

evoke®

LUXURY VINYL

INSTALLATION GUIDE

PRODUCT USE & INSTALLATION OPTIONS

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE STARTING THE INSTALLATION.

Evoke Luxury vinyl floors must be installed in accordance with the following instructions. Failure to do so may void the product warranty.

PRODUCT USE:

Our luxury vinyl floors.

- Interior applications only.
- On, above or below grade
- Over radiant heated floors where the surface temperature of the subfloor is within specification. See details below.

RADIANT HEAT SYSTEMS

Most of Evoke Luxury Vinyl floors are suitable for installation over compatible in-floor radiant heat systems. The following exceptions are;
Pad Attached Luxury vinyl products.

Installation of Pad Attached Luxury vinyl over radiant heat will void the product warranty.

It is the homeowner's responsibility to determine if the radiant heat system being considered is compatible for use under the floor being installed. We recommend that the homeowner contact the system manufacturer and get written confirmation that the system is approved for use with Luxury vinyl flooring and under what operating conditions. Prior to installation, ensure that the radiant heat system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks. The heating wires that are a part of the radiant system should be separated from the flooring by a minimum of ¼" (cementitious, or other). Set subfloor temperatures to the level the customer will maintain under normal living conditions, usually between 68°F (20°C) and 76°F (24°C). Flooring should be installed at this temperature and for a minimum of 48 hours after installation. Surface/floor temperature should not exceed 85°F (29°C). and that temperature changes be moderated in increments of 5°F/2°C per day to avoid 'shocking' the floor.

Where possible, we recommend the use of a data logger to monitor and record temperature and humidity. conditions: this provides a record of the environmental conditions and may also help take preventive measures where conditions are outside of recommended levels. Evoke accepts no responsibility for any damage to the floor caused by a radiant heat system. Such damage is not covered by the product warranty.

PRODUCT INSPECTION & SITE PREPARATION

INSTALLER'S / CUSTOMER'S RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the installer and/or customer to ensure that the Evoke product meets or exceeds their expectations for visual appearance and manufacturing quality.

Evoke flooring is manufactured to the highest standards of product quality, but occasional. manufacturing defects may occur in the product. It is the sole and joint responsibility of the installer and owner to conduct a quality inspection of all pieces of Evoke flooring before installation. Do not install product if damaged, defective, or expired adhesive is found. Any pieces of flooring that appear to contain a manufacturing defect should not be installed. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the installer and owner, even if the owner is not present at the time of installation. If defects are found, please contact your dealer. It is the sole responsibility of the flooring installer to ensure that the job site, subfloor and installation and materials meet or exceed all applicable industry standards. Do not mix lot numbers within the same room. Evoke accepts no responsibility for problems arising from incorrect or improper site preparation or installation procedures.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

- Carry/transport cartons of flooring flat with the use of a carry board.
- Remove flooring and sundries from your vehicle immediately after transporting.

ACCLIMATION AND TEMPERATURE

The site temperature must be maintained between 65°F (18°C) and 85°F (29°C) before, during and after the installation. Material brought to the site should have a minimum of 24-48 hours for the flooring to become balanced to the install sites interior temperature. While acclimating the material to the site, Cartons of flooring should be stored on a dry, flat, level surface, laid flat and carefully stacked squarely on top of one another, and not more than five cartons high is recommended. Be careful not to store in direct sunlight. An operating permanent HVAC system is in place, UV glass and or window coverings present to prevent excessive heat build-up on the floor.

JOB SITE CONDITIONS

Installation in new and existing construction.

- Installation of Evoke Luxury vinyl flooring is one of the last jobs in the home.
- Prior to installing, ensure that:
- These floors should not be used in garages, commercial kitchens, food processing areas, or heavy industrial areas.
- The building is completely enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place and securable, including a door from an attached garage to the house interior.
- All concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, texturing, painting and other wet work is complete and thoroughly cured and dry.
- Do not install over Expansion Zones/Strips or active concrete joints. No flooring should be installed over expansion zones/strips unless specified and warranted by architect/designer/general contractor.
- Basements and crawlspaces are dry. Crawlspaces must have no standing water; crawlspaces must also have a vapor barrier and adequate ventilation in accordance with local building codes.
- Gutters and downspouts are in place, directing water away from the building.
- All areas should be fully enclosed, weather-tight, with the permanent HVAC in operation.
- UV Glass or window coverings should be in place to prevent excessive heat build-up on the floor.
- Substrates must be clean, dry, sound, smooth and flat ($\leq 3/16''$ over 10 ft or $\leq 1/8''$ over 6 ft. Radius.).
- If installing over radiant heat, ensure that the system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks prior to install.
- Remove all furniture, artwork and other valuables from the installation area, if necessary
- Remove baseboards and moldings.
- Undercut door casings (use a piece of the flooring as a depth gauge)
- Remove existing flooring, if necessary
- Suspected asbestos or other contaminants, Follow all national and local safety and work practice guidelines. This may include, but is not limited to: The most recent version of "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" found at www.RFCI.com

SUBFLOOR & PREPARATION

Subfloor is defined as a part of the structural support of the building and is not considered a surface where luxury vinyl is directly applied, with some exceptions for concrete. Substrate is defined as the surface on which the flooring is applied.

