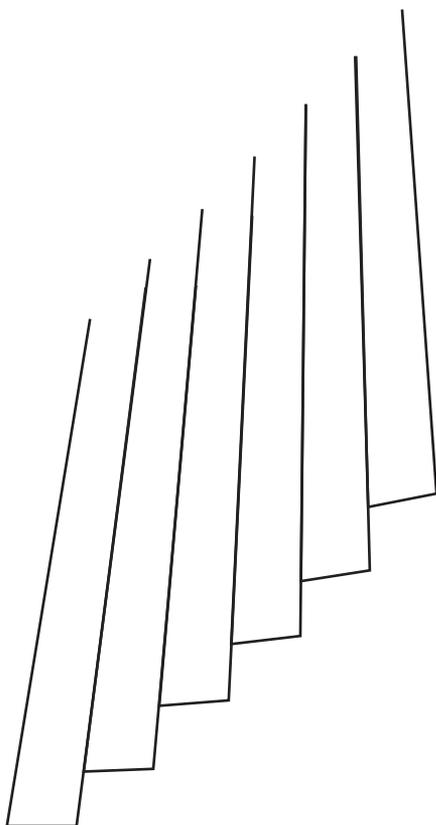


# TIGHT-FIT<sup>®</sup> Flooring

*Installation instructions*



## PREPARATION

XL Flooring planks and tiles are very stable. They do not expand or contract like other types of flooring. As long as the surface you are applying our product to is hard and flat, installation will be easy.

Do not lay our flooring over carpet or foam underlayment. This is an indoor flooring product and, while it is stable, we do not recommend it for outside use or rooms that are subject to high humidity and extreme cold temperatures. Applying this flooring in such areas will void the warranty.

Planks should be allowed to acclimate at room temperature (approx. 21°C/70°F) for 48 hours prior to installation. New concrete floors need to dry out for at least 60 days prior to installation. Make sure the floor is smooth, clean, and free of wax, grease, oil or dust. The floor should have an even surface; uneven areas must be fixed with a proper leveling compound. Where moisture is an issue, test that in concrete, the maximum acceptable emission level of 3lbs. of hydrostatic pressure emitting per 1,000 sq.ft. per 24 hours is not exceeded. For plywood, OSB or any wood substrate, ensure that the moisture content is 11% or under in all areas.

To achieve a good looking final result the first row of planks should be laid down squarely. As walls are seldom straight, you may have to drop a chalk line and/or scribe the first and last rows to fit tightly against the wall.

### **Tools Required:**

- Utility knife and a guillotine type cutter
- Straight Edge
- Measuring Tape

### **Material Required:**

Measure the length & width of your room. If the room has alcoves or offsets, measure these separately. This will give you the square footage of the room. We recommend you purchase an additional 10% to cover any errors in measurement and trimming. And, since our flooring is so easy to install and remove, it's a good idea to keep a few planks in storage for replacement purposes should a plank get damaged over time and use.

Depending on the XL Flooring product purchased the sales associate and package labelling will let you know the square footage contained in a box.

You will need a pressure sensitive adhesive (we recommend an adhesive that is formulated for use with vinyl tiles and planks) to secure the perimeter planks. For light duty application a double-sided tape can be used to secure the perimeter planks (insure that the double sided tape is rated for use with vinyl flooring).

If the floor is being laid for heavy duty use, such as a floor that will have industrial equipment rolled across it, we recommend applying pressure sensitive adhesive over the entire floor surface.

## **SUB-FLOORS**

If the surface you are installing our flooring to is hard and flat a sub-floor is not required. Please follow the following instructions for preparing a surface the flooring will be applied to.

### **Preparation of Floor and/or Subfloor:**

The floor or subfloor surface must be smooth, flat, dry, clean and solid. Staples, nails or loose adhesive leftover from previous flooring must be removed to insure proper installation.

Floors or subfloors should be flat within a tolerance of 1/8" (3mm) over a span of 6 feet. Any unevenness over 1/8" (3mm) must be sanded down or filled with a floor leveler. Voids or humps in the subfloor will prevent our flooring from laying down properly.

Floors or subfloors must be carefully checked for moisture problems. Any moisture problems need to be addressed prior to installation.

When laying our flooring over existing ceramic tile, it will be necessary to skim coat the grout lines with a floor leveler.

We recommend treated plywood as a sub-floor material, it performs better than oriented strand board (OSB).

Our product is very forgiving so when applied over a sub-floor very little prep work is required for most installations but, of course, the better the subfloor the better the end result.

In most residential and commercial applications our products do not require any underlay for sound transmission. Most of our products have an IIC rating of 52 which meets building code, in the U.S.A and Canada, for sound transmission without any underlayment.

