

FLEXGEN LOOSE LAY LUXURY VINYL PLANK INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

These instructions are written as a guide to be used when installing Tarkett Flooring. These instructions, combined with our adhesives and flooring products, create a system. Utilizing this system will ease the installation process and provide the customer with a completed product that will perform to its intended purpose. Always visit www.tarkethome.com for the most current installation and maintenance instructions. Technical videos and tip sheets are also available. Contact Tarkett Technical Services at (800)-899-8916 with any questions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

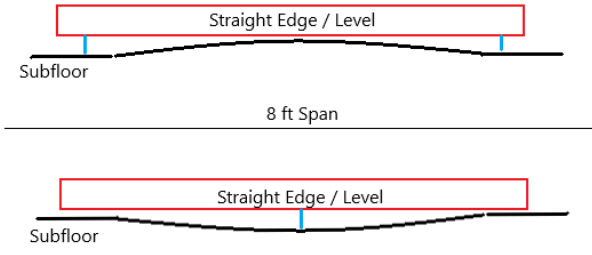
1. When ordering product for your installation, calculate the quantity needed for the square footage of the area of installation, then add an additional 5-10% for standard (straight) installations or 15% additional for diagonal installations to allow for cuts and to have extra material left over that can be used if a future repair is needed.
2. Tarkett floors are intended for indoor use only.
3. Cartons must be stored horizontally on a sturdy base at all times.
4. Protect carton corners from damage.
5. Carefully check flooring material for any defects. Contact your supplier immediately if any defect is found.
6. FlexGen requires acclimation to the jobsite conditions prior to installation. Room temperature shall be between 65°F and 85°F (18.3°C–29.4°C) for 48 hours before, during, and after installation. Lay the cartons horizontally in the room of installation for a minimum of 48 hours prior to install.
7. Exposure to direct sunlight can result in FlexGen fading and creates excessive heat directly on the finished flooring and surrounding structure which may result in movement. During peak sunlight exposure, the use of drapes or other window treatments are recommended.
8. Remove all existing transitions, quarter round, baseboard molding, or cove base prior to beginning the installation.
9. Undercut doorway moldings to the thickness of the flooring.
10. Do not use foam padding under FlexGen.

SPECIAL NOTES

- When installing FlexGen in any space that exceeds 32 linear foot (10 m) in either direction, transition moldings must be installed to divide the space so that no section exceeds 32 linear foot (10 m).

SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

Subfloor Construction	Requirements
All Subfloors	Permanently dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound
	<p>Minimum substrate temperature must be 60°F (15.6 °C). Substrate temperature should be a minimum of 5°F (2.8°C) higher than the ambient temperature and 10°F (5.6°C) higher than the dew point temperature.</p> <p>NOTE: Dew point calculators are available online. If your substrate is not 10°F (5.6°C) above the dew point, contact Technical Services at (800) 899-8916</p>
	<p>Residual adhesives should be mechanically removed to trace amounts and encapsulated with an approved cementitious patching compound or encapsulation. Do not use chemical adhesive removers or solvents. Always follow Resilient Floor Covering Institute's (RFCI's) <i>Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floorcoverings</i>.</p> <p>Caution: Some resilient flooring and adhesives contain "asbestos fibers" and special handling of this material is required.</p> <p>WARNING: Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt or asphaltic "cutback" adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content.</p>

