



## INSTALLATION GUIDE: SUPAClick LUXURY VINYL TILES (LVT)

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Product to be installed indoors only
- Product to be acclimated in the area of installation for 48 hours before installing
- Should only be installed after the site has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage a finished plank floor
- During the installation, mix and install planks from several different cartons of the same dye batch to minimize shade variation
- The finished installation should be protected from exposure to direct sunlight. UV film on windows may be required where there is exposure to direct sunlight. Please check with your Lime Green representative before installation
- Legno Supaclick LVT cannot be installed with adhesives unless otherwise authorised by Lime Green Sourcing Solutions
- Installation can only take place after all permanent fixtures have been fitted. Do not install permanent fixtures on top of flooring
- **In addition to the preparation and installation instructions below, also refer to the SABS installation of resilient thermoplastic and similar flexible floor covering materials standard, SANS 10070**
- **Although specific reference is made to certain sections in the SANS 10070, the complete contents of this document must be adhered to for all applications**

### PRODUCT HANDLING AND SITE CONDITIONS

- Store open boxes stacked one on top of the other to a maximum of 12 layers. Do not store on end or allow boxes to bend during storage or transportation
- Product to be acclimated in the area of installation for 48 hours before installing. Store at 18 to 24 degrees celcius for 48 hours prior to installation
- The ambient temperature shall be between 18 and 24 degrees celcius for 48 hours before installation, during installation and for 48 hours after installation. UV film on windows may be required where there is exposure to direct sunlight
- To prevent damage to the newly installed floor, the installation of flooring products shall begin after all other trades have completed their work



- To prevent installation problems, floors to be installed on shall be permanently dry, clean, smooth and be structurally sound. They shall be free of dust, solvents, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening, or parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation or laitence, mould, mildew, and other foreign materials that may affect the final finish of the product

## SUBSTRATE PREPARATION AND TESTING

### REFER TO SANS 10070, POINT 5.2.1

- **Concrete slab construction:** concrete moisture problems are a major cause of floor covering failure. Refer to industry standards for specifications related to concrete mix design, curing methods and drying times to prevent such problems. The moisture shall not be more than 3% when testing for moisture with a moisture meter or 12% WME on the survey master protimeter, any time before, during or after installation
- **On-grade or below-grade slabs:** the use of a vapour retarder directly beneath concrete slabs in contact with the ground is required. Every concrete floor slab on- or below-grade to receive resilient flooring should have a moisture retarder (often improperly called a vapour barrier) installed directly below the slab
- **Above-grade slabs:** it is often assumed that above-grade slabs (also known as suspended slabs) are less prone to moisture than slabs on- or below-grade. However, these slabs may take much longer to dry. Floors containing lightweight aggregate or excess water and those which are allowed to dry from only one side, such as concrete on a metal deck construction, may need a much longer drying time and should not be covered with resilient flooring unless the moisture vapour emission meets the manufacturer's installation specifications
- **Curing and drying:** new concrete slabs shall be properly cured and dried before installation of resilient flooring. Drying time before slabs are ready for moisture testing will vary depending on atmospheric conditions and mix design. The use of membrane curing compounds may slow the drying process and can also hinder adhesive bond. If curing compounds are used they shall be removed as soon as possible after the initial cure of the concrete is complete so that the concrete can begin to dry. The cover cure method is an alternative that can speed up the drying process

## PREPARING CONCRETE SLABS

- Concrete slabs shall be clean and smooth prior to installing floor coverings. Concrete floors to receive resilient flooring shall be free of sealers, coatings, finishes, dirt, film-forming curing compounds, or any other substances which may affect the rate of moisture dissipation from the concrete or the adhesion of resilient flooring to the concrete
- Concrete floors shall be smooth so as to prevent irregularities, roughness, or other defects from telegraphing through the new resilient flooring
- The surface of concrete floors shall be flat and even with not more than a 3mm variance over 3 metres (self-levelling compound is recommended)
- Smoothing or levelling floors using a high quality levelling compound is recommended for commercial use.



