

SPC Luxury Vinyl Flooring (LVT) Installation Guide

Tools Required

- ◆ Sharp Utility knife
- ◆ Tape Measure
- ◆ Pencil
- ◆ Straight Edge
- ◆ Small Flat Handsaw

Subfloor Preparation

As with all types of floor covering, the ideal is to start with a clean and level surface, free from lumps, bumps, hollows and other defects.

Any protrusions will need to be planed or sanded, and all hollows and gaps need to be filled with a non-shrinking water-resistant levelling compound. Should the subfloor vary a little too much we recommend applying a suitable levelling compound or the fixing of 6mm plywood in the case of wood substrates.

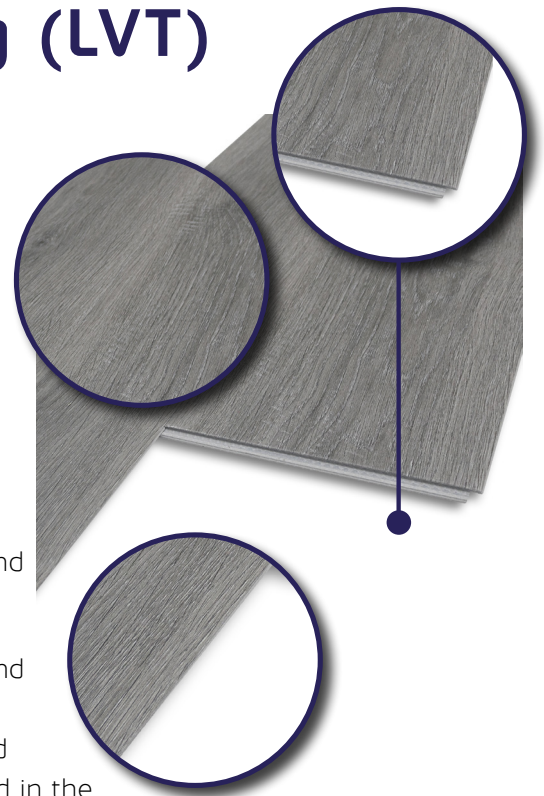
If the floor is installed over an existing stone or tile floor, fill grout any joints with cement ahead of installation. It's also important to make sure the subfloor is free of any past possible contaminants such as solvents, grease wax, paint bitumen compounds etc. **Please Note: New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry, allowing a minimum of 1 week for each 25mm in depth.**

Acclimatisation Conditions

Ahead of installing your new rigid core flooring steps should be taken to allow it to acclimatise to the room in which it is to be installed if deemed necessary by the manufacturer's instructions. It's advisable to leave the packs of flooring in the room it is to be laid in for the minimum time as stipulated in the manufacturer's fitting instructions found in the individual packs of flooring. Packs do not need to be open and should be laid flat - do not lean the packs against a wall or stand on edge as this may cause the individual pieces to bow. **Please Note: If installing rigid core flooring in conjunction with an underfloor heating system, the maximum temperature should not exceed 27°C**

Underlay

Ahead of installing your flooring it's important to ensure you have the correct underlay for the flooring product being laid. Always check the manufacturers' instructions ahead of purchasing underlay and refer to the fitting instructions provided with the underlay itself. Generally, any underlay should be laid in one direction with the flooring boards installed on top in the opposite direction. Should your flooring type feature in-built underlay then this step can be skipped.



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When starting to lay your flooring, to minimise pattern repeat, we recommend you work from a minimum of three packs at any one time, taking one piece from each in sequence so as to get the best possible mix of surface patterns across the entire floor. Remember to allow for an expansion gap of around the perimeter of the room (always check the manufacturer's fitting instructions for the size of expansion gap required as these may vary between brands), undercutting at door frames using a small flat handsaw.

To cut door frames, place an upside-down board next to the frame as a height guide. With the saw flat on the board cut the frame to the desired depth. If the floor is installed over an existing wooden floor, any loose planks must be replaced and installed crosswise.

When laying the planks you should try to work from left to right (although this can vary depending on the product being installed). Place the first board in the left corner of the room. To join the short edges, position the boards with the joints lined up, click into place by hand, then use a rubber mallet to gently tap and fully lock the joint. The short edges should not be angled together. Repeat this process until you get to the final board in the row. Measure the gap and mark the last board using a pencil and scribe a straight cut with a utility knife. Snap at this mark (there's no need to cut all the way through the board).

Before starting the second row, you can either use the off-cut from the previous row or cut a board in half to form the first piece. When laying the boards in sequence, ensure joints do not line up with the first row and allow a minimum of a 1/3 of the board distance between joints. For the second row, the long edge should be angled in - slide the board along so the short edge locks are in line with each other, then press the board down to lock the long edge into place. This should be engaged fully before tapping with a mallet. When the long edge is fully engaged the plank will lie flat. Next, click the short edge by hand and then gently tap with a rubber mallet to fully engage the click mechanism.

The last row will follow the same process but may require trimming to the desired width, taking into account the manufacturer's recommended minimum width for an end board. When all boards are fully installed, cover the expansion gaps left around the perimeter with the appropriate finishing scotia and door profiles.

This is a brief guide on installing Luxury Vinyl flooring. Always refer to the manufacturer's installation guides provided within each pack of flooring ahead of installation.

If you require any further advice on installation then please call our technical department on 01782 528000, e-mail us at support@flooringmountain.co.uk or click the Live Chat Button at the top of the page.