(All Subfloors Continued)	<p>Flat to within 1/8" in 8' (3.1mm in 2.4m). Any unevenness (humps or dips) must be sanded down or filled with a cement-based patching compound.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: Area of the BLUE line below cannot exceed 1/8" (3.1mm)</p> 
Existing Flooring	<p>Resilient Vinyl floors must be smooth, even, non-cushioned and well-bonded to the substrate.</p> <p>Ceramic, Porcelain and Natural Stone tiles must be smooth, even and well-bonded with a grout line depth less than 1/16" (1.6mm). If grout joint depth exceeds the maximum allowable depth, fill with Portland based patching compound following manufacturer's guidelines.</p> <p>Strip Wood Hard Wood Floors must be smooth, even, with a maximum gap width between boards of 1/16" (1.6mm)</p>
Wood Subfloors	<p>Crawl spaces: All suspended wood subfloors must have at least 18" of well-ventilated air space clearance above the ground. The ground under the crawl space shall be covered with 10 mil or thicker polyethylene sheeting to reduce moisture vapor transmission.</p> <p>Wood joist or truss systems spacing must be a maximum of 16" on center. Wood or joist truss systems spacing of 16"-19.2 is acceptable for double wood layer construction</p> <p>Subfloor panels must be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dry, sturdy, smooth and dimensionally stable • 1" minimum thickness, double wood floor construction of blocked or tongue and groove plywood or oriented strand board (OSB). • good one side and have a fully sanded face with a solid core (no voids). • exterior grade or classified as Exposure I. • panel joints offset by at least 16" so that four corners do not meet • securely fastened to the joists and free from spring or deflection (should not exceed 3/63" [1.1mm] per APA Product Standard 2-10 <i>Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels</i>. If glue-nail procedures are required, use a solvent-free construction adhesive. <p>Wood subfloors not meeting the above requirements must be covered with 1/4" minimum thickness underlayment grade plywood. Follow all APA and manufacturer's guidelines for installing underlayment grade plywood.</p> <p>Tarkett recommended underlayments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APA Underlayment Grade Plywood A-C, B-C, or C-C Plugged • ACCU-PLY • SurePly • TECPLY • ULAY • C.S.A. (CanPly) and Proboard
Concrete Substrates	<p>Approved for properly constructed and prepared on-grade, above-grade, and below-grade concrete.</p> <p>Constructed as recommended by the American Concrete Institute's ACI 302.2 Guide for Concrete Slabs that Receive Moisture-Sensitive Flooring Materials.</p> <p>Prepared according to ASTM F710 Standard Practice for Preparation of Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring. The slab must be swept, damp mopped and/or vacuumed to remove any dust. Any surface materials present must be removed, such as loose paint, wax, grease, oil, adhesive residues, crayon, pen marking, etc. that may migrate to the surface of the flooring causing discoloration. Fill and level any cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves, or other irregularities with a high-quality, non-shrinking, latex-fortified, cementitious patching compound.</p> <p>DO NOT install Tarkett flooring over expansion joints, or other moving joints in the substrate. These joints must be respected and should not be filled with products that are not intended for that purpose. Contact an expansion joint cover manufacturer to meet specific flooring conditions.</p>

(Concrete Substrates Cont.)	<p>Complete 3 moisture tests for up to 1,000 ft² (add 1 additional test for every 1,000 after that)</p> <p>Test for moisture in accordance with:</p> <p>ASTM F2170 <i>Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must test to within 95% RH <p style="text-align: center;">-OR-</p> <p>ASTM F1869 <i>Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must test to within 9 lbs. / 1,000 ft² / 24 hours <p>If the moisture test results exceed the limits above, the installation must not proceed until the problem has been corrected. Tarkett does not recommend or warrant any product or procedure for the remediation of high moisture in concrete substrates. There are several companies that manufacture products suitable for moisture remediation.</p> <p>Tarkett recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Moisture Remediation product manufacturer and supply testing results. • Follow the remediation recommendation provided using products that meet ASTM F3010 <i>Standard Practice for Two Component Resin Based Membrane-Forming Moisture Mitigation Systems for Use Under Resilient Flooring Systems.</i> • Cap the moisture remediation system with a cementitious-based product per the moisture remediation system manufacturer's recommendations for primer, thickness, drying time, etc. • Install Tarkett flooring over the cementitious-based capping product following our standard installation instructions.
Gypsum	<p>Refer to ASTM F2419 <i>Standard Practice for Installation of Thick Poured Gypsum Concrete Underlayments and Preparation of the Surface to Receive Resilient Flooring</i> for guidelines when pouring gypsum underlayments or preparing for use as an underlayment under Tarkett FlexGen. Follow the gypsum underlayment manufacturer's recommendations for proper application and preparation.</p>
Radiant Heat	<p>Must be embedded in concrete a minimum of 2" below the surface of the subfloor</p> <p>Check the manufacturer of the radiant heat system to ensure it is safe for use with resilient flooring</p> <p>Concrete surface must never exceed 85°F (29.4°C)</p> <p>24 hours prior to install, lower the thermostat to a minimum of 65°F (18.3°C). Maintain this temperature throughout installation and for 48 hours after completion</p> <p>48 hours after installation, gradually increase the thermostat in increments of 5° every twenty-four hours, never exceeding 85°F (29.4°C)</p>

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

1. All substrates must be dry, clean, structurally sound, smooth, and free from all existing adhesive residues.
2. The substrate must be flat within 1/8" in 8' (3.17mm in 2.4m).
3. Fill and level concrete cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves, and other irregularities. Use a latex fortified, cementitious patching compound. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for preparing.
4. Sweep and vacuum or damp mop substrate to remove all dust and debris.

