

## Ambient<sup>™</sup> Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring Installation Instructions & Guidelines

For successful installation of your luxury vinyl plank flooring, follow the instructions and guidelines listed here.

### Tools and Materials Required

Before you begin installment of your flooring, be sure you have access to the following list of tools:

- ✓ Safety glasses
- ✓ Utility knife
- ✓ Tape measure
- ✓ Jigsaw (possibly jamb saw for door frames)
- ✓ Mitre or table saw
- ✓ Rubber mallet
- ✓ Dust mask
- ✓ Tapping block
- ✓ T-Square
- ✓ Pull bar
- ✓ ¼" spacers
- ✓ Vacuum or broom
- ✓ Tools for subfloor repair (if necessary)

### Quick Tips for Successful Installation

To avoid scratching your floor, be sure to use felt pads when moving furniture.

- ✓ Place large or heavy furniture and appliances on non-staining floor protectors.
- ✓ Ball-type castors can damage your floor and are NOT recommended.
- ✓ If your furniture has wheels or castors on them, make sure the wheels or castors are:
  - clean and free of debris
  - able to roll and swivel easily
  - large surface wheels or castors
  - suitable for resilient-type flooring
  - non staining

### Handling and Installation Tips for SPC Core Flooring

While SPC (Stone Plastic Composite) core flooring offers exceptional durability, waterproofing, and stability, it's essential to handle and install it with care to ensure optimal performance. One aspect to note is that the tongues of SPC core flooring are designed to provide a secure locking mechanism during installation. However, these tongues may be more susceptible to cracking if handled roughly compared to other types of vinyl flooring.

### Understanding Tongue Cracking

Unlike WPC flooring, which typically features a softer core, the tongues of SPC core flooring are engineered for increased rigidity and durability. While this enhances the overall longevity and

performance of the flooring, it also means that the tongues may be more prone to cracking if subjected to excessive force or mishandling during installation.

### **Precautions During Handling and Installation**

To minimize the risk of tongue cracking and ensure a successful installation, we recommend the following precautions:

1. **Handle with Care:** When transporting, unpacking, and positioning SPC core flooring planks, handle them with care to avoid applying excessive pressure to the tongues.
2. **Use Proper Tools:** Utilize appropriate tools, such as tapping blocks and rubber mallets, designed specifically for vinyl flooring installation. These tools help distribute force evenly during installation, reducing the likelihood of tongue damage.
3. **Avoid Overlapping Planks:** During installation, avoid overlapping or forcefully pressing planks together, as this can place undue stress on the tongues and lead to cracking.
4. **Ensure Proper Subfloor Preparation:** Adequately prepare the subfloor to ensure it is clean, level, and free of debris. A smooth and even subfloor provides a stable foundation for the flooring installation, minimizing the risk of tongue damage.

### **Pre-Installation Preparations**

LVP flooring can be installed on, above, or below grade. Prior to installation the flooring should be stored and installed in a climate controlled area with an average temperature between 55-95° F (12-53°C). If flooring is exposed to temperatures less than 40° F (5° C) or more than 95° F (35° C) for more than one hour, the flooring must be acclimated for a minimum of 12 hours by spreading out the cartons during acclimation but not stacking the cartons. If stacking is necessary, stack the cartons in a crisscross manner - never stacking the cartons more than three high.

Our LVP is a completely waterproof product, however, it is important to ensure there is not too much moisture in the subfloor, as this can cause mold, mildew, fungus, etc. If installing on concrete, ensure the concrete slab never exceeds 20 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. of moisture. When mold is present in your home, it can become a health hazard, especially for someone with allergies, asthma, or breathing problems. It can also lead to irritation of the eyes, skin, nose, throat, and lungs. Ambient cannot be held responsible for these moisture-related issues. General guidelines suggest installing a 6 mil polyfilm over concrete subfloors to prevent moisture from contacting the floors.

Direct exposure to sunlight can result in floor expansion and discoloration. Using curtains, blinds, or window tinting methods is required to prevent sun-related damage to the floor.

To prevent your floor from being damaged by other construction / installation activities that might be occurring in your house, be sure to install your LVP flooring AFTER all other work has been completed.

Use a Portland based compound for all subfloor patching, and allow it to completely dry and cure before installation of your LVP floor.

Before installing or cutting an LVP floor plank, inspect it carefully for damage BEFORE installation. If you

see a defect, call Ambient Tech Services at (866) 710-7070 for a possible refund or replacement. Our Claims/Returns department cannot accept any planks that have been already installed and/or cut.

Because there are variations in vinyl plank design, Ambient recommends blending floor planks from several different cartons during installation.

## **Subfloor Preparation**

To ensure a successful installation of your LVP floor, properly prepare your subfloor by ensuring it is clean, dry, flat, and in good structural shape. The required flatness of the subfloor is 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.

## **Installation**

The floating method is used when installing LVP flooring. Cabinets or fixed objects should not be installed on top of LVP flooring. LVP requires proper expansion space, undercutting of all door jams, and prohibits fastening wall moldings and transition strips to LVP flooring.

