

DWELLSCAPE™

Installation Instructions

These instructions apply to DwellScape Western Horizon 4.5mm, 5mm LVT and Velocity 2mm, 2.5mm, and 3mm LVT products.

Important Notices

Please read the entire installation instructions prior to starting the installation. DwellScape LVT products require specific adhesives and installation techniques, follow the exact instructions. The floors should be installed in accordance with these instructions as well as the applicable national standards and building codes for the installation of resilient flooring at the time of installation. These floors are not suitable for installation outdoors or in rooms that will be continually wet. Failure to observe and follow these installation instructions and / or current national standards and building codes at time of installation may result in any potential warranty claim being void.

It is recommended that resilient floor covering installation shall not begin until all other trades are completed. All substrates to receive LVT require proper moisture testing. Material should always be visually inspected prior to installation. When moving any type of furniture or heavy equipment, protect the floor by covering it with plywood, Masonite or other breathable hardshell material to prevent scratching or permanent damage. Use appropriate protectors under furniture. These should be felt, or other soft material specifically designed to protect the hard surface from scratches or damage to the wear layer.

Inspection

Upon receipt of material, immediately remove any pallet wrapping materials. Verify that the correct product and color was received and that the cartons are free from damage. Be careful not to drop any cartons as this may damage the flooring. It is the responsibility of the installer to visually inspect all materials in optimal lighting to confirm it is the correct design, color, quality, free from defects and quantity as ordered. If the material is incorrect or defects are apparent, the store of purchase must be contacted before the material is installed. Complaints and claims regarding clearly identifiable defects will not be accepted after installation.

Acclimation

The permanent HVAC system must be operational and set to a minimum of 65° F for a minimum of 72 hours prior to, during, and after installation. After the installation, room temperature should always be maintained between 65-85°F and relative humidity should be maintained 40%-65%.

Flooring material and adhesive must be acclimated to the installation area a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Store cartons of tile or plank products flat and squarely on top of one another. Preferably, locate material in the "center" of the installation area (i.e. away from vents, direct sunlight, etc.). Storing cartons in direct sunlight may affect proper acclimation by inducing thermal expansion/contraction.

Radiant Heat

Radiant heated substrates must never exceed 85° F surface temperature.

Several days prior to installing resilient products over newly constructed radiant heated systems, make sure the radiant system has been on and operating at maximum temperature to reduce residual moisture within the concrete.

Three days prior to installation, lower the temperature to 65° F. 24 hours after installation gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5° F per day. After continuous operation of the radiant system, ensure the surface of the floor does not exceed 85° F.

Sub Floors

All subfloors shall be dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound. They should be flat within 3/16" over a 10' radius or 1/8" in 6 a foot radius. They shall be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening, or parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation or laitance, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials that could prevent adhesive bond. Never use liquid adhesive remover or solvent cleaners for removing old adhesive or residue or other substances on the substrate. Doing so could cause bond failure with the new adhesive.

Type: Concrete Subfloors

Concrete subfloor preparation must comply with ASTM F710. For new concrete subfloors, allow at least 90 days to dry under ideal conditions. Lightweight concrete and concrete poured above grade in metal pans take a considerably longer time to dry. Installation cannot begin until the concrete is fully dried and in compliance with moisture and alkalinity requirements.

Use of cement-based patching and/or self-leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3000 psi are acceptable. *Concrete slabs with heavy static and/or dynamic loads should be designed with higher strengths and densities to accommodate such loads.*

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Type: Lightweight Concrete

New and existing light weight concrete floors such as gypsum- based should meet the ASTM F2471, Standard Practice for Installation of Thick Poured Lightweight Cellular Concrete Underlayments and Preparation of the Surface to Receive Resilient Flooring.

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 product may be required to be authorized or certified by the manufacturer. Correct on-site mixing ratios and properly functioning pumping equipment are critical. To ensure proper mixture, slump testing is recommended. Lightweight aggregate concretes having densities greater than 90 lbs. per cubic foot and/or a commercial strength of 3000 psi or higher may be acceptable under resilient flooring. *Lightweight concrete slabs with heavy static and/or dynamic loads should be designed with higher strengths and densities to accommodate such loads.*

Type: Panel Wood Substrates

New and existing panel type wood floors should meet the ASTM F1482, Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayments to Receive Resilient Flooring.

A moisture test is required using a pin-type moisture meter. The moisture content must not exceed 15%.

Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and in compliance with local building codes.

Double-layered APA rated plywood subfloors should be a minimum 1" total thickness with at least 18" well-ventilated air space beneath. Insulate and protect crawl spaces with a vapor barrier.

It is recommended that the selected APA underlayment grade panels be designed for installation under resilient flooring and carry a written warranty covering replacement of the entire flooring system. Any failures in the performance of the underlayment panel rests with the panel manufacturer and not with DwellScape.

Underlayment panels can only correct minor deficiencies in the subfloor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring.

Always follow the underlayment manufacturer's installation instructions.

APA rated Sturd-I-Floor panels are designed as combination subfloor/underlayment, but exposure to construction conditions including weather may necessitate installation of a 1/4" underlayment panel prior to resilient flooring installation.

DwellScape LVT flooring is not recommended to be installed directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. The materials used to treat plywood may cause problems with adhesive bonding. An additional layer of APA rated 1/4" thick underlayment should be installed.