GETTING STARTED

1. Acclimate the FlexGen in the room of installation to a temperature of between 65° F and 85° F (18.3°C-29.4° C) for 48 hours before installation.
2. Sweep and/or vacuum the substrate to remove all dirt and debris.
3. Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Do not install damaged planks. Tarkett will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects.
4. Remove quarter round, baseboard molding, or cove base.
5. Undercut doorway moldings to the thickness of the flooring.
6. Leave at least a 1/2" (12.7 mm) between the surface of the flooring and the bottom of electric baseboard heaters to allow heat to circulate.
7. Prepare your layout to determine direction and orientation of planks. In any space that exceeds 32 linear foot (10 m) in either direction, transition moldings must be installed to divide the space so that no section exceeds 32 linear foot (10 m).
8. FlexGen floors are floating floors and should not be adhered or nailed to the substrate.
9. Do not install permanent, fixed cabinets on planks.

10. Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and to determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row of planks is less than approximately one half the width of the plank, the width of the first row of planks will have to be cut accordingly. If the length of any cut piece at the end of any row less than 12" (30.5 cm), the first plank in the row will need to be cut accordingly.
11. A minimum 5/16" (8 mm) expansion space is required around all walls and vertical objects.
12. Planks can be cut using a utility knife or a vinyl shear-type cutter. If required, a saw can be used for angle and for rip cuts. Follow all manufacturer's recommendations for safety and wear proper protective equipment when using a knife or saw.
13. Maintain a tidy workspace, removing all scrap material, trash, and debris, as well as keeping all cords out of traffic pathways to prevent trip hazards.

INSTALLATION

1. Begin laying planks from the left side of the starting wall and work to the right side. Use spacers to maintain the minimum 5/16" (8 mm) expansion space between the planks and the wall. Planks shall be abutted along the short seams to complete the first row. Do not force planks and tiles together creating compression at the seams.
2. As long as scrap material is a minimum 12" (30.5 cm), start the second row with the scrap material cut from the end piece of the first row. Be sure to offset end seams from row to row by a minimum of 6" (15.2 cm).
3. Complete the third row using the guidelines above. Ensure that these first three rows remain square and straight as they will create the foundation of the installation. FlexGen is a loose lay product, and planks may be lifted and repositioned during installation, however, once the entire floor is in place, this repositioning process may prove more difficult.
4. Continue laying planks one row at a time. Always ensure the minimum 5/16" (8 mm) expansion space is maintained around the entire perimeter of the installation against any fixed verticals.
5. To fit planks around obstacles such as pipes or cabinets, make a pattern of the obstacle using scribe paper or cardboard. Add in the minimum 5/16" (8 mm) expansion space around the tracing of the obstacle, then transfer the pattern onto the plank and cut.

FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

1. After all planks have been installed, remove spacers from the perimeter of room.
2. Install transition moldings. Do not fasten any moldings through the FlexGen.
3. Pre-drill and install quarter round or baseboard molding. Moldings must be sufficient size to cover the 5/16" (8 mm) expansion space. Do not fasten molding through the flooring. Fasten into the wall.
4. Use plywood to cover the top of the flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
5. Use proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture.
6. Avoid traffic on the flooring with narrow heeled shoes. Narrow-heeled shoes can damage the flooring causing permanent indentation that is not covered by the warranty.
7. Post installation temperature must be maintained between 55° F and 100° F (12° C and 38° C). Ideal ambient relative humidity is between 40% and 70%.

Tarkett North America

Technical Services Department
30000 Aurora Road
Solon, OH 44139
888-639-8275

info@tarkettna.com

www.tarketthome.com