



CorkCore|LVT

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS - GLUE DOWN

TECHNICAL SUPPORT 800.345.6202

General Information

Please read these instructions thoroughly before installation.

Transport, Storage and Acclimatization

- Transport and store the cartons in laying position.
- Store planks at room temperature for at least 48 hours in their packaging, prior to installation.
- Remove planks from packaging only when ready to install.
- Room temperature must be at least 65° F before installation.

Subfloor Requirements

General:

- Surface must be clean and free of oil, grease, wax, dirt, asphalt, curing compounds, latex and gypsum compounds, dust, paint or any contaminant that might act as a bond breaker.
- CorkCore|LVT can be laid on top of most hard surfaces, (i.e. concrete, ceramics, wood).
- It is possible to use in bathrooms, or areas where spillages frequently occur since it will not swell when exposed to water. However, in order to prevent the water to penetrate under the laid floor, a polyurethane sealant must be applied on expansion joints.
- Soft subfloors (i.e. carpets) must be removed.
- Subfloor must be even, flay dray and variations should not exceed .12" in 6.6 feet.
- All types of hard subfloors must be dry. (concrete screeds <2%, anhydrite screeds <.5%)

Moisture Protection:

- All types of subfloors require insulation against moisture.

Alkali Testing - pH:

- It's possible during curing, especially on newly poured slabs, that alkali salts were carried to the surface by moisture that can adversely affect the adhesive bond.
- Test the alkalinity of the concrete with a special pH testing paper. You must neutralize the alkalinity before beginning the installation if you have a pH reading of 10 or higher.

Radiant-Heated Subfloors:

- Subfloor surface temperatures must not exceed 82°F.
- For detailed information, follow instructions on the subfloor heating system manufacturer.

Subfloor Types

The following subfloors are found in practice:

- Cement screeds
- Anhydrite or plaster screeds
- Mastic asphalt
- Concrete
- Chipboard and plywood with tongue-and-groove
- Artificial or natural stone, ceramic tile floorings
- Coatings and paint
- Screeds and under floor heating

Cement Screeds:

This is the most common type in building construction. Due to the shrinkage tension occurring during the setting phase, separation joints are laid out during insertion about 20 ft away from each other. Cement screeds are absorbent so dispersion adhesives may be used.

Anhydrite or Plaster Screeds:

Attention must be paid to low permissible moisture of <0.5 %. These screeds can be applied over large surface areas without separation joints. Moisture entering and remaining in the screed after application will damage the screed. Generally speaking, these screeds must be sanded, brushed, vacuumed and treated with primers. In such a case, the reduced absorbency as a result of the primer has to be compensated by using the appropriate thickness of leveling compound (not less than 2 mm) if dispersion adhesives are used.

Mastic Asphalt:

This is applied in a hot, molten condition (approx. 400 °F), smoothed and rubbed over with fine quartz sand. If applied properly, mastic asphalt can be used to cover large surfaces without cracks. It can be walked on as soon as it is cold. Mastic asphalt has no pores, and when installed in two layers acts as a damp-proof course in building construction. If dispersion adhesive is used, mastic asphalt must be leveled with a minimum of 2 mm layer thickness. If contact adhesive is used, a leveling compound must also be applied, in order to avoid direct contact between the mastic asphalt and the solvents contained in the adhesive. If reaction adhesive is used, only polyurethane adhesive may be used directly on mastic asphalt.

Concrete:

The moisture content of concrete subfloors can be determined with a CM meter. If using a CM meter, you must take material from the entire thickness of the substrate.

Chipboard and Plywood with Tongue-and-Groove:

Fairly large surfaces can be installed without joints by gluing the tongue into the groove. Generally, only the butt joints between the boards are leveled or sanded. Whether or not priming is necessary will depend on the surface quality of the boards concerned. If all the joints are not glued, they will show later on the surface of the flooring.

Artificial or Natural Stone and Ceramic Tile Floorings:

Subfloors of this type are non-absorbent. All soiling must be thoroughly removed mechanically and with detergents, especially if floors like this have already been in use for some time. Any loose tiles must be re-foxed. Subfloors of this type have to be roughened (sanding, brushing with wire brushes, sandblasting) primed and leveled.

