
Companion Guide for Voluntary Training **Wood / LVP / Laminate / Vinyl**

Standard References

- NWFA Installation Guidelines
- ANSI/HPVA EF 2012 - Hardwood and Decorative Plywood Standard
- RFCI Installation Guidelines
- ASTM F710-17 - Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring
- ASTM F1869-16 - Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride
- ASTM F2170-19 - Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes
- Manufacturer Guidelines



Suggested, Generally Accepted Installation Best Practices for Installing Wood Flooring

1. Wood Flooring Installation

Materials Needed:

- Wood flooring planks
- Moisture meter
- Underlayment
- Nails/staples or adhesive (depending on installation method)
- Saw
- Measuring tape
- Spacers
- Mallet
- Chalk line

1. Acclimate Flooring:

- Allow the wood flooring to acclimate in the installation area for 48-72 hours.

2. Prepare Subfloor:

- Ensure the subfloor is clean, dry, and level within 3/16 inch per 10 feet.
- Conduct a moisture testing on both the subfloor and the wood flooring.

3. Install Underlayment:

- Lay down the recommended underlayment to reduce noise and act as a moisture barrier.

4. Plan Layout:

- Measure the room and create a chalk line to ensure the first row is straight. The layout should be planned so that the final row or any cut planks are not less than 2" wide / long (NWFA).
- Leave a 1/4-to-1/2-inch expansion gap around the perimeter.

5. Install First Row:

- Lay the first row of planks along the chalk line, using spacers to maintain the expansion gap.
- Secure the planks with nails/staples or adhesive as per the manufacturer's instructions.

6. Continue Installation:

- Stagger the joints by at least 6 inches for stability.
- Continue laying and securing the planks, ensuring a tight fit.

7. Finishing Touches:

- If specified in the contract, remove the spacers and install the baseboards or molding to cover the expansion gap.
- If specified in the contract, clean the floor to remove any debris or adhesive residue and cover it.

Suggested, Generally Accepted Installation Best Practices for Installing LVP Flooring

2. Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP) Flooring Installation

Materials Needed:

- LVP planks
- Moisture meter
- Underlayment (if required)
- Utility knife
- Measuring tape
- Spacers
- Straight edge

1. Acclimate Flooring:

- Allow the LVP flooring to acclimate in the installation area for at least 48 hours.

2. Prepare Subfloor:

- Ensure the subfloor is clean, dry, and level within 1/8 inch per 6 feet.
- Conduct a moisture testing on the subfloor.

3. Install Underlayment:

- If recommended by the manufacturer, lay down the underlayment.

4. Plan Layout:

- Measure the room and create a layout plan, ensuring a staggered seam pattern. The layout should be planned so that the final row or any cut planks are not less than 2" wide / long (NWFA).

5. Install First Row:

- Lay the first row of planks, using spacers to maintain a 1/4-inch expansion gap.
- Cut the last plank to fit, if necessary.

6. Continue Installation:

- Click-lock or glue-down subsequent rows, ensuring the seams are staggered by at least 6 inches.
- Use a straight edge and utility knife for precise cuts.

7. Finishing Touches:

- If specified in the contract, remove the spacers and install the baseboards or molding.
- If specified in the contract, clean the floor to remove any debris, and cover it.

Suggested, Generally Accepted Installation Best Practices for Installing Laminate Flooring

3. Laminate Flooring Installation

Materials Needed:

- Laminate planks
- Moisture meter
- Underlayment
- Utility knife
- Measuring tape
- Spacers
- Saw
- Rubber mallet

1. Acclimate Flooring:

- Allow the laminate flooring to acclimate in the installation area for 48-72 hours.

2. Prepare Subfloor:

- Ensure the subfloor is clean, dry, and level within 1/8 inch per 6 feet.

3. Install Moisture Barrier and Underlayment:

- Install a moisture barrier if necessary.
- Lay down the recommended underlayment.

4. Plan Layout:

- Measure the room and plan the layout, ensuring staggered joints. The layout should be planned so that the final row or any cut planks are not less than 2" wide / long (NWFA).

5. Install First Row:

- Lay the first row of planks, using spacers to maintain a 1/4-inch expansion gap.
- Use a saw to cut the planks to fit as needed.

6. Continue Installation:

- Click-lock the subsequent rows, using a rubber mallet to ensure a tight fit.
- Stagger the end joints by at least 8 inches for stability.

7. Finishing Touches:

- If specified by the contract, remove the spacers and install the baseboards or molding.
- If specified by the contract, clean the floor to remove any debris and cover it.

Suggested, Generally Accepted Installation Best Practices for Installing Vinyl Flooring

4. Vinyl Flooring Installation

Materials Needed:

- Vinyl planks/tiles
- Moisture meter
- Underlayment (if required)
- Utility knife
- Measuring tape
- Spacers
- Adhesive (if required)
- Seam sealer (if required)

1. Acclimate Flooring:

- Allow the vinyl flooring to acclimate in the installation area for at least 24 hours.

2. Prepare Subfloor:

- Ensure the subfloor is clean, dry, and level within 1/8 inch per 6 feet.
- Conduct a moisture testing on the subfloor.

3. Install Underlayment:

- If recommended by the manufacturer, lay down the underlayment.

4. Plan Layout:

- Measure the room and plan the layout, ensuring the seams are staggered.

5. Install First Row:

- Lay the first row of planks/tiles, using spacers to maintain a 1/8-to-1/4-in expansion gap.
- Cut the last plank/tile to fit, if necessary.

6. Continue Installation:

- Click-lock, peel-and-stick, or glue-down the subsequent rows, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use a utility knife for precise cuts.

7. Finishing Touches:

- Remove the spacers and install the baseboards or molding.
- Apply a seam sealer if recommended.
- Clean the floor to remove any debris.