LVT Dry Back Installation Guide

Materials Required for Installation

Tape Measurer
Square Ruler
Chalk Line
Utility Knife
100lb Roller
Moisture Reading Device/Testing Method Moisture Mitigating Primer

Acceptable Subfloors

Alife Vinyl Floors will not warrant or accept responsibility of any kind for flooring failures related to the use of unacceptable substrates and surfaces. Any failure of the subfloor or flooring due to the subfloor is not the responsibility of Alife Vinyl Floors. **All subfloors must be tested for moisture and documented for warranties to be maintained. All subfloors must also be primed with approved Moisture Mitigating Primer/Moisture Vapor Barrier.**

Acceptable Substrates

Concrete
Portland Based Underlayments
Terrazzo
APA Approved Plywood
Fiber Cement Underlayment
Radiant Heated Subfloors (not exceeding 85°F (29°C))
Properly Prepared VCT
Properly Prepared Sheet Vinyl (single layer, fully adhered)

Wood Subfloor

Wood Subfloors must be American Plywood Association (APA) rated subfloor grade as specified and warranted by the manufacturer. Wood subfloors are required to be primed.
All wooden subfloors require moisture testing along with documentation.

Gypsum Concrete

All Gypsum Concrete subfloors are required to have moisture testing and to be primed prior to installation. **All gypsum concrete subfloors require moisture testing along with documentation.**

Concrete

All concrete subfloors require moisture testing along with documentation. All concrete subfloors are required to be primed.

Grade Levels

Suspended

An acceptable suspended floor is a concrete or wood substrate with a minimum of 18” (460mm) of well-ventilated air space beneath it. **Alife Vinyl Floors requires that a moisture vapor barrier/primer be placed on the ground below the air space.**

On-Grade

An acceptable on-grade floor is a concrete substrate in direct surface contact with the ground at the surrounding ground level. The concrete slab should be protected from moisture penetration and incorporate a permanent, effective moisture vapor retarder.

Below-Grade

An acceptable below-grade floor is a concrete substrate partially or completely in contact with the ground below the average surrounding ground level. The concrete slab should be protected from moisture penetration and incorporate a proven moisture vapor barrier. The concrete slab should be protected from moisture penetration and incorporate a permanent effective moisture vapor retarder.

Unacceptable Surfaces

Cushion-Back vinyl
Laminate
Any floating system floors
Carpet

Moisture Testing

All concrete slabs, both old and new, must be tested for moisture transmission using the Calcium Chloride Moisture Test according to ASTM F1869. Moisture vapor transmission should not exceed the recommended levels of between 3-5 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. in 24 hours. This test should be performed and documented prior to installation. Also test for relative humidity in concrete floor slabs using in-site probes, which should be no more than 80% RH or 95% RH per ASTM F2170 before, during and after installation.

pH Levels

pH on concrete substrates must be between 7 and 9.

Storage and Handling

Acclimate the flooring a minimum of 48 hours before installation in the area it is to be installed Conditions between 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C) are required before, during and after installation. Cartons should be evenly stacked no more than two high on a flat surface and away from any heating/ cooling ducts or direct sunlight.

The floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Remove all foreign substances such as wax, grease, dirt, construction marks and contaminants, and any substance or chemical that would interfere with a good bond. Avoid using sweeping compounds. Do not install over substrates that have been chemically cleaned. The flatness of wood subfloors or underlayment must not exceed on variation of 3/16" in 10 feet.

Please Note: If removal of existing resilient floor covering is required, follow all recommended Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) work practices at www.rfci.com.

Common Uses

Leveling Substrates
Filling holes
Filling cracks Embossing existing resilient floor, ceramic tile of VCT
Leveling non-water-soluble adhesives
Filling saw cuts and/or construction joints
Moisture Mitigating Primer

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 at www.rfci.com.

Floor Preparation

The smoothness and cleanliness of concrete subfloors must meet or exceed the requirements of ASTM F710. Fill all holes and cracks with a latex fortified Portland cement based patching compound. Alife Vinyl Floors only recommends the use of latex fortified Portland cement-based products as a satisfactory patching or leveling compound. The floor should be flat 3/16" in a 10-foot span.

Alife Vinyl Floors requires priming all subfloor(s) with a Premium Acrylic Latex Primer to prevent over absorption of adhesives, dust containment, and to ensure a better bond of the adhesive to the subfloor/underlayment.

Do not fill actual expansion joints or other moving joints with elastomeric fillers that are designed to absorb movement in concrete slabs. Cementitious underlayment, patches and resilient flooring installed across true expansion joints will often buckle or crack when the slabs move. Usually, architects will specify expansion joint covers for the use with various floor coverings.

Start of Installation

- Inspection of flooring material prior to installation is required. It is the purchaser's responsibility to verify with the installer that they have received the correct product before the start of installation. Any defects, wrong product, or color should be immediately reported to the retail store from which the flooring was purchased before installation (within 24hrs of install). Alife Vinyl Floors will not be responsible for labor costs to repair or replace material with defects, wrong product, or color that were apparent before or noticed at the end of an installation. The job site and all flooring material and adhesive must be kept for 48 hours before, during and after installation between 65°F and 85°F (18°and 29°C).

- Floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry before installation.

- Check the tongue and groove to assure it is free of debris or damage.

- To achieve maximum appearance, mix planks from two to three cartons from the same production.

- Tiles and planks may be cut with a small tile cutter or scored and snapped.

- For plank installation, staggering the end joints a minimum of 6 inches is required. For tile installation, staggering the end joints a minimum of 3 inches is required.

- Product Size and Tolerance is 0.0625 inches per linear foot.

- Note: Do not install four corners together, as this will not provide a stable installation.

DO NOT use a damp cloth or damp mop on the new flooring for at least 14 days after the installation. This will allow planks/tiles to become "seated" in the adhesive and prevent excess moisture from interfering with the adhesive bond.

NOTE: Avoid exposure to direct sunlight. During peak sunlight hours, the use of blinds or curtains is required. Prolonged direct sunlight can result in discoloration and volatile temperature variations causing damage to the floor, which is not covered by Alife Vinyl Floors.