### Installation Over Existing Floors:

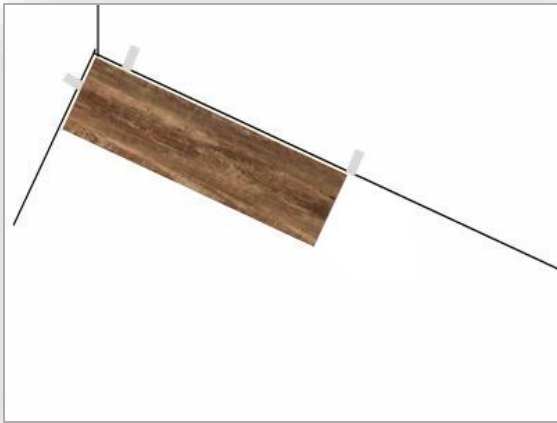
NEVER install LVP flooring over ANY type of carpet.

It is acceptable to install LVP flooring over most types of hard-surface floor types; as long as the existing floor has a clean, dry, flat, surface that is in good structural shape. Use T-moldings at doorways and for any span greater than 40' in any direction.

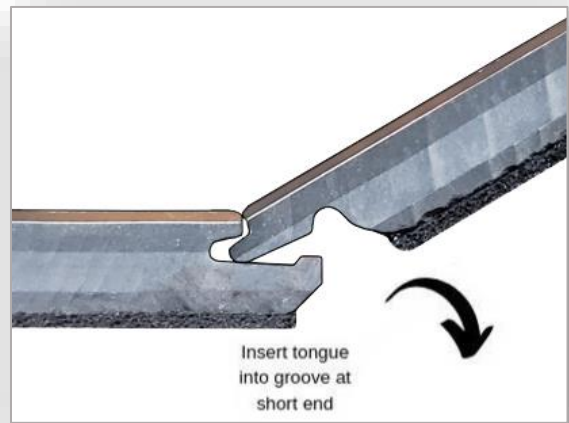
If installing LVP flooring over a sheet vinyl floor surface, the existing floor should have little cushion from soft underlay or substrates. Too much cushion can compromise the strength of our product.

Solvents and adhesive removers with citrus should never be used to remove adhesive residue from the floor, because the chemicals from any leftover residue could potentially damage the new flooring.

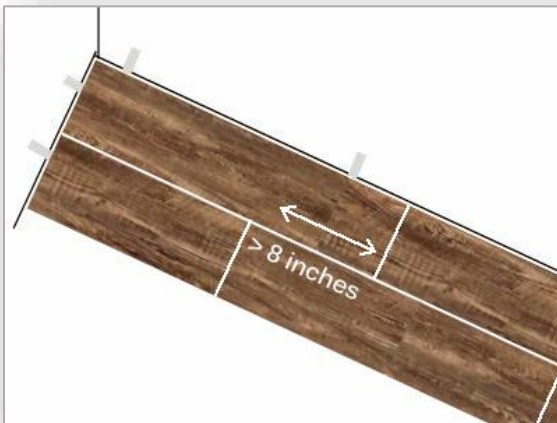
The area in which the flooring is installed must remain climate controlled with the temperature between 60°-90°F for the life of the product and ideally the relative humidity should stay between 35-70%.



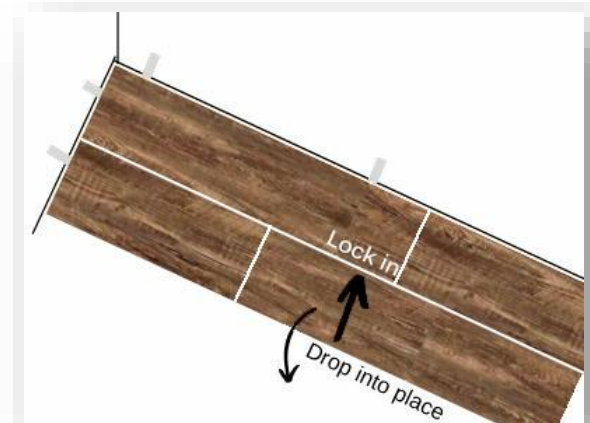
**Step 1:** Begin installation of LVP flooring from a corner of the room and working from left to right. Install spacers between the plank and the wall at the end and edges where the plank and wall come together.



**Step 2:** Lock short end of plank by inserting tongue into groove at an angle. Then drop into place. Continue this step to the end of the row.



