

GENERAL GUIDELINES

All instructions and recommendations are based on the most recent information available. They should be followed for an ideal installation.

1. Install flooring perpendicular to direct sunlight sources, including large windows, door walls, etc.
2. This item should be installed in an indoor, climate-controlled location between 65°—85° F (18°—29° C). It should NEVER be installed outdoors.
3. This item must be acclimated in climate-controlled locations at 71°F for 24—48 hours before starting installation. Store cartons lying flat at all times and protect from direct sunlight during acclimation.
4. This item should only be installed after the jobsite has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage a finished plank installation.
5. During the installation, mix and install planks from several different cartons to minimize shade variation.
6. The finished plank installation should be protected from exposure to direct sunlight.
7. This item cannot be installed with adhesives. The use of any sort of adhesive during the installation will void the product warranty.

** Improper acclimation of floating Luxury vinyl flooring may result in gapping, buckling or joints which are difficult to engage properly. Improper locking of the mechanism may cause one or more of the following conditions in your flooring: joints to be distressed resulting in a 'peaked' appearance; delamination due to ledging; separation of joints from normal environmental temperature changes; cupping or side joint failures.

REQUIRED TOOLS

Utility knife with sharp blades

Carpenters square

Tape measure

Chalk line

20 ounce white rubber mallet

Small Square

5/16" spacer blocks (several needed)

Small bristle brush for cleaning debris from locking mechanism

Felt-tip marker (fine point)

Heat gun

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Although this floor is designed to be a "floating" floor installation, proper preparation of the subfloor is still a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor resulting in an unsightly surface, excessive wear on high areas, indentations on low areas, and failure of locking mechanism on high and low areas. All subfloor and underlayment patching must be done with a non-shrinking, water resistant cement-based patching or leveling compound.

A. Concrete Subfloors

1. Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth and free from dust, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, asphalt sealing compounds and other extraneous materials. The surface must be hard, dense and free from powder or flaking.
2. Floors must be flat to within 3/16" in 10 feet before installing floating flooring.

3. New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry and completely cured. The final responsibility of determining the moisture content of the concrete is with the flooring installer / homeowner.
4. Holes, grooves, cracks and depressions must be properly fixed and filled with a cement-based, polymer modified patching or leveling compound and feathered smooth. Follow the manufacturer's directions for the specific cement compound.
5. Concrete floors with a radiant heating system are satisfactory for installation. The flooring temperature must never exceed 83 F (28 C). Before installation of the flooring, turn on the heating system to the normal operating temperature for acclimation and removal of residual moisture. When starting radiant systems after flooring is installed, gradually bring the slab temperature to the desired room temperature, avoid sudden increases and decreases in the temperature settings.

B. Wood Subfloors

1. Wood subfloors must be suspended at least 18 in. (46 cm.) above ground. Adequate cross ventilation must be provided and a suitable vapor barrier installed over the ground in all crawlspaces.
2. Wood subfloors directly on concrete or installed over sleeper construction are NOT suitable for the installation.
3. Acceptable wood underlayments are: APA registered underlayment veneer panels, APA registered exterior grade plywood sanded face with B-C, plugged face or better rating, single later Sturd-I-Floor rated panels (min. 23/32" thick) with sanded face, Luan plywood.
4. Never install vinyl flooring over OSB, particle, chip, or strand plywood, Masonite, or any other type of hardboard underlayment.

C. Existing Floor Coverings

1. Floating vinyl floors can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings provided the existing floor surface is smooth or can be made smooth.
2. Ceramic, porcelain, marble and granite tiles are suitable and must be clean and made flat by applying a cement-based embossing leveler or patch.
3. Existing resilient floors must be firmly bonded, stripped of all finishes/waxes, single layer and covered with an embossing leveler if necessary. Cushion-backed vinyl and floating vinyl floors are not suitable as substrates for floating vinyl tile or planks.
4. Cement terrazzo, painted or stained concrete and metal floors may be suitable for use as substrates provided they are properly cleaned and prepared. All contaminants, loose particles and flakes must be removed and a suitable cement-based patch used to smooth the floor.
5. Hardwood floors must be securely bonded to the substrate. Remove any waxes, finishes, etc. before installing vinyl flooring.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

