ELEMENTAL BY allure The Easiest Floor Ever!

Installation Guide

GENERAL INFORMATION

Proper subfloor preparation and use of correct subfloor materials are key essentials in attaining a successful installation. It is important that all materials are compatible and therefore we recommend adhesives, primers and smoothing compounds manufactured by Roberts. For guidance refer to the instructions provided by the manufacturers of these materials.

Upon receipt of flooring, immediately remove any shrink-wrap and check materials for damage and the correct style, color, quantity, batch numbers and immediately report any discrepancies. Claims for visual defects can only be accepted prior to installation and cutting.

TESTING AND PREPARATION OF SUBFLOORS

It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure the subfloor does not suffer from moisture or hydrostatic pressure. Prior to installation the moisture content of the subfloor must be established and corrected if necessary. Newly poured concrete must cure for a minimum of 90 days. Old and new concrete floors must be checked for moisture using the ASTM F710 standard for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring and or ASTM F1869 for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride. Before fitting, ensure the subfloor surface is clean, dry, even, smooth, and free from cracks. A smooth, even and absorbent surface is necessary for correct installation of Elemental LVT flooring. It is generally recommended that a floor smoothing underlayment be applied prior to the laying of resilient floorcovering. Use only APA underlayment grade plywood of 1/4" minimum thickness or Lauan plywood with a grade of BB or CC. Allow expansion spacing of butt joints of 1/32"-1/16". Stagger joints 4’ on a 8’ sheet (minimum of 16"). When installing over radiant heating system the heating elements must be cast 1/2" below the surface of the subfloor. The system must be operational for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to installation for proper calibration. The system should be turned off for a minimum of 3 days prior to installation and remain off for a week after installation to allow the adhesive to fully cure. Maximum working temperature on the surface of the floor is 80°F (27°C).

Non approved substrates are: OSB (Oriented Strand Board), particleboard, treated plywood, strip wood floors, chipboard, Masonite, cementitious backer boards, free floating flooring, rubber or self stick flooring. For more information regarding subfloor preparation, please call customer service and speak to one of our installation experts at 1-866-843-8453.

INSTALLATION

To achieve best results, acclimate ELEMENTAL material and adhesives in the areas they are to be installed for a minimum of 48 hours before, during and after the installation. Minimum floor temperature should be 59°F (15°C), minimum room temperature of 65°F (18°C) and a maximum relative humidity content of 65%. Keep away from heating and cooling ducts and direct sunlight. Ensure that the site conditions are kept at a constant level while the adhesive achieves full bond strength.

ELEMENTAL LVT flooring comes in several sizes and formats including planks, square tiles, rectangular tiles, and should only be installed by professional flooring installers that have demonstrated successful installations of jobs similar in size and scope. Tiles may be installed running in the same direction (block or staggered) or quarter turned using arrows printed on back for orientation. Install as specified by Architect or end user. ELEMENTAL plank flooring must have end joints offset by at least 6" and staggered to create a random appearance that avoids alignment of end joints. ELEMENTAL LVT flooring can be laid out to run either parallel or diagonal to the room or primary wall.

Plan the layout of the room as specified by the Architect, designer or end user. Measure the room in both directions and mark a chalk centerline, ensuring that it is square to the wall with the main doorway. You may choose to loose lay the tiles to check that no small cuts will be required around the perimeter. Make adjustments as necessary. The adhesive should be applied using the proper adhesive spreader recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Spread only the amount of adhesive, which can be covered within the open time. Refer to the label on the adhesive container for the open time of the adhesive. The amount of time in which you have to place the flooring will vary with temperature and humidity. The higher the temperature and the lower the humidity, the faster the adhesive will set. Do not use fans to force-dry adhesives. The main floor area should be divided into small sections leaving the perimeter tiles un-adhered until the main field area has been installed. When a section has been installed it should be thoroughly rolled in both directions (90°) with an articulated roller. Roll floor as soon as conditions permit without tiles moving or adhesive bleeding to the surface. Roll floor again at 90° to the first within 45–60 minutes depending upon site conditions. Early trafficking should be avoided, as this will disturb the adhesive bond.

For further information please contact customer service at 1-866-843-8453 from Monday to Friday.

ELEMENTAL CARE & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

ELEMENTAL LVT flooring is manufactured with a high performance UV cured urethane and ceramic bead surface treatment, which provides improved maintenance characteristics and options for the end-user in commercial environments. All floor coverings require some care to look their best and many problems can be prevented before they occur. The area of usage, type and frequency of traffic on the floor will determine the type and frequency of maintenance needed. Proper cleaning, care and maintenance are an essential part of keeping your ELEMENTAL LVT floor looking attractive and safe. These guidelines will help to maintain the appearance and extend the life of your ELEMENTAL LVT Commercial flooring.