**Step 3:** Cut the last plank to fit the space. Use the leftover plank from first row as starter for second row, and so on for each row. There must be at least 8" between plank end joints on adjacent rows.\*

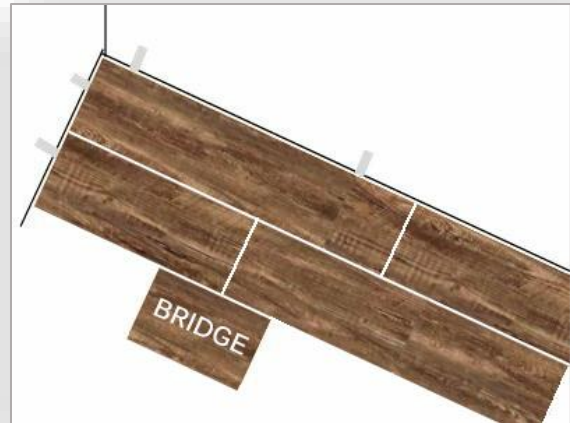


**Step 4:** Lock the long edge of plank by inserting tongue into groove at an angle and drop in place. Next, slide the plank toward the end of previously installed plank until the tongue just touches the groove.

\*For tile planks, the distance between end joints should be at least 12 inches.



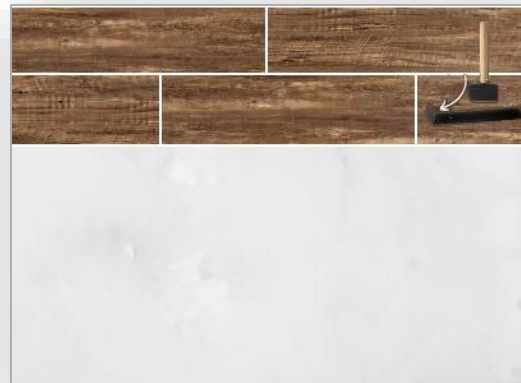
**Step 5:** THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP! Use a rubber mallet or hammer and a wood block. Tap the block to tap long edge of the plank to ensure a tight fit. MAKE SURE THERE IS NO GAPPING AS IT CAN COMPROMISE THE LOCKING SYSTEM!



**Step 6:** Using the tongue and groove, attach a scrap piece of floor plank to bridge gap between ends of planks and hold them steady.



**Step 7:** Place wood block at end of plank and tap with hammer to lock ends of planks together. Remove bridge and continue toward the wall until installing the final plank in the row. BE SURE TO TAP ON EDGE OF VINYL SO AS NOT TO DAMAGE LOCKING MECHANISM OF PLANKS.



**Step 8:** Use a hammer and pull bar to lock the final piece in the row. Insert a spacer at end of the row. Continue installation on next row until final row.



**Step 9:** Use a hammer and pull bar to lock long edges of planks on the final row.



**Step 10:** To install under door jambs, use a jamb saw to undercut space under door jamb to allow the plank to slide freely. Tap the long edge with hammer and tapping block to lock in place. Use the hammer and pull bar to lock short end of plank.

## Installation Over Radiant Heat Systems

Please note that these are general guidelines. Please contact your radiant heat system manufacturer prior to installation to ensure that your specific system is compatible with bamboo flooring as well as if they have any specific requirements.

### FEW NOTES ABOUT INSTALLING OVER RADIANT HEAT

- New concrete needs to cure for at least 60 days before installing flooring materials.
- If considering Radiant heat, only Hydronic radiant heat can be used.
- The heating components must have a minimum of 3/8" separation from the product.
- System must be operational for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation.
- A transition strip must be used for any installation longer than 40 linear feet and/or wider than 30 linear feet. It is also suggested to use T-Molding in doorways.

### PRIOR TO INSTALLATION – RADIANT HEAT SUBFLOORS

If the radiant heat system is embedded in concrete, turn the radiant heat system on with the temperature set on high for 5-6 days. This should help burn off any moisture residing in the concrete prior to installation and this should be done the week leading up to installation. Next, the temperature should be set to 65° F and held at that temperature 5 days prior to acclimating the floors – during acclimation – during installation – and for 72 hours after installation.

### DURING INSTALLATION

- Must leave at least a 1/2" expansion gap at all walls and doorways (the SPC flooring expands slightly when heated)
- Must install break every 25 ft. (max run 25 ft in any direction)
- The temperature of the radiant heat system should always be maintained at a constant 65° F.

- A stove or any other item that can affect the temperature of the ground should not be used at the job site.
- The flooring must be acclimated over the radiant heat with the system turned on and set to 65° F. The same acclimation preparation must be followed as always, including cutting the boxes open and stacking.
- If the radiant heat system is encased in concrete or another substrate that releases moisture, a 6mm polyethelene barrier must be placed between the flooring boxes and the substrate so that the flooring does not absorb moisture during acclimation.

#### **AFTER INSTALLATION / MAINTENANCE**

- During the first three days after installation, the radiant heat system temperature should be maintained at a temperature of 65° F (18° C). After that, the temperature can be set warmer, by 5° F per hour to a maximum operation temperature of 85° F (29° C).
- The temperature of the sub-floor must never exceed 85° F (29° C).
- When turning off the radiant heat system, it must cool by a temperature of 1.5° Fahrenheit per day. Never turn your radiant system off suddenly.
- The radiant heat system cannot fluctuate in temperature rapidly. Room temperature should vary no more than +/-7 degrees Fahrenheit year around.

Questions? Please call Ambient Tech Services at (866) 710-7070.