General

- A. Do not secure individual planks or tiles to the subfloor. All door jambs and moldings should be undercut. Cabinets, kitchen islands and other fixtures cannot be installed on top of floating vinyl flooring. Wall moldings, including baseboard and quarter round, must not be fastened through the vinyl flooring.
- B. Maintain a 5/16" (8mm) gap consistently around the perimeter of the vinyl floor at all vertical surfaces. Moldings should be installed a minimum of 1/32" (.79mm) above the flooring to allow for movement.
- C. Do not wrap floating vinyl floors around doors, entryways or other openings that are less than 6 feet (2 meters) wide. A suitable T-molding or transition strip must be used while maintaining the 5/16" (8mm) expansion gap under the molding in all openings less than 6 feet (2 m) wide. Do not install door transitions through the vinyl flooring.

- D. When fitting around obstacles or cutting to irregular shapes, the vinyl flooring can be carefully heated and cut with a sharp utility blade. It is beneficial to make cardboard templates of the areas and transfer this to the pieces to be cut.
- E. Full pieces of flooring can be cut by using a utility knife with heavy-duty blades. Score the face of the piece and snap the tiles carefully along the score line. Use a steel straight edge for cutting pieces along the length in multiple passes with the utility knife, and then snap the piece along the cut line.
- F. Use of a small bristle brush for cleaning debris left from milling the locking joints will ensure a tight fit of the pieces.
- G. STAINMASTER[®] locking luxury vinyl floating flooring is designed with an angle/drop mechanism which is installed differently than the traditional angle/angle installed floating flooring. The NovaClic™ FD flooring requires that the top or long sides be installed first by engaging the joint at a shallow angle (25°) and then slide the piece to line up the short or right side drop lock mechanism. See the steps below for complete information.

NOTE: *The FD drop lock joints cannot be 'lifted' or angled apart when removing or repositioning a plank or tile. To remove a plank or tile, first disengage the top/long angle joint by lifting at a slight angle while pulling the complete rows away from each other. Then simply 'slide' the drop joint apart along the floor. Failure to slide this joint apart will damage the drop lock mechanism and prevent proper re-installation of the affected plank or tile.*

Layout and Install

1. Determine the layout of your floor prior to installation. Planks typically look better when installed parallel to the longest walls; keeping in mind that planking need to be installed perpendicular to direct light sources as stated above. To avoid narrow piece widths or short piece lengths, it is important to dry lay the flooring from the center of the room and adjust the centerline to alleviate narrow pieces. Or, using the width of the room, calculate how many full pieces will fit into the area and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial planks. Do the same along the length of the room. Be sure to avoid planks that are less than 9" in length and less than half the width; tiles should not be less than 6" wide by a full length of the tile.

NOTES:

- a. If the first row of flooring does not need to be trimmed in width it is necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge is toward the wall.
 - b. Flooring should be laid with the long edges perpendicular to any significant sources of direct sunlight such as large windows, sliding doors, etc.
 - c. Expansion gaps of 5/16" (8mm) must be maintained against all vertical surfaces, regardless of the deviation in flatness of the surface. This will allow the finished flooring to expand and contract normally during temperature fluctuations in the home.
2. From the top, left corner of the room put the first plank in place so both the head and side seam grooves are exposed. Planks are to be installed from left to right. Cut off the tongue on the long side of each piece in the first row with a utility knife.
 3. Install the second piece in the first row by laying the short-end tongue onto the previously installed piece short-end groove. Fasten the piece together by firmly pressing down with your thumb along the seam to lock the planks together. Use of a soft, white No. 2 rubber mallet is also recommended to fasten the tongue & groove together. Do not use a metal hammer as this will damage the surface of the flooring.
 4. Continue in this manner for the rest of the first row. The last piece in the row should be cut to length while maintaining the 5/16" (8mm) expansion space along the perimeter of the room.
 5. Cut a piece in half of the length to start the second row, or use the cutoff from the previous row, keeping in mind the length requirements above. Install the first piece in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the piece in the first row at a low angle (20° to 30°) of the piece. Then firmly lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure towards the installed piece. The pieces should fit snugly together and lay flat.
Ensure that expansion space is kept along this wall.