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- Surface cracks, grooves, depressions, control joints or other non-moving joints, and other such irregularities shall be filled or smoothed with latex patching or an underlayment compound recommended by the resilient flooring manufacturer for filling or smoothing or both
- Patching or underlayment compounds shall be moisture-, mildew- and alkali-resistant, and for commercial installations, shall provide a minimum of 3000 psi compressive strength
- If the surface of the concrete is porous, soft or dusty, it is not suitable for installation of resilient floor coverings. It may be necessary to remove the top layer of concrete in such cases and/or these surfaces may need to be primed and covered with a cement based underlayment compound
- Follow levelling compound manufacturer's instructions for preparation of the concrete surface, priming if necessary
- Note the mixing ratio of powder to liquid, thickness of application and drying time required for floor covering installation
- Expansion joints: joints such as expansion joints, isolation joints, or other moving joints in concrete shall not be filled with patching compound or covered with resilient flooring

## WOOD SUBFLOORS - HIGH RISK - NOT RECOMMENDED

Do not install Lime Green Legno vinyl products over the following:

- "Sleeper" system floors
- Plywood floors that have been installed directly over a concrete slab
- Particle board or chip board
- Plywood, oil-treated or otherwise coated wood
- Plywood with knots
- Underlayment made of pine or other soft woods
- Masonite or other hardboard underlayment
- Hardwood flooring
- Textured or cushioned resilient flooring
- Paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, mould, mildew, and other foreign materials that might prevent adhesive bond
- Any uneven or unstable substrates
- Suspended floors



## CRITERIA FOR INSTALLING OVER EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORS – HIGH RISK – NOT RECOMMENDED

The existing floor shall be:

- A single layer only. Do not install over multiple layers
- Non-cushioned
- Thoroughly stripped of all wax, floor finish dirt and other contaminants that may affect the installation
- Flat and smooth with no curling edges or loose seams
- Dry. All concrete floors shall be tested for moisture regardless of age or grade level. Do not assume that an existing floor is free of moisture-related issues. Conduct moisture tests

## RISKS OF INSTALLING OVER AN EXISTING RESILIENT FLOOR

- Telegraphing (showing through) of irregularities in the existing floor (dents, gouges, curling edges, loose seams, etc)
- The new luxury vinyl floor may not perform as well over an existing resilient floor as it would over a wood or concrete substrate, especially with regard to indentation resistance
- Do not install over existing resilient flooring if the new floor will be subjected to heavy point loads or rolling traffic

## OTHER SUBSTRATES

- Epoxy terrazzo, rubber, cork and asphalt tiles are not acceptable substrates and shall be removed or covered with an approved underlayment
- Cement terrazzo may be suitable. Check with the patching/levelling compound manufacturer for guidelines on preparing these substrates

## OLD ADHESIVE

- Adhesive residue shall be completely removed prior to installing flooring and the installation surface shall be prepared as per the section in this document referring to **“preparing concrete slabs and concrete subfloors”**
- Adhesive removers : there are a number of commercial adhesive removers that will properly remove adhesive residue from a subfloor. If chemical adhesive removers are used, any damage (including, but not limited to: adhesive failure, indentation, bubbling, delaminating, etc) is the responsibility of the company using the adhesive remover, and is not covered by the Lime Green vinyl warranty



## EXISTING FLOOR COVERINGS

- Legno Supaclick LVT can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided the existing floor surface is smooth, flat, level and structurally sound, or can be made smooth, level and sound
- Ceramic tiles must be made smooth by applying a cementitious overlay such as a patching or levelling compound to smooth out grout joints (**see suppliers instructions**). In some applications, a 2mm high density foam underlay may be used instead of patching. Please get approval from Lime Green Sourcing Solutions in this case
- For existing fully bonded resilient floors, it may be required to apply a skim coat over an embossed floor. Cushioned vinyl flooring or vinyl floors consisting of multiple layers are not a suitable subfloor for installation (**high risk**)

## INSTALLING LEGNO SUPAClick LVT FLOORING

### LAYOUT AND INSTALLATION: REFER TO SANS 10070, POINTS 9.4.1, 9.6, 9.61

- Do not secure individual planks of Legno Supaclick LVT to the subfloor as it is designed to be a floating floor. All doors should be undercut and cabinets cannot be installed on top of Legno Supaclick LVT. Wall mouldings and transition strips should be installed above exposed plank edges but should not be fastened through the planks, restricting movement of the floor
- Installation can only take place after all permanent fixtures have been fitted. Do not install permanent fixtures on top of vinyl flooring
- Determine in which direction you want the flooring to run (consider light source). Typically for plank products, the flooring runs the length of the room. There may be exceptions as this is a matter of preference
- In order to obtain the best possible result aesthetically, thoroughly mix the contents of multiple boxes prior to installation
- Legno Supaclick LVT products are designed to simulate real wood floors and can therefore be installed in the same patterns as a wood plank floor : in a random pattern, staggered design, diagonally or other
- To avoid narrow plank widths or short plank lengths near the walls/doors, it is important to pre-plan the floor. Using the width of the room, calculate how many full boards will fit into the area and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial planks. Divide the remaining space by two to calculate the width of the partial planks. Do the same along the length of the room
- Note that if the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge is toward the wall
- Set out the job and use chalk lines as you would for any other floor tile installation. Dry lap/loose-lay a section of floor to be sure the pattern is centred in the room. Planks should not be cut less than 20cm long, or less than half the width of the plank. Avoid small pieces in border areas, and adjust the lines as needed to achieve a proper pattern



