

LVT INSTALLATION & SUBFLOOR PREPARATION GUIDE

Preparation and acclimation:

Allow planks to acclimate for 24 to 48 hours prior to installation.

Maintain temperature between 18 – 24 degrees Celsius and relative humidity between 30 and 65%. Subfloor must be clean, flat, dry, smooth and free of any dirt.

Subfloor Flatness Tolerance maximum of 3mm over 3 meters.

Concrete moisture must be between 0% and 3% on a Tramex moisture meter or equivalent.

Subfloor Requirements:

Installation Method

Smooth and level.

Free of cracks, paint, oils and any chemical residues.

Subfloor/substrate must always be self-levelled (or warranty is voided. For existing tiles, grout lines must be filled and levelled with a self-levelling screed

Underlay: Roll out the underlay, butting the seams tightly together without overlapping and securing them with waterproof tape to ensure a flat, moisture-resistant base.

Expansion Gaps: Place (10mm-12mm) spacers around the entire perimeter to allow for natural expansion and contraction.

First Row: Lay planks left to right with the tongue side facing the wall, clicking the short ends together as you go.

Click & Lock: Tilt the long side of the next row at a 20–30° angle into the previous row, then tap gently with a rubber mallet and tapping block to secure the joints.

Staggering: Cut the first plank of each new row to ensure end joints are staggered at least 20–30cm) apart for maximum stability.

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Professional LVT Adhesive Application Guide | Luxury Vinyl Tile/Plank LVT is 100% dimensionally stable, but the install is only as good as the subfloor prep + adhesive work. Get this wrong and you'll have peaking, gapping, or bond failure. Preparation and acclimation:

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Trowel Recommendation for LVT Adhesive

Use the adhesive manufacturer's spec first — always. But for most South African LVT acrylic/wet-set adhesives:

Recommended trowel: A2 V-Notch Trowel. Notch size: 1.6mm x

1.6mm x 1.6mm. V-notch Spread rate: ~4.5m² to 5m² per litre.

Why A2:

Gives 80-100% adhesive transfer to the LVT backing without over-wetting. LVT is thin, so too much adhesive = telegraphing and oozing at seams.

Rule:

Too small = poor bond. Too big = adhesive squeeze-up and longer dry times.

Spread:

Pour adhesive out. Hold trowel at 45° and spread only what you can lay in the "open time" — usually 20-40min for wet-set. Don't flood the whole room.

Lay & Roll:

Lay planks/tile firmly.

Use a 45kg roller immediately, then again after 30min. Roll lengthwise + width wise. This is what creates the bond.

Seam Care: Wipe any adhesive squeeze-up immediately with a damp cloth. Once cured, it's permanent.

Traffic: Light foot traffic 24hrs. Furniture 48hrs. Full cure 72hrs. No wet cleaning for 5 days