6. To install the remaining planks in the second row, first align the long edge tongue into the groove of the previous row at a shallow angle. Slide the piece to the left until the piece meets the previously installed piece.
7. Angle the long edge tongue into the plank/tile in the row above and lock it together while making sure the left side joint is lined up to properly engage. Line up the bottom corner of the side joint ensuring the whole edge does not overlap the previous installed piece. Engage the short edge joint.
8. Work across the length of the room installing planks/tiles along the wall in the first row and then aligning the planks/tiles in the second row. It is critical to keep these two rows straight and square, as they are the "foundation" for the rest of the installation. Check for squareness and straightness often while installing the floor.
9. Use of several 5/16" (8mm) spacer blocks along the first wall will ensure the proper spacing is achieved and that floor does not 'walk' back towards the wall during installation.
10. Cut the last plank/tile in the first row to fit approximately 5/16" short of the end wall. Use the cutoff of this plank to start the third row.
11. Continue installing plank/tiles, being certain to maintain a random appearance (planks) or the pattern (tiles) and offset end seams by at least 6" (see Figure 3). Maintain a 5/16" expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces. Check to be certain all planks are fully engaged; if slight gapping is noticed, you may use a scrap piece of flooring and engage the upper angle joint to the gapped piece. Using the mallet, gently tap the pieces up until the gap disappears. **Do not try this with the side joints.**
12. Install wall moldings and door transition moldings last. Be sure that all moldings are fastened directly to the wall studs or directly into the flooring; do not place any fasteners through the floating vinyl flooring!

AFTER INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Be sure all pieces are set flat and have tight edges. In the event that the STAINMASTER[®] locking luxury vinyl flooring is not the last portion of the construction project, the floor must be protected from construction traffic and damage. Utilize a reinforced fiber protective board or a heavy Kraft paper (min. 60#) and cover the floor.

Initial maintenance:

- A. After installation, thoroughly sweep the floor and then clean with a neutral pH cleaner. Do not soak the floor as the water will migrate through the joints and lay on the subfloor, possibly causing condensation and moisture issues.
- B. If necessary to remove stubborn dirt or build up, a slow speed (175 rpm) buffer can be utilized with a white, non-abrasive pad.
- C. Be sure to rinse the floor thoroughly and allow to dry completely.
- D. Use of commercial, heavy duty auto-scrubbers is discouraged for cleaning solid vinyl flooring.
- E. Consult the Novalis Flooring Maintenance guide for further care and maintenance instructions at www.novafloor.us.

Regular maintenance:

- A. Regular sweeping or vacuuming with a brushless vacuum will keep dirt and debris off the vinyl floor.
- B. Ensure all furniture and fixtures have the appropriate floor protectors installed and are changed regularly.
- C. Damp mop the floor weekly to remove dirt; a small amount of a neutral pH cleaner can be used to help remove dirt and buildups. A white scrub pad can be used on heavy deposits. Do not use multi-surface or ammoniated cleaners.
- D. Use of a finish is not recommended by Novalis. If one is desired it should be specifically designed for vinyl flooring with a urethane wear surface. Contact Novalis at 866-NOVALIS or techsupport@novalis-intl.com for further instructions.

MANUFACTURING DEFECT LIMITED WARRANTY

Novalis International warrants that the STAINMASTER[®] locking luxury vinyl tile and plank products collection of solid vinyl planks and tiles will be free from manufacturing defects for a period of 1 (one) year from the date of purchase. If such defect occurs, upon verification of the defect by Novalis, Novalis will authorize repair or replacement of the affected area of installed flooring.

This portion of the Warranty covers both residential and light commercial installations.

Additionally, Novalis International warrants that the flooring you have purchased:

- will not permanently stain and/or discolor from common household stains, moisture, mold and mildew
- will not tear, rip from normal household use
- Will not permanently indent from normal household use

LIMITED LIFETIME RESIDENTIAL WEAR WARRANTY

- The manufacturer will supply new material of the same color, design, and grade, if available; if unavailable or discontinued, Novalis reserves the right to select and supply similar the manufacturer materials. After corrective action is taken on an existing defect, you will continue to receive warranty coverage for the remaining period of your original warranty.
- One replacement floor only will be made for the wear out, fading and staining. Claimants who received settlement may not claim again and no additional replacement floors will be supplied.
- Alternatively, a refund of up to 100% of the original cost of the material (the percentage of the original cost refundable depends on the amount of time elapsed since the date of purchase: within 1-2 years - 100%; within 3-5 years - 70%; within 5-20 years 50%.
- No representative, employee, or agent of STAINMASTER[™], Lowe's or their affiliates are authorized to modify or change the limited warranty as stated here in.

