

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTION

## For Bliss DB Luxury Vinyl Plank and Tile (LVT) Flooring

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Below are guidelines for installing Luxury Vinyl Tile Flooring. Please follow these instructions carefully to assure a successful installation of this product. Thoroughly inspect all material. Installed flooring found to be defective will not be covered by warranty nor labor costs associated with removal & reinstallation. All moisture and temperature tests must be performed and recorded prior to installation with results not to exceed the adhesive manufacturer's specifications. A significant number of installation failures in the market today are due to moisture or temperature related issues.

This product should be stored at the jobsite free from all the outside elements. This product should be acclimated to the conditioned temperature inside and must be kept at 65 - 70 degrees F before, during, and after the installation for at least 48 hours. The jobsite must be cleaned and prepared prior to starting the installation. All patch work and preparation to the subfloor must be done and allowed to dry prior to starting the installation.

Check cartons and leave one or two box labels with the end user. If a different batch or lot number, to minimize shade variation mix product from several boxes. If the product looks incorrect stop the installation immediately and call your local retailer.

DO NOT: Do not install this product over residual asphalt-type (cut back) adhesive. Cover with underlayment plywood to avoid bleeding through.

DO NOT: Do not install product with visible defect. This product is manufactured to high quality inspection standards but boxes can have occasional defective product contained inside. If you notice excessive defect stop the installation immediately and call your local retailer. The manufacturer is not responsible for visually defective material installed.

### PRE-INSTALLATION SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Proper subfloor preparation and suitable underlayment installation are essential for a trouble-free job. Uneven or rough subfloor surfaces will show through (or telegraph) to the surface of this product resulting in an unsightly surface and can make high spots more susceptible to excessive wear. Correct the subfloor imperfections before you begin installing this product.

**WOOD SUBFLOORS** - Wood subfloors must be rigid and suspended at least 18" above the ground with adequate cross ventilation. Crawl space ground must be covered with suitable vapor barrier. Do not install this product over a wood subfloor which is directly on top of a concrete substrate or sleeper system. Wood subfloors must be covered with a minimum 1/4" or heavier underlayment rated panel to assure a successful installation.

If an existing wood subfloor is damaged or not of underlayment grade one must be put in place prior to beginning the installation of this product. The approved underlayment should provide a smooth and even surface for this product. Do not install this product over particle board, chipboard, construction grade plywood, lauan plywood, hardboard, or flakeboard. Wood underlayment panels should be dimensionally stable. Wood underlayment panels should be smooth and fully sanded so the graining or texturing will not show through. Wood underlayment panels should be resistant to both static and impact indentation. Wood underlayment should be free from any surface components that may cause staining such as plastic fillers, marking inks, sealers, etc. Wood underlayment panels should be uniform density, porosity and thickness. Wood underlayment panels must have a written warranty for suitability and performance from the panel manufacturer or have a history of proven performance.

Underlayment panels should be installed with the face grain running across the joists. Panels should be lightly butted against each other, not forced tight. End joints of the panels should be offset at least 16". Start the installation in one corner and work diagonally across the floor. Use only non-staining fasteners. Do not use common steel, cement coated or some nails that are resin/rosin coated. It is not recommended to glue and screw down underlayment panels as some solvent based adhesives are known to stain vinyl flooring coverings. Fasteners should be staggered and no more than 4" apart around the perimeter and no more than 3/8" from the edges (6" apart across the middle of the panel). Fasteners must set flush or slightly below the surface of the underlayment. Any unevenness must be sanded level. Gaps, hammer indentations, and all other surface irregularities must be patched with a non-shrinking, water resistant Portland cementitious based patching underlayment compound. Do not use gypsum-based patches & leveling compounds.

**CONCRETE SUBFLOORS** - This product is approved for subfloors with radiant heat. LVT adhesive should also be approved for radiant or higher heat. The temperature cannot go above 80° F. Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth and free from dust, dirt, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, asphalt sealing compounds and other extraneous materials. The surface must be hard and dense and free from powder of flaking. New concrete slabs must be allowed to dry and completely prior to beginning the installation of this product, which take at least 6 weeks. Curing agents, surface hardeners and other additives may cause adhesive bond failure. All concrete subfloors must be checked for moisture and alkalinity before installing this product. Do not install over any subfloor with moisture emissions higher than 5 lbs. per 1000 sq.ft. per 24 hours per calcium chloride test. As in wood subfloor systems, all holes, grooves, expansion joints, and other depressions must be filled with a latex underlayment compound and towed smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.

