INSTALLATION

1. Begin at starting Wall. Roll poly out parallel to the starting wall and allow the poly film to run up the wall 2".
2. Smooth out any creases or wrinkles.
3. Roll out the next run overlap the joint a minimum of 4".
4. Smooth out any creases or wrinkles.
5. Use clear tape to tape the seams together.
6. Install the flooring over the poly taking care not to damage the poly.

Note: To prevent a trip hazard, do not install the poly over the entire subfloor. Roll the poly out one row at a time as needed.

EXISTING FLOORCOVERINGS

- EF Contract DLVT can be installed over most existing hard surface flooring as long as it is clean, dry, flat, structurally sound and free from deflection.
- Existing sheet vinyl flooring should not be cushioned and not exceed one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will compromise the product's locking ability as well as diminish its indentation resistance.
- This product can be installed over existing ceramic/porcelain tile products with up to a 1/4" wide grout joint. If the grout joint width exceeds 1/4", a Portland based cementitious patching compound should be used to fill the grout joint to make it smooth with the surface of the tile.
- Properly cleanse any existing marble/terrazzo flooring using a commercial degreasing/dewaxing solution. Rinse thoroughly then dry thoroughly. Grind or abrade any highly polished or irregular surfaces.
- Do not install over hardwood/engineered hardwood.

RADIANT HEATED FLOORS

EF Contract DLVT can be installed over embedded radiant-heated floors provided the operating temperature never exceeds 85° F (29.4° C). The heating components must have a minimum of 1/2" separation from the flooring product. The radiant system should be in operation for three weeks prior to installation of the flooring to reduce any residual moisture in the subfloor. For 48 hours prior to and during installation, the system should be kept at 65° F (18.3° C). Once the installation is completed, the heat should be gradually increased in 5° (2.8°) increments per day until the desired setting is reached. EF does not recommend or approve of installation over wire induction mat heat systems. Where floor heat is present, be mindful that loose rugs or carpets may function as heat insulators and raise the temperature above the tolerated maximum surface temperature of 85° F (29.4° C).

RECOMMENDED TOOLS AND MATERIALS

Tape Measure, framing/speed square, broom, utility knife, straight edge, spacers, chalk line, embossing leveler/floor patch (if necessary), rubber mallet, tile cutter (optional), table saw, jigsaw.

INSTALLATION - GENERAL

- Areas up to 1000 sq. ft. require a minimum of 1/4" (6.35 mm) expansion space around the perimeter of the room and all permanent vertical obstructions. Areas larger than 1000 sq. ft. require 1/2" (12.7 mm) perimeter expansion.
- Make certain that doors, moldings, etc. allow sufficient clearance above the flooring.
- It is recommended that the flooring be installed running parallel to the longest wall and into the light source when possible. When installing, work from several boxes at a time for best results and overall appearance.
- Remove existing floor moldings (where applicable) and undercut doorway moldings to the thickness of the subfloor.
- Cartons should be stored horizontally on a flat and level surface with the corners protected from damage. Do not store cartons on their sides.
- EF Contract DLVT should never be nailed to the substrate.
- Planks/tiles can be cut using a sharp utility knife and a framing square. Score the surface of the plank/tile with the knife and snap the plank/tile at the score line. A tile cutter or powered saw can also be used.

INSTALLATION - PROCEDURE

1. Carefully measure the room to determine the width of the last row of flooring. If the width is less than 2" (50 mm) excluding the tongue, the width of the first row will have to be cut to increase the last row to more than 2".

2. The tongue of the plank should face the starting wall. Make certain that the first row (tongue side) is perfectly straight to ensure subsequent rows properly align. Inspect the groove area and remove any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks/tiles.
3. To click the long side of the plank together, place long joint together, lifting slightly to engage lock. Rotate downward, clicking together for a tight fit.
4. If there are any gaps, we recommend using a tapping block and rubber mallet to lightly tap on the edge of the material. This will bring the plank edges tight together.
5. Install adjoining rows as you did the first; one piece at a time. Holding the plank at a slight angle, place it against the profile in the first row. Rotate the plank down to secure the length joint assuring there are no gaps along the joint.
6. The adjoining planks are aligned by sliding the long joint into position, shifting it to properly match the end joint against the previous plank. Repeat until you reach the final row of material.
7. To install the final row of planks, you will usually need to cut them. We recommend the following: lay a panel on top of the last row installed. Lay another plank against the edge of the wall. Mark the plank underneath.
8. Continue working from left to right, row by row. Be sure to maintain the expansion space around all walls and vertical objects. To maintain a random appearance, remember to offset end joints a minimum of 8" (20 cm).
9. If the panels can't be angled to engage the joints (e.g. under a door jamb or low fitted radiator) the installer will need to shave the raised portion of the receiving edge off the installed piece by using a chisel or a small block plane. Dry fit to make sure the piece fits. Run a bead of tongue and groove adhesive on the modified groove of the installed piece. Install the piece and use a few pieces of painter's tape to hold the plank in place until the adhesive has dried and cured. The curing and setup times vary depending on the adhesive used.

FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

- After all planks/tiles have been installed, remove spacers from perimeter of room.
- Installers can cover the gap between the bottom of the door jamb and flooring with a latex caulk.
- Install quarter-round or baseboard molding. Molding should be of sufficient size to cover the expansion space and should be fastened to the wall, not to the flooring. Do not fasten any moldings through the flooring.

FINISHING THE INSTALLATION *(cont.)*

- Gaps between the bottom of door jambs and the flooring may be covered with a latex caulk.
- When moving heavy items, always carry them. Never push or pull furniture or other heavy items over DLVT.
- Use floor protectors under the legs of furniture and chairs. Use chair pads where concentrated roller traffic will occur.
- Installations in wet areas such as bathrooms should be caulked around the perimeter and around the toilet flange using a silicone caulk that remains flexible when dry to retard moisture from getting under the flooring.
- Protect the flooring from subsequent projects using a non-adhering temporary protective material such as Ram Board[®].
- UV protective film, blinds, curtains, or shades must be used to assure that DLVT products are protected from the direct sunlight.

Consult the EF Contract LVT Care and Maintenance document for complete cleaning and care instructions.