Ensure that the job site is ready for the installation of floor covering. It is the installer's responsibility to determine whether site conditions are suitable for the installation of flooring. If site conditions are not appropriate, do not install the floor; inform the general contractor and/or owner, and do not proceed until remedial actions to correct have been taken.

All subfloors must be flat, clean, dry, structurally sound, free of squeaks, and protruding fasteners. The subfloor must be flat to $\leq 3/16''$ over 10 ft or $\leq 1/8''$ over 6 ft. Radius.

The manufacturer, distributor or dealer is not responsible for any floor installation failures associated with unaddressed site conditions, such as, but not exclusively: vapor transmission, moisture permeation, improper PH levels, contaminated concrete, or damaged subfloors. The ultimate responsibility for subfloor acceptability and compatibility resides with the architect, designer, contractor and installer. Note that tests

done today do not guarantee long-term performance of the substrate. Guard against long-term exposure to moisture by installing proper vapor retarder or barrier and channelling water away from the building.

Substrates must be smooth, structurally sound, permanently dry, clean, and free of all contaminants such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oil, old adhesive residue, curing or hardening compounds, sealers, and any other materials that could interfere with the adhesive bond. Asphalt-based (cut-back) or other adhesive residues must be removed using industry-approved methods such as mechanical removal or wet scraping. Evoke recommends a 72-hour bond test to determine if the surface preparation (cleanliness, dryness, and surface roughness) was adequate for achieving optimal bond strength. The use of solvents or citrus-based adhesive removers is not recommended, as residual chemicals may compromise the performance of the new adhesive and floor covering.

WOOD SUBFLOORS

The minimum acceptable thickness of the subflooring will be determined by the truss/joist spacing. In addition to meeting or exceeding the minimum acceptable thickness requirement, the subfloor must be secure to the joists, free of squeaks, and protruding fasteners. Subfloor moisture content must not exceed 12%. Wood Subfloors must have a minimum of 18" of ventilated air space below (crawl space). Crawl space must be covered with a suitable vapor barrier. Chip board, OSB, particleboard, construction grade plywood are generally not acceptable substrates – add a layer of APA underlayment grade plywood that is dimensionally stable, non-staining, with a smooth fully sanded face.

Truss/joist spacing	Minimum acceptable tickness, 4' x 8' sheets
16" (406mm) or less	5/8" (19/32", 15.1mm) CD Exposure 1 Plywood
More than 16", up to 19.2" (488mm)	3/4" (23/32", 18.3mm) T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood
More than 19.2" to a max. of 24"	7/8" T&G Exposure 1 Plywood, two layers of subflooring

WOOD UNDERLAYMENT

All underlayment panels must be smooth, clean, dry and acclimated, and a minimum of ¼" (6.35mm) thick. Panels must not be treated with any substance, including preservatives, moisture inhibitors, and free of any wax, silicone, solvents, dyes, or other materials that may stain the flooring. Nails or other fasteners that do not bleed or rust should be used when installing underlayment panels. Performance for the underlayment rests with the underlayment manufacturer and is not warranted by the flooring manufacturer. Follow the underlayment manufacturer's recommendations. resilient flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood.

Below are the approved types of wooden substrate, provided the manufacturer guarantees it won't stain the flooring, and that it is specifically rated as an underlayment approved for direct-glue luxury vinyl installations.

- Plywood - APA rated - smooth face, exterior exposure classification.
- Plywood - Lauan or Hardboard.
- OSB underlayment APA rated - smooth face, classification.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

All new and existing concrete subfloors must comply with the latest editions of ACI 302 and ASTM F710, *Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring*, available from ASTM International.

Concrete subfloors: must be clean and free of non-compatible sealers, waxes, oil, paint, drywall compound, or other bond-breaking substances. (Check for the presence of sealers by applying drops of water to the slab. If the water beads up, there may be sealers or oils.) They must be fully cured (minimum 30 days) and have been tested to ensure they meet one of the following specifications:

ASTM F1869 – Calcium Chloride Test: the moisture vapor emissions rate (MVER) should not exceed 3 lbs. / 1000. Sq. Ft. per 24 hours.

ASTM F2170 – RH Probe Test: the maximum allowable limit of relative humidity within the slab is 75%. If these conditions cannot be met, further curing or a moisture control system (vapor retarder or membrane) will be required.

Alkalinity – according to ASTM F710 pH reading depends on the adhesive used. Refer to the adhesive manufacturer’s recommendations (in most cases, it will be posted on the label of the pail). Readings below 7.0 and in excess of 10.0 can affect resilient flooring and adhesives negatively.