If you require a higher sound absorption rating, we recommend using a 2mm cork or a combination of cork and rubber underlay, which will add an additional 9 points to your total sound rating. Use a full spread adhesive under the the cork panels then apply our planks over the panels using either perimeter or full coverage gluing techniques.

# INSTALLATION

## Plan Your Layout:

Before laying out the floor, check the wall you are starting from and make sure it is square to the opposite wall. Simply measure the room from opposite ends of the wall to the far wall. If the measurements are different, you can make adjustments on the first row of our planks by scribing.

Lay a row of planks across the full length of the room to determine if you need to adjust the length of the first plank to avoid a small piece of less than 12" on the opposite wall from where you started. An endseam offset of between 16" and 18" from row to row will create the most attractive floor pattern when completed.

To cut a plank, measure and mark the plank, then using a straight edge and utility knife, simply score the plank and snap it off. If using a guillotine cutter align your measurement mark to the cutting edge of the cutter then chop.

## TIGHT-FIT® Method

Easy do-it-yourself or professional installation method when you have a nice straight wall to start and finish TIGHT-FIT® against. This option requires no glue or tape. TIGHT-FIT® means tight against the wall - **NO EXPANSION GAP**. If your wall is not straight, you may have to scribe your first and last row to fit imperfections in the walls.

## Tape Method

Easy do it yourself method when you don't have straight walls to start and finish TIGHT-FIT® against. Check the tape's packaging and make sure it is formulated for vinyl. Some carpet tapes may damage your floor and void the warranty. Make sure the adhesion on the tape is not compromised by dust. Apply tape all around the perimeter. If in a kitchen, it is a good idea to put an X in front of the fridge.

**Note:** Adhesive tape applied to the surface of our products may cause damage or discoloration. Since we do not have any control over the manufacturing of such products we cannot warranty against any damage caused by their use.

## Perimeter-Glue Method

This is a method preferred by installers. It is faster than TIGHT-FIT® (no scribing) and more secure than tape. Using a paint roller or a small-notched (1/16" x 1/16") trowel apply an 8" wide band of pressure-sensitive adhesive around the perimeter of the room. We recommend you use an adhesive formulated for vinyl flooring. Make sure you let the adhesive dry completely (you should be able to put your hand on the glued area and get no transfer onto your hand). Once glue is dry lay the planks or tiles nice and tight together.

### **Full Spread Method**

Only required in hospitals, doctors and dentists offices as well as constantly moist areas such as behind bars or around pools. Apply pressure sensitive adhesive - We recommend you use an adhesive formulated for vinyl flooring over the entire floor. Make sure you let the adhesive dry completely.

### **Laying Down the First Row:**

Install planks tight together in a straight line as close to the starting wall as possible. Stagger the endseams of each subsequent row. Again, this is tight fit flooring so no expansion gap is required. If you do have a slight gap between the wall and the first row a base board can cover it.

### **Laying Down the Floor:**

Continue to lay rows of planks, tight fitting each plank up against the previous row.

### **Laying Down the Final Row:**

If required, trim final row planks for tight fit against the opposing wall. To do so lay planks over previous row pushing them tightly against the wall. Measure the distance of the overlap then carry that measurement over to the wall edge of the plank. Mark the plank, set your straight edge and cut. Fit the planks into place but do not force them in. Cut edges of planks should always be facing the wall.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Sweep, Vacuum and Mop floors regularly!

A strong polyurethane coating on our flooring planks will protect your floor from everyday wear and tear. Follow the precautions below for keeping your floor looking good for years to come.

Use proper floor protectors on all chairs and furnishings. Examine your protectors periodically, check for burs, debris or wear and make sure the surface is smooth. Do not drag furniture or heavy objects across your floor! These precautions will prevent scratches and indentations from appearing on your floor.

Any damage caused by high-heeled shoes, dropping sharp and pointed objects, rolling carts, heavy equipment, furniture and chairs without protective pads will not be covered by our warranty.

Do not expose floor to frequent standing water and wipe up all spills quickly. If an extensive amount of water has gotten into the subfloor remove the flooring planks and allow the subfloor adequate time to dry before reinstalling the planks.

## MAINTENANCE cont'd

Watch for tracked-in dirt and grit particles. Use walk-off mats at all entrances. Do not use rubber-backed mats as these will discolor the floor. Discoloration caused by using rubber-backed mats is not warranted.

Do not use any type of harsh detergent or solvents like lacquer thinner, abrasive cleaners or Mop and Shine type products; these will leave a film on the surface of the plank. Avoid vinegar as a cleaning agent.

Use cleaners that are recommended for vinyl. When vacuuming use the proper attachment for hard flooring. Do not use the beater brush attachment on any hard surface floor.