Warranty Limitations:

- This warranty is not transferable
- Manufacturing defect must be reported within 3 months from the date of purchase
- This warranty covers only properly installed and maintained floors, according to the instructions on the package.
- This product is sold as a Do-It-Yourself (D.I.Y.) product and therefore professional labor costs for residential installations are not covered under this warranty.
- The manufacturer excludes and will not pay for any consequential or incidental damages under this limited warranty.
- The manufacturer will not pay for the loss of time, inconvenience or other incidental expenses incurred during the installation and the subsequent removal and/or reinstallation of affected material.
- This warranty does not cover the exclusions indicated on the package.
- The manufacturer reserves the right of final judgement and may refuse claims in certain instances.
- The manufacturer reserves the right to modify or withdraw the warranty at any time.
- The manufacturer reserves the right to inspect any flooring claimed to be defective in the installed environment, either by a company representative or independent 3rd-party inspection service.

This warranty does not include the following:

- Improper installation or product not installed according to Novalis installation guidelines and accepted industry standards.
- Flooring installed in areas not suitable for solid vinyl plank or tile.
- Lack of maintenance or improper maintenance such as dulling by soaps, detergents, harsh chemicals, dressings, one-step cleaners or wax.
- Damaged by narrow tipped heels, vacuum cleaners, burns, cuts, scratches, gouges and indentations caused by rolling loads, caster wheels, furniture and chairs without proper floor protectors and furniture rests and cuts by sharp objects.
- Damages caused by burns, flooding, fires and other disasters.
- Staining or changes in color caused by dyes tracked from carpet, fertilizers, coal, tar, driveway sealers, oil drippings or other similar materials; faded or discolored by sunlight or heat generation
- Stains, fading, discoloration or moisture problems due to use of rubber or rubber-backed mats.
- Problems or damage due to moisture and/or alkalinity in sub floor; discoloration or bond release from hydrostatic pressure or excessive moisture caused by flooding, plumbing and appliance leaks and water leakage from doors.
- Mold and mildew growth caused by excessive moisture.
- Installed over unstable, unsuitable, or improperly prepared sub floors, wet/cold floor and/or radiant-heated floor in excess of 85°F.
- Different from samples or printed material in shade, color or embossing.

LIMITED 3 YEAR COMMERCIAL WEAR WARRANTY

General Terms

STAINMASTER[®] locking luxury vinyl tile and plank products by Novalis International (herein Novalis) commercial products when installed in a commercial area, regardless of commercial use designation, must be professionally installed by a certified flooring contractor to validate this warranty. No exclusions or exceptions will be made to this clause.

Novalis International Guidelines for Commercial Use as described in Technical Bulletin NFT_PS002 Commercial Use Guide will be in effect for this warranty; this can be found at www.novafloor.us. Novalis International reserves the right to classify each installation regarding use according to this published bulletin.

Novalis warranties cover the cost of material for the period of the warranty and reasonable labor costs **only** when and if a professional flooring installer was paid to install the original material. Labor will be paid according to the following schedule in Table B. **Self-stick, D.I.Y products, and products bought and installed by non-professionals, are not covered under this warranty.**

Novalis International warrants that the installed product will not wear through to the printed film layer for 3 (three) years when installed in suitable light commercial areas. Wear through is defined herein that the wear layer is sufficiently depleted so that the printed film layer is damaged or affected.

Costs of professional labor will be reimbursed at 100% for the 3 (three) year term of the Wear Warranty.

The standard general terms, exclusions and limitations expressed elsewhere in this warranty document also apply.