Type: Porcelain Tile

Test floor for evidence of moisture. If dampness is detected consult your supplier. In most cases these substrates will not be sufficiently absorbent for the adhesive to grab hold into the substrate. These should either be removed, and the subfloor prepared and treated as per the exposed subfloor, or mechanically prepare the surface by thoroughly cleaning, rinsing, and abrading the surface, taking extra care to ensure that the surface is firm, dry and free of wax, oil, dust, and loose tiles/ fragments and that all holes are repaired with a suitable fast- set repair mortar. Apply an appropriate primer & levelling compound by consulting your underlayment supplier, ensuring that all grout lines are filled with no show-through or telegraphing. A second topcoat of primer and levelling compound may be required to smooth over old tile grout lines.

Type: Raised Access Floors

All panels need to be level with no rocking movement. Panels must be firm, level, smooth, dry and clean. Lipping of panels must not exceed 1/32" and height difference between panels must not exceed 1/32". Gaps between panels must not exceed 1/32".

Type: Floating Floors

These are to be removed including any underlayment's. Post removal, assess and prepare the exposed subfloor to the applicable standard.

Type: Vinyl

If you have 1 layer of, well adhered, non-cushioned, stable, existing flooring VCT, Vinyl, LVT, you may install directly over these properly prepared floors. All sealers or waxes must be removed, and any necessary floor prep must be performed prior to installation of LVT. Finish must be abraded to allow mechanical bond of adhesives.

Type: Metal and painted floors

Fully remove any loose paint or other finishes.

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Installing the Floor

Where possible, installers should work out of at least 5 boxes when installing to ensure the planks/tiles are shuffled adequately.

Before installing the material, plan the layout so plank/tile joints fall at least 6 inches away from subfloor and underlayment joints. Do not install over expansion joints.

Find the center point in the room. Divide the room into equal quadrants by marking two perpendicular lines on the subfloor intersecting at the center point. Depending on your layout, you may also start your row along a wall. Since walls are not always straight, it's best to snap a chalk line.

Install planks/tiles with back arrow direction in mind. See images below for approved installations patterns.

Installation Methods



Monolithic



Quarter Turn



Half Drop / Ashlar



Plank: Parallel Random



Plank: Herringbone

If more than one run/lot is to be used, the job should be laid out so that different run numbers are not installed side by side.

Refer to recommended adhesives for concrete sub floor moisture and pH requirements using ASTM F1869 (Calcium Chloride) and/or ASTM F2170 (RH) testing.

Recommended adhesives: Mapei Eco 399, XL 2230, Robert's 7399, Frontier PS-500.

For loose-lay/perimeter adhere installations in areas where adhesive is not used, an RH value of 95% is acceptable.

Glue-Down vs Loose Lay/Perimeter Adhere Installations

Loose Lay/Perimeter Adhere installations are only recommended for Western Horizon 7x48 and 9x60 plank products and **not** Western Horizon tile products. The glue-down installation method should be used for areas larger than 20' in any direction and all commercial applications. In areas of volatile temperature variations or excessive rolling loads, the glue-down method is also required. Velocity 2mm, 2.5mm, and 3mm glue-down products cannot be loose lay/perimeter adhered.

Installation Steps

Glue-Down Installation Method

Glue-down applications require an 1/8" expansion gap. Follow directions on adhesive label for open and working time. Do not exceed working time of adhesive, only spread adhesive that product can be installed within the working time of the adhesive. Be mindful that adhesive working and open times vary based on job conditions, substrate, temperature, and humidity.

- Step 1:** Apply adhesive with the recommended trowel (spray adhesives do not require a trowel).
- Step 2:** Install all planks/tiles with arrows pointing in the same direction making sure each piece fits tightly to the next. (Tiles can be installed in a quarter turn pattern as shown above).
- Step 3:** Repeat Step 1 and Step 2 until area is completed.
- Step 4:** Roll once ASAP with a 75 or 100-pound, 3-section roller and roll again after 45 - 60 minutes in the opposite direction ensuring the entire installation is rolled.

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Loose Lay/Perimeter Adhere

Western Horizon LVT plank products (7x48 and 9x60) can be loose lay/perimeter adhered to the subfloor. Check that all room edges are solid. Regarding adhering the perimeter of the floor, follow directions on adhesive label for open and working time. Do not exceed working time of adhesive, only spread adhesive that product can be installed within the working time of the adhesive. Be mindful that adhesive working and open times vary based on job conditions, substrate, temperature, and humidity.

Step 1: Apply a 6" width strip of adhesive to the sub floor adjacent to all perimeter walls and door thresholds. Planks must be fitted tight to the wall, and to each other, across the whole room.

Step 2: Add a further 6" width strips of adhesive at intervals of 13' parallel to each perimeter wall, creating a grid pattern.

After Installation

Immediately remove any excess adhesive from the surface of the flooring using a clean white cloth dampened with water. You may also use rubbing alcohol or denatured alcohol to remove tacky or dried adhesive. Dried adhesive may be removed with a clean white cloth dampened with mineral spirits.

Restrict to light traffic/foot traffic for a minimum of at least a FULL 24 hours. Additional time may be necessary if the installation is over a non-porous substrate.

Install the base moldings. Use silicone caulking to seal all areas that may be exposed to surface spills (i.e. tubs, toilets, and showers).

Restrict heavy traffic, rolling loads, or furniture placement for 72 hours after installation.

Return appliances and furniture to the room by rolling or sliding them over strips of hardboard.

Allow at least five days following the installation before performing wet maintenance.