**EXISTING RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING** - This product is not approved over existing resilient floor covering. WARNING: Do not sand, dry scrape, bead blast or mechanically pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing or lining felt. These products may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Using the above non-recommended procedures on asbestos containing material can create asbestos dust. The inhalation of asbestos dust may cause cancer or other serious bodily harm.

The final responsibility lies with the installer for approving the condition of the subfloor and its impact on the final look of this product.

### GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION

Only approved adhesives may be used with this product. You can get the most current list of adhesives from your local retailer or wholesaler. We recommend using Schönox EMICLASSIC adhesive. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the adhesive that you chose. With the approved adhesive apply a 1/16" wide, 1/16" deep, 1/16" apart square notched trowel. Flooring should not span more than 50 feet. Double the recommended expansion space against all fixed objects and walls.

**General Wet Set Adhesive Installations:** Spread the adhesive in a thin even coat. Each section must be no larger than an area that can easily be covered with flooring in approximately 20 minutes under normal conditions (70 degrees F, 40% humidity). Allow for a few minutes open time for the adhesive to tack up, then install the planks immediately while adhesive is still wet, before it skins over or dries. Position the plank firmly in adhesive without sliding and periodically check to assure at least 90% of the adhesive pattern has transferred to the back of the tile. Use a large tile cutter or the score and snap technique for fitting planks or tiles around the boarder.

**General Dry Set Adhesive Installations:** Spread the adhesive in a thin even coat. Allow adhesive to dry until it changes color and will not transfer to finger when touched. Dry adhesive is extremely tacky. Lay tile into dry adhesive positioning carefully because it will be difficult to slide the tile. Roll each section immediately upon completing with a 100 lb three section roller. Re-roll the entire floor after one or two hours then again after the installation in both directions.

Remove any excess adhesive immediately with soapy water. Dried adhesive is difficult to remove. Cover all exposed edges. Install wood or vinyl shoe/cove moldings along the walls, cabinet toe kicks, etc. Install transitions moldings and caulk along tubs, toilets, etc. Dried adhesive should with an approved non-flammable cleaner or solvent. Do not wash or treat the floor for a minimum of 48 hours after installation. After 48 hours, damp mop to remove residual surface dirt.

### CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Preventative Maintenance calls for clean protective mats in front of any doors leading to the outside. This helps limit the amount of sand and grit from getting on to your vinyl floors. Gritty sand is any floor coverings worst enemy. Also, if you installed the tile in your kitchen, you should place a throw rug in front of the sink area to catch spills and splashes. If the rug gets soaked it should be removed and allowed to dry. Install proper floor protectors on furniture legs used on vinyl flooring. Protectors will allow chairs to move easily over the floor without scuffing or scratching. Clean the protectors on a regular basis to remove any grit that may have become embedded. Do not wax the bottom of furniture legs. To keep your floor looking it's best, dust mop or vacuum your floor frequently. Do not use household dust treatment chemical of any kind as this may cause the floor to become slick or dull the finish. Simply sweep the floor as needed. Do not pour pails of water on your floor to clean or use excessive water. This can damage your subfloor. Do not allow pets with unclipped nails to walk on the vinyl floor. It could cause severe scratching to the surface.

Regular maintenance calls for food spills to be cleaned up as quickly as possible. Avoid acidic or abrasive all-purpose cleaners, powdered cleaners, oil soaps, dish washing detergents, and dusting products. Show marks and scuffs can be removed by spot cleaning with a non-abrasive all purpose cleaner and a non-abrasive scrubbing pad. Regular household dirt can be cleaned by damp cleaning with warm soapy water. Always sweep and vacuum your vinyl floor before cleaning. Do not wax the surface of this product.

If accidental deep scratches occur then it might be necessary to replace individual planks or tiles. Always retain some extra product for this instance. To replace, score the plank or tile diagonally with a utility knife and make sure not to damage adjacent planks. Point a hair dryer about 4 inches from the center of the tile for about 45 seconds or until it is hot to the touch. Pry up the plank starting from the middle. More heat may be necessary to work the piece. Smoothen the subfloor surface (can use floor patching or leveling compound sparingly) and reapply adhesive.

Avoid moving heavy furniture on to a newly installed floor for at least 24 hours

Avoid excessive heat and light exposure which will cause degradation of the product.