This warranty does not include the following:

- **Installed with obvious manufacturing defects.**
- **Products that have not been properly acclimated according to the Novalis Installation Guidelines.**
- Improper installation or product not professionally installed according to currently published Novalis installation guidelines and accepted industry practices.
- Flooring installed in areas not intended for solid vinyl plank or tile.
- Improper maintenance; dulled by soaps, detergents, harsh chemicals, dressings, one-step cleaners or wax.
- Damaged by narrow tipped heels, burns, cigarette burns, cuts, scratches, gouges and indentations including damage from improper floor protectors and furniture rests.
- Stains, fading, discoloration or moisture problems due to use of rubber or rubber-backed mats.
- Staining caused by dyes tracked from carpet, fertilizers, coal, tar, driveway sealers, oil drippings or other similar

materials; faded or discolored by sunlight or heat generation.

- Problems or damage due to moisture and/or alkalinity in sub floor; discoloration or bond release from hydrostatic pressure or excessive moisture caused by flooding, plumbing and appliance leaks and water leakage.
- Installed over unstable (installed over particleboard, chip wood or pressboard) or improperly prepared sub floors, wet/cold floor and/or radiant-heated floor in excess of 85°F.
- Different from samples or printed material in shade, color or embossing.

Other limitations

1. This warranty is not transferable.
2. Manufacturing defect must be reported within 3 months from the date of purchase.
3. This warranty covers only properly installed and maintained floors.
4. Novalis excludes and will not pay for any consequential or incidental damages under this limited warranty.
5. Novalis will not pay for the loss of time, inconvenience or other incidental expenses.
6. Novalis reserves the right to inspect any flooring and installation deemed to be suspect to manufacturing defects either by a representative of Novalis or an independent certified inspector otherwise warranty will be void.
7. Novalis reserves the right of final judgment and may refuse claims in certain instances.
8. Novalis reserves the right to modify or withdraw the warranty at any time.

No representative, employee, or agent of STAINMASTER[®]. Lowe's or their affiliates are authorized to modify or change the warranty statements made in this document.

REPAIRING DAMAGED PLANKS

NovaClic™FD is tough and durable; however, it is not indestructible. If a plank becomes damaged, it can be replaced. If the damaged plank is along the perimeter of the room, the easiest technique is to disconnect the planks until the damaged plank is removed. Replace the plank and reassemble the planks.

If it's impractical to disconnect and reassemble the flooring, the following procedures should be used.

*NOTE: When disassembling NovaClic™FD clic products, disconnect the long edge of the planking first by angling the row of planks up and away from the previous row. It may require more than one person to prevent damaging the locking system. The end joints can **only be disconnected by horizontally sliding the connected boards apart!***

Repair instructions:

- A. Using a straight edge and a sharp utility knife, cut out and remove the center of the damaged plank, leaving approximately a 1" strip attached to the surrounding planks on all sides. Carefully cut back from the corners of the plank to the inside edge at a 45° angle towards the removed section of the damaged plank.
- B. Remove the long plank edges by lifting up on the piece at an angle and pulling from the tongue and groove of the surrounding planks.
- C. To remove the end joints, use a flexible putty knife to carefully lift the overlapping edge joint while pushing the piece of planking towards you gently. Once the corner of the piece to remove clears the edge of the adjoining plank continue to carefully slide the joint apart.
- D. For the remaining short edge piece, using a utility knife with a sharp blade, carefully slide the blade into the joint and carefully cut the bottom portion of the locking system from the piece. Do not cut into the adjoining planks and damage the locking mechanism. Once the piece has been removed you can carefully pull the remaining piece of the joint from under the overlapped edge lock.
- E. Prepare the replacement plank by placing the plank face down and folding back and removing the groove strip on both the top edge long profile. Using the decorative surface of the tongue end as a guide, cut away this overhanging profile using a sharp utility knife.
- F. Place some double sided carpet tape onto the subfloor covering sufficient area of top edge of the removed plank and the adjoining plank. Both sides of the joint should be covered by the piece of tape. Be sure to leave one side of the tape covering on the tape, with the covering facing down on the substrate.
- G. Position the replacement plank carefully sliding the underlap edge lock under the adjoining plank at a slight angle. You will be able to fully seat this edge under the lap joint.
- H. Next, engage the bottom edge locking joint by angling it into the adjoining long edge. At this point both of the short edges should be together also.
- I. "Hinge" the prepared replacement plank into position.
- J. Using a rubber mallet, firmly mate both of the fold down locking mechanisms on the short edges of the replacement plank.
- K. Use a hand roller to firmly press the replacement plank into the repair tape.