Coatings and Paint:

These are usually very low in pores or have none. Any flaky parts must be carefully removed. Subfloors of this type have to be roughened (sanding, brushing with wire brushes, sandblasting), primed and leveled.) In order to have compatibility between the subfloor and the glue, please use the glues recommended by Expanko and follow the recommendations carefully.

Preventative Care

- If work will take place in the room where the floor is installed, protect with craft paper, plywood or hardboard.
- Do not drag furniture across the floor.
- Use felt pads on chair and furniture legs.
- Place quality walk-off mats at all entrances to retain tracked in dirt, grit and moisture. Never use latex or rubber backed mats, as they can stain the floor.
- Avoid moisture on the floor.
- Ideal and healthy room conditions are 35-65% relative humidity at 20°F. If necessary, use a room humidifier.
- These floors are intended for indoor use only.
- Flooring products are based on natural materials and will expand and contract through heating and non-heating seasons, thus experiencing some separation between the planks/tiles at different times of year. Such separations are not considered a material defect.

Installation Instructions

Inspection:

- Prior to installation, inspect planks in daylight for visible faults/damage.
- Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions.
- If you are not satisfied, do not install. Contact Expanko Tech Support at 800.345.6202.

Tools and Materials Required:

- Trowel, presser roller, tape measure, craft knife, pencil, straight edge, chalk line, cloth, white rubber hammer or hand roller.

Before Laying:

- Measure the room at right angle to the direction of the planks.
- Planks in the final row should be at least 5 cm wide. For this purpose, planks in the first row can be cut to a smaller size.
- Shuffle planks in order to obtain a pleasant blend of shades.
- Lay planks preferably following the direction of the main source of light.
- It is recommended that when lying on wooden floors, lay planks crossways to the existing floorboard.
- Planks must not be nailed or screwed to the subfloor.
- Skirting boards must not be fixed in a way that restricts the movement of the floor.

Door Frames:

- If a door frame needs to be cut, use a piece of plank to obtain the correct height. Saw door frames and architraves to the required height. Allow 2mm gap to the planks
- Check the wall where you are starting the installation and make sure it is squared to the opposite wall. Measure the room from the opposite ends of the wall to the firewall. If measurements are different make the necessary adjustments on the first row.

- Make sure the widths of the first and last rows planks are identical or greater than 1/3 of the plank.

Uneven Walls:

- If the wall is uneven, cut the planks with the corresponding width to eliminate the unevenness.
- Place the first plank on top of the second row and cut as indicated.

Adhesive Recommendation:

- One side acrylic adhesive recommended for vinyl floors.

Start Laying:

- Stir the adhesive before using. Avoid adhesive lumps.
- Start in the corner.
- Apply the adhesive evenly on the subfloor with the recommended notched trowel. Avoid pooling of the adhesive.
- Moisten the backing of the planks with adhesive and lay the adhesive in the floor.
- Turn the tongue side of the plank to the wall.
- Maintain a gap of 10mm on the short side.
- Hold the plank at an angle against the first one and lay it flat on the floor. Complete first row in the same way. Cut final plank of the first row to correct length. Start next row with the piece leftover (at least 12" long). Ensure that end joints are staggered at least 12" long.
- Place first plank of the new row with the tongue side matching the groove side of the plank in the previous row.
- Press down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a white rubber hammer.
- Place short end of the plank at an angle against the previous installed plank and fold down. Ensure that the plank is positioned on the integral locking strip of the plank in the previous row.
- Lift planks (together with the previous laid in the same row) lightly up, push it against the row in front and then press it down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a white rubber hammer. Proceed installation as described above until reaching the opposite wall.
- Floor must be rolled with a 50-Kg roller, every 30 minutes, and upon completion of installation, to ensure the tiles are firmly bedded into the adhesive.

Cleaning and Maintenance

- Reference document LVT611 on www.expanko.com.

Repairing a Damaged Plank

- Cut the plank you wish to replace at one short end and remove the plank by pulling it up.
- Lay the repair plank into place, by inserting the tongue side under the old plank and then press it down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a white rubber hammer.

Removing the Floor

- Lift the plank that you want to remove up a few centimeters and press down on the previous plank.