Care & Maintenance

ELEMENTAL FLOOR-CARE BEST PRACTICES

- Sweep daily or vacuum using only vacuums without beater bars.
- Protect the floor from tracked-in-dirt and grit particles by using walk-off mats at all outside entrances.
- In order to prevent indentations and scratches, provide glass, plastic or other non-staining cups with flat under surfaces not less than 2" wide for the legs of heavy furniture or appliances. Equip swiveled-type office chairs and other rolling furniture with double-roll, Type-W-soft, non-staining casters. Remove small diameter buttons from the legs of straight chairs and replace with soft plastic or felt glider that have bearing surfaces no less than 1" in diameter.
- When moving heavy fixtures or appliances over the flooring always use the proper equipment to protect it from damage.
- Never use anything coarser than 3M equivalent red cleaning pads or brushes on ELEMENTAL commercial resilient flooring (see maintenance procedures).
- Protect your floor against burns. Burns from the glowing end of a cigarette, matches, or other extremely hot items can damage ELEMENTAL floors.
- Do not flood floor or subject to frequent standing water.
- Use latex backed mats. Avoid the use of rubber-backed mats as certain rubber compounds can permanently stain vinyl.
- Only use cleaning products which are designed for Luxury Vinyl Tile with urethane coatings.
- All ELEMENTAL floors have good resistance to stains and are not affected by most common spills, however any spill should be cleaned up immediately. The longer the spilled materials are left on the floor, the greater the risk of permanently staining the floor. For information regarding the proper method or solution to use on a specific stain, contact customer service at 1-866-843-8453.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the drapes or blinds is recommended. Prolonged direct sunlight can result in discolouration, and excessive temperatures might cause tile or planks to expand.

ELEMENTAL COMMERCIAL MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

1. **Safety:** When performing wet maintenance, always use proper signage and prohibit traffic until the floor is completely dry. Always use caution and follow electrical equipment manufacturer's safety instructions.

2. Initial Maintenance for a Newly Installed Floor

2.1 Allow the adhesive to cure for at least 48 hours prior to wet cleaning the floor.

2.2 Sweep, dust mop or vacuum the floor thoroughly to remove all loose dirt, dust, grit and debris.

- Remove any dried adhesive residue from the surface with adhesive remover or mineral spirits applied to a clean, lint-free cloth. Do not allow excessive amounts of solvents to sit on the vinyl or penetrate the joints of the flooring. **Note: Never apply solvent directly to flooring!**
- After 48 hours damp mop the floor using a Neutral PH Cleaner.
- If necessary, scrub the floor using an auto scrubber or rotary machine (300 rpm or less) with Neutral PH Cleaner using the proper dilution ratio and the appropriate scrubbing brush or pad. Fit the buffer with a 3M equivalent red or white scrubbing pad and work the solution over the floor.
- Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh clean water. Remove the dirty residue with a wet-vacuum or clean mop and allow the floor to dry completely.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

1. **Stain Removal** To remove stubborn spots or stains from ELEMENTAL floors, always begin with mild cleaners such as a neutral cleaner. If this fails to remove stain, use mineral spirits. Do not use harsh solvents such as lacquer thinner or straight acetone, as these can permanently soften and damage the vinyl surface.

   For extreme staining such as paints, permanent markers, dyes, try applying fingernail polish remover containing acetone (do not use straight acetone) applied to a soft cloth and rubbing. Subsequent to this cleaning procedure for stubborn spots, please clean the affected area with clear water to remove any residue. Any damage resulting from use of pure solvents IS NOT covered by warranty. Always test stronger cleaning agents on sample pieces or in unnoticeable areas first.

2. Daily/Routine Maintenance

- Clean entryway walk-off mats to remove dirt, grit, sand and other contaminants from being tracked onto the floor as needed.
- Sweep, dust mop or vacuum (without beater bar assembly) the floor thoroughly to remove all loose dirt, dust, grit and debris that can stick to and damage the surface of the floor.
- Spills should be cleaned up immediately. Spot clean using a neutral PH cleaner and microfibre or preferred mop.
- Damp mop the floor on a regular or daily basis using a Neutral PH Cleaner.

3. Periodic Maintenance

- When necessary, scrub the floor using an auto scrubber or rotary machine (300rpm or less) with a neutral cleaner, using the proper dilution ratio. Fit the buffer with a 3M equivalent red or white scrubbing pad and work the solution over the floor.
- Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh clean water. Remove the dirty residue with a wet-vacuum or clean mop and allow the floor to dry completely.

4. Floor Polish (Dressing) Solution

1. After completing steps 2.1 and 2.2 under the initial maintenance for a newly installed floor, machine scrub the floor with a neutral PH cleaner, using the proper dilution ratio. Fit the buffer with a 3M equivalent red or white scrubbing pad and work the solution over the floor to remove contamination and promote adhesion.
2. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh clean water. Remove the dirty residue with a wet-vacuum or clean mop and allow the floor to dry completely.
3. Using a hand held spray bottle with floor finish or spray buff product, working in small areas (10ft x 10ft), lightly mist the floor and buff using an auto scrubber or rotary machine (300 rpm or less) fitted with a 3M equivalent red pad. Follow manufacturer's instructions.
4. Daily routine and periodic maintenance should be performed as stated in above sections.
5. Machine scrubbing should always be conducted prior to spray buffing.

5. Refurbishment

If ongoing cleaning is no longer providing a satisfactory result a thorough cleaning, removal of polish and reapplication may be necessary.

1. Strip the entire floor according manufacturers' instruction label.
2. Use a low speed machine (300 rpm or less), scrub the floor with a scrubbing brush or pad equivalent to a 3M red pad.
3. Use a wet-vacuum or clean mop to remove the dirty stripping solution. If the floor begins to dry it may be necessary to drizzle fresh clean water onto the stripper solution to remove it.
4. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh clean water. Remove the dirty residue with a wet-vacuum or clean mop and allow the floor to dry completely.
5. Next, start over by following the Floor Polish solution, above.

Notes: Never use a brush or pad more aggressive than a 3M red equivalent. Blue, green, brown and black pads will damage the surface of the floor.