

Installation & Maintenance

Polyflor LVT 2-3mm

EXPONA DESIGN

INSTALLATION GUIDE

GENERAL

Polyflor LVT are 2-3mm thick resilient vinyl flooring which have a 0.2 to 0.7mm transparent wear layer depending on the product chosen, protecting the pattern to reduce wear and improve cleaning. These LVT products can come in both plank and tile formats.

CONDITIONING

As per AS 1884-2021 section on conditioning, and supplemented by Polyflor's Technical Manual, all boxes are to be onsite 24 hours prior to installation, opened, product removed and stacked no more than 5 boxes high. To achieve conditioning, the product shall be stored on site in a controlled temperature environment with the ambient room temperature ideally between 15oC to 24oC for 24 hours before installation. The controlled temperature range must be maintained before, during and after the installation (for a minimum period of 24 hours after completion). The substrate shall not be exposed to direct sunlight for the period 24 hours prior to installation, during installation and 24 hours after installation. This may require blocking out the windows in order to prevent thermally induced dimensional changes of the product. Although the flooring is generally quite stable, these recommendations should always be followed with regards to conditioning and allow for the impact of climatic changes. Complaints will not be received for installation of the product without conditioning described above.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloors must conform to AS 1884-2021. The surface of a subfloor shall be thoroughly checked for the following:

- a) Planeness** – when a straightedge 2000 mm long is placed at rest at two points 2000 mm apart on the surface, no part of the surface shall be more than 4 mm below the straightedge.
- b) Smoothness** – when a straightedge 150 mm long is placed at any position at rest at two points on the surface, no part of the surface shall be 0.5 mm below the straightedge.
- c) Soundness** – the surface shall be without cracks, crazing, dusting, rain damage, spalling, efflorescence or blistering.

The moisture of the substrate needs to be tested and if more than 80% RH for concrete or 14% for timber, a moisture barrier needs to be installed. The flooring can be laid on the majority of sub-floors and substrates with appropriate underlays, including: concrete and screed bases; quarry and ceramic tiles; timber substrates; metal and poured floors, on the provision that they are structurally sound, without cracks and meet AS 1884-2021. Any grout lines should be levelled to avoid eventual shadowing.

SET OUT

The required direction should be confirmed with the end user prior to installation, and the installation should be balanced from the centre of the area to minimize waste. Ensure colours correspond to those ordered, quantities are correct, and the product is from one batch. Complaints will not be received for installation of the wrong colour. Do not mix batches in the same area. For tiles the starting point shall be marked out at a perpendicular axis adjacent to the longest straight wall. Installations containing connecting areas and link-ups may require a number of perpendicular axes. For planks the starting point shall be marked out at a perpendicular line adjacent to the longest straight wall.

INSTALLATION

The decoration of tiles and planks is randomly distributed and can be heavier on some of the patterns than others. To prevent heavy and light colour shading areas, the tiles should be unboxed and, if required, shuffled. Alternating the direction of tiles may be required to avoid repeat patterns. "Direct stick" installation is the recommended method of installation in Australia.

Direct Stick:

Polyflor Australia recommends LVT products to be fully adhered using hardset adhesive as per AS 1884-2021 and our Technical Manual. In areas exposed to thermal fluctuations i.e. north facing windows or around fireplaces, use a high temperature adhesive or 2-part polyurethane adhesive. Pressure sensitive adhesives are not recommended.

Check backing to ensure there isn't any damage, which may prevent the product from laying flat.

- When installing, the centre line must be determined and checked to ensure good sized cuts will be fitted to the perimeter. Planks should be staggered to obtain a random finish; it is advisable to ensure that plank ends are not within 200mm of adjacent planks. However, you can make patterns to suit the client's taste.
- Tiles can be random and either monolithic or ashlar patterns. Note: any irregularities in the subfloor may cause grid installed tiles to step out. This also applies to herringbone and chevron patterns.
- Lay a row of the product, starting in a corner on a perpendicular line to the centre points.
- Work away from the newly laid floor and keep foot traffic to a minimum to minimise movement until the flooring is locked in.
- The product should be closely fitted and cut flush to any walls and fittings, score and mark the surface of the tiles with a sharp knife from the face side only, and snap the product. Back cut the edge of the LVT backing for a tidy finish.
- Always place factory edges against each other. Never place a cut edge with a factory edge.
- When fitting around irregular objects use a heavy pattern paper to make a pattern to ensure a tight fit. Place the paper on the plank or tile to trace and cut.
- Lay the LVT into the fresh wet adhesive and then immediately roll. Only trowel out enough adhesive to lay the LVT into wet adhesive. Avoid the adhesive drying too much and skinning over. This will cause gapping or peaking problems later, as a result of thermal movement occurring before the prescribed curing time of the adhesive.
- Re-roll at the completion of the area before moving to a new area to install.

All exposed edges of resilient floor coverings or edges abutting other floor covering materials shall be protected by means of diminishing strips or other suitable moulding or trims. When the installation is complete all scrap material and debris shall be removed from the floor and the floor shall be swept or suction cleaned to remove all dust and debris. Scrap material can be recycled in most instances with Resiloop.

The product should be allowed to bond to the substrate in stable temperatures for 24 hours before locating furniture and fittings on top of the floor covering. Heavy furniture should never be dragged over any installation and care shall be taken when wheeling heavy loads over this type of installation as it may result in damage. In some instances where the product will be in contact with abnormal loads, i.e., pianos and special purpose beds or chairs etc. or where the castor wheels are less than 50mm in diameter, or where castor wheels are not able to properly disperse the load sufficiently, the use of an approved adhesive may be required to meet these unique circumstances as well as weight distributing feet e.g. piano feet. Please contact your retail supplier for further information.

The product is water resistant and will withstand standing water. However, this does not mean that they are designed to be submerged under water for extended periods of time. Subjecting these products to immersion may cause a breakdown and failure of the acrylic adhesive and compromise the installation.

POST INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

After installation use a brush, dry cloth or vacuum cleaner for cleaning. Where water/cleaning fluid is required, ensure the minimum is used. Again, use window coverings to protect the floor from heat and fading under direct sunlight. While the adhesive is drying, dramatic temperature change of the flooring could cause joints to lip or gaps to occur.

When the installation is complete: Ensure installation waste is removed from the surface of the floor. Mop, sweep or vacuum to remove dust and grit. Damp mop with a neutral cleanser.

Daily

Mop, sweep or vacuum to remove loose dirt and dust.

As required, spot clean with a neutral cleaner, followed by rinsing with clean water to remove stubborn marks.

Weekly / Monthly

As required, clean the floor using neutral cleanser (pH 7 to 9), using a microfiber mop. If a rotary scrubber is used there is the possibility that some of the product may be disturbed, especially if too much liquid has been used – use an absolute minimum to prevent liquid penetrating into the seams and joints.

The maintenance regime requires the installation of an effective barrier matting system. Cleaners and polishes should be used as per the manufacturer's instructions. Follow manufacturers safety and application guidance. Regular cleaning is more beneficial than infrequent deep cleaning.