Lightweight Concrete (Gypcrete) Subfloors: must meet manufacturer’s recommendations for dry, cured conditions. Compressive Strength Minimums, 2500 psi or more.

EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORS

It is acceptable to install over existing resilient flooring provided it is securely bonded to the substrate, solid, and free of deflection. Show no signs of moisture or alkalinity, and waxes, polishes, grease, grime, and oil must be removed. Use an embossing leveller or premium modified cementitious patch to fill any depressions, cracks, or voids.

WARNING

Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast, or mechanically chip/pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic “cut-back” adhesives, or other adhesives. These materials may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust—inhalation of this dust is a known cancer and respiratory hazard.

If you are not absolutely certain that the material is asbestos-free, assume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require laboratory testing to confirm asbestos content and may dictate how the material must be removed and disposed of. Refer to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for safe removal procedures. Current information is available at www.rfci.com.

POLYMERIC POURED FLOORS

It is acceptable to install over providing floor are well bonded to structurally sound substrate. Must be clean, dry, flat, and free of bumps, cracks, or depressions.

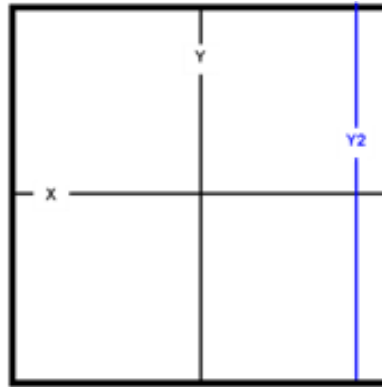
ACOUSTICAL UNDERLAYMENT

Evoke luxury vinyl should only be installed over an approved acoustical underlay. Crumb rubber underlayments are not an acceptable option for use with resilient floor coverings due to performance issues resulting from chemical incompatibilities. Do not use acoustical underlayment where heavy static or dynamic loads are present. Use furniture legs and appliance feet protectors to dissipate heavy static weight loads. Use flat, not domed protectors with felt pads. For more information on this subject, read Evoke luxury vinyl product care & maintenance instructions.

LAYOUT, AND INSTALLATION

If you are installing acoustical underlayment, do so now and mark your layout directly onto the underlayment. Evoke recommends performing a bond test in order to determine adhesive working time per job site conditions. Precise measurements are essential. Plan your layout so the edges of the flooring planks do not fall directly over underlayment seams and install the underlayment perpendicular to the direction of the finished flooring.

- Start by squaring the room and locating the center point.
- Snap chalk lines along the horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) axes.
- From the center, measure toward each wall to ensure the planks closest to the walls will be at least 6" in length and at least half the plank width, and that they are balanced evenly on both sides of the room.
- Based on this, measure from the original Y line toward the wall a distance equal to one full plank width + the partial plank width determined in the previous step + the expansion space. Snap a new chalk line at this point (Y2).
- Determine whether the starting plank needs to be cut to length. If the cutoff piece is longer than 6", keep it to use at the beginning or end of another row.



Layout for planks

FLOORING INSTALLATION

- For areas where wheelchairs are used, Evoke Flooring recommends installing the floor with a hard-set adhesive.
- Planks should be cut using the score and snap method or by using a vinyl tile cutter.
- Undercut door jambs where applicable. Maintain a 3/16" expansion zone at all walls and other vertical obstacles.
- Install by pulling planks or tiles from several cartons concurrently. This important step will assure a random and natural appearance.
- If installing on a landing or on a stair tread, flooring must be glued directly to the stair tread using hard-set adhesive. Special procedures must be followed. Request more information from our technical department.
- Follow adhesive manufacturer recommendations and adjust for substrate conditions.
- In bathrooms or other areas where moisture could reach the subfloor by migrating to the perimeter of the installation, caulk around the perimeter of the installation with 100% silicone. Care should be taken to avoid caulking above the flooring height as it may impede the installation of the wall base.
- Install specified transition strips where applicable. These accessories are available from your Evoke dealer.
- All flooring must be rolled with a minimum 100-lb roller after installation. Use a hand roller in areas not reached with a 100-lb. roller.
- Avoid installing Evoke flooring in close proximity to direct sources of heat, such as woodstoves and fireplaces.
- Avoid prolonged exposure of the flooring to direct intense sunlight, which can generate significant heat.
- Protect flooring near large windows or patio doors with blinds or shades.
- Read and understand all maintenance and warranty information found at www.evokeflooring.com.
- Do not wet mop or use a stripping agent on the floor for seven days after installation. This will ensure the adhesive has sufficient time to cure. A damp mop can be used to remove dust from the surface of the flooring.
- Note: Do not use tape to secure floor protection during construction or renovation.

For additional information, please e-mail our Technical Services Department at techserv@metrofloors.com