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- An expansion gap of between 8 and 12mm should be left between the wall and the floor covering (including door frames etc) at the time of installation to compensate for expansion of the material – low temperature areas require 8mm and high temperature areas require 12mm. (Bigger expansion gaps could be required if excessive expansion takes place in some areas of installation). Expansion will be greater where direct sunlight is focused. For surfaces greater than 100m<sup>2</sup> or rooms longer than 10 metres, suitable expansion joints must be installed. Care must be taken not to restrict expansion gaps in any way whatsoever when using silicone sealant or any other form of finishing material

## STARTING THE INSTALLATION

- The planks should be installed from left to right. From the top left corner of the room, put the first plank in place so that both the head and side seam grooves are exposed
- Install the second plank in the first row by angling the short side tongue into the short side groove of the first plank. Continue installing additional planks along the first row using the same angling method
- To start the second row, cut a plank that is at least 15cm shorter than the first plank in the first row (you may use the left over from the last plank of the first row). Then install this first plank by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row
- Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short side tongue into the previously installed first plank short side groove
- Align the plank so the long side tongue tip is positioned just over the groove lip of the plank in the first row. The remaining planks can be installed in the room using the same technique. Make sure the required expansion gaps are maintained against all fixed vertical objects such as walls, doors, cabinets etc
- Using gentle force and at a 20-30 degree angle, push the long side tongue into the groove of the adjoining plank by sliding along the short side seam. You may need to lift the plank to the left of it slightly to allow for the “sliding” action
- The planks can be cut easily with a utility knife, by scoring the top of the plank and snapping the plank in two
- Knife blades must be sharp for easy, accurate and safe cuts

## UNDERFLOOR HEATING

- Legno Supaclick LVT can be installed with underfloor heating, using the screeding system. Install LVT's on top of a screeded surface. Maximum temperature allowed is 27 degrees celcius
- **A floor probe and thermostat must be installed to control the temperature**

## REPAIRS

- In the unlikely event that a Legno Supaclick LVT is damaged for whatever reason, the simplest method is to disconnect (un-click) the planks carefully (protecting the tongue and groove edges) until the damaged plank can be removed. Then replace the damaged plank with a new one and reassemble the disconnected planks. This typically works for planks that are close to the two long perimeters of a room



- **For damaged planks that are not close to the perimeter, you may have to remove the damaged planks and insert new pieces without the short and long end grooves**
- Using a sharp utility knife and a straight edge, cut out the centre of the damaged plank, leaving a strip of approximately 25.5mm attached to the adjacent planks
- Carefully cut back from the four corners of the plank to the inside edges of the space left by the cut out in the plank
- Remove the plank edges carefully from the adjacent planks, making sure the tongues and grooves of the adjacent planks are not damaged
- Using a utility knife, remove the tongue strip on both the long and short ends of the replacement plank. In addition, remove the groove strip of the short end of the replacement plank
- Place double-sided carpet tape along the three sides of the adjacent planks where the tongues and the groove of the replacement plank have been removed. Only the top side release paper of the carpet tape should be removed. The bottom side release paper should not be taped to the subfloor
- Position the replacement plank by engaging the groove of the long side into the tongue of the adjoining plank and pushing down on the other three sides. The carpet tape will hold the replacement plank in place. Roll over the area to further secure the tape

## PROTECTING THE FLOOR DURING AND POST-INSTALLATION

- It is recommended to only install floor coverings after all other finishing operations have been completed
- However, if there will be construction traffic on the newly installed floor, the floor can be covered with a thick durable plastic for protection

## INITIAL MAINTENANCE

- The floor can be cleaned using a general purpose cleaner and a buffing machine or auto scrubber with a green or blue pad. Do not use black or brown pads
- Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry
- After initial cleaning is completed, the flooring is ready for use
- Normal cleaning and slow speed buffing is recommended to extend the life of your new flooring