## WARRANTY

### **Our Residential Warranty:**

The term of our warranty will be displayed on product packaging. Our residential limited warranty means that for the period of time indicated on the packaging, from the date of purchase, your floor will be free from manufacturing defects and will not wear through or permanently stain from common household products when installed and maintained according to instructions herein. This guarantee applies only to the original purchaser and proof of purchase is required for all claims. The guarantee is for replacement or refund of the vinyl planks or tiles only, any labor and additional materials used for the installation of our flooring will not be warranted under any circumstances.

### **Our Light Commercial Warranty:**

The term of our warranty will be displayed on product packaging. Our light commercial limited warranty means that for the period of time indicated on packaging, from the date of purchase, your floor will be free from manufacturing defects and will not wear through when installed and maintained according to instructions herein. This guarantee applies only to the original end user and proof of purchase is required for all claims. The guarantee is for replacement or refund of the vinyl planks or tiles only, any labor and additional materials used for the installation of our flooring will not be warranted under any circumstances.

## FAQ's

### **Q: Is your product waterproof/affected by moisture?**

**A:** Our products are not affected by moisture and are impenetrable to water leaks when installed tightly together. However, if our flooring sits in water over time, water will begin to penetrate between the seams, as water will find a way through any material. The beauty of our product is that if there is a leak, or a flood, our product can simply be removed, the sub-floor dried, and the product re-installed.

### **Q: Does your product provide warmth?**

**A:** Yes, even when installed directly over concrete our product will remain warm to the touch. Why? Vinyl is less conductive than other flooring, which means that the ambient temperature in the room will not be affected, making your feet feel warm.

### **Q: What should I do if I have a washer/dryer?**

**A:** Due to potential vibrations in the laundry area, it is preferable to glue-down our product using a pressure-sensitive adhesive. Should a major leak occur where water penetrates around the perimeter, the flooring should be removed, the sub-floor dried, and the product reinstalled.

### **Q: How do I clean your product?**

**A:** Our products are designed to be easy to install, and more importantly, easy to maintain. It is with this in mind that we recommend the following methods to keep your flooring looking like new for years:

1. Regular sweeping or vacuuming to keep grit away
2. Occasional damp mopping with a little warm water and any no rinse PH neutral floor cleaner to take care of sticky situations. Use products recommended for vinyl. We do not recommend using vinegar, dishwashing soap, or other soaps that may leave residue on the surface of the product. For quick fixes, you can try a window cleaner; they work great and leave no residue. Steam cleaners can be used with great results, but are generally not necessary.

### **Q: I have a dog/cat. Can I use this floor? If my pet urinates on the floor while I am out, will this damage the floor?**

**A:** We have good news for you – our hard-wearing surface is not affected by pet “accidents” and can stand up to the toughest wear. If your furry little friend leaves a present while you are out, a good scrubbing with an ammonia-based cleaner will take care of the odour as well as any leftover germs. In addition, our products are coated with anti-microbial beads that prevent bacteria from developing, giving you a clean, safe floor.

## FAQ's

**Q: Can the flooring be installed in a kitchen, under the fridge, or under the stove?**

*A: Our flooring has been installed in thousands of kitchens with great success. If possible use proper appliance sliders. If not possible we recommend using additional two-sided tape or pressure-sensitive adhesive under fridges and stoves. Like all other flooring, our product is not warranted against damage caused by dragging heavy appliances across the surface of the floor*

**Q: How easy is it to pick-up the planks once they are installed?**

*A: If you ever need to pick up a plank once it is installed, usually all you will need is an everyday toilet plunger. For installations where the product has been glued-down, we suggest using a sharp edge to bring up the damaged plank.*

**Q: I am concerned about toxic gasses/emissions, what are your products rated?**

*A: Our products are made in a safe way without the use of many toxic materials. Our products also have an anti-microbial coating making them ideal for families. All of our products have been tested and certified by SCS Global Services. By meeting the FloorScore requirements set forth by SCS, our products meet stringent guidelines for indoor air quality. For more information, please visit: [www.scsglobalservices.com/floorscore](http://www.scsglobalservices.com/floorscore). As well, we have third-party verification that our products will contribute points to projects seeking LEED certification.*

**Q: Can I use your flooring over electric or hot water radiant heated floors?**

*A: Our product is regularly installed over radiant heated floors. When installing over radiant heat (heated floors), ensure radiant heat is turned off three hours prior to install, during installation and three hours after completion. When in use, thermostat setting should not exceed 30°C (80°F). Always allow any applied sub-flooring adequate time to dry completely before installing our product.*

**Q: I've been told that applying painters tape on your flooring will result in staining from the tape. Is that true?**

*A: Adhesive tape applied to the surface of our products may cause damage or discoloration. Since we do not have any control over the manufacturing of such products we cannot warranty against any damage caused by their use.*