



EXQUISITE

Floating Plank Flooring – Patent Pending

Featuring QuickConnect™ Installation System

EXQUISITE and the QuickConnect™ Installation System

Patent pending.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING ARMSTRONG® FLOORING. Properly installed and cared for your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years. If you have questions or comments, please visit us at www.armstrong.com or call our Customer Relations and Technical Services at 1 800 233 3823.

Product	Adhesive	Comment
EXQUISITE	QuickConnect™ with overlapping pressure sensitive adhesive.	Planks are bonded to each other, not to the substrate.

WARNING: EXISTING IN-PLACE RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING AND ASPHALTIC ADHESIVES. DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST, OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVE, OR OTHER ADHESIVE.

These **existing in-place** products may contain **asbestos fibers** and/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 existing in-place 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 and may govern removal and disposal of material.

See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication [Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings](#) for instructions on removing all resilient floor covering structures or contact your retailer or Armstrong World Industries, Inc. 1 800 233 3823.

The floor covering or adhesive in this package does NOT contain asbestos.

General Information

The QuickConnect installation system allows the planks to be bonded together by an overlapped edge method. The planks are not bonded directly to the subfloor and this will help hide some minor substrate irregularities without telegraphing through to the face of the planks. The planks should be installed 1/8" away from all vertical surfaces such as walls, cabinets, pipes, etc. (a larger gap could cause excessive floor movement). When installed in bathrooms, the gap should be filled and sealed with a good quality siliconized or acrylic caulk. The gap will then be covered with molding or wall base. Base cabinets **should not** be installed on top of the planks.

Keys to Successful EXQUISITE Installation

- Most installations will need approximately 10% cutting allowance added to the square footage of the room.
- Proper conditioning of both the jobsite and the flooring is necessary. EXQUISITE should not be exposed to sudden changes in temperature or moisture/humidity.
- Store, transport and handle EXQUISITE so as to prevent any distortions. Store cartons flat, never on edge. Distortions will not disappear over time. Insure that the planks are laying flat at time of installation.
- Do not compress the edges of the floating installation in any way when installing other flooring materials next to EXQUISITE. Installation of carpet, metal strips and other transition moldings should not push fullness into the flooring and should allow for some slight movement wherever practical.
- Protect the floor from heavy rolling loads, other trades and replacement and/or movement of appliances by using sheets of plywood or similar.

Suitable Substrates

All substrates listed must be properly prepared and meet certain requirements. There may be other exceptions and special conditions for these substrates to be suitable for the QuickConnect Installation System as noted below. (Refer to the Subfloors and Underlayments section of the Armstrong Guaranteed Installation System manual, F-5061, for more details, or visit www.floorexpert.com.)

- Concrete – dry and smooth on all grade levels
- Suspended wood subfloors with approved wood underlayments – must have minimum of 18" well-ventilated crawl space underneath

- Suspended hardwood flooring that is fully adhered, smooth and square edge without texture
- Single-layer, fully adhered, existing resilient floors – must not be foam-backed or cushion-backed
- Ceramic tile, Terrazzo, Marble
- Polymeric Poured (seamless) Floors

DO NOT INSTALL OVER

- Particleboard or waferboard
- Single-layer wood subfloors*
- Existing resilient tile floors that are below grade
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring
- Carpet
- Hardwood flooring that has been installed directly over concrete
- On stairs, or, in rooms with sloping floors or floor drains

** Installation directly over single-layer wood subfloors in new construction is not recommended. New construction should have additional underlayment on top of the subflooring and be installed as late in the building schedule as possible; after permanent HVAC is running, the home is properly conditioned, and other trades have completed their work.*

If it is unavoidable to install over single-layer wood subfloors, it should only happen in remodel work where the home has been occupied and conditioned for a minimum of 1 year, having gone through the initial winter season and dry-out of the new home. The subflooring must meet all the substrate requirements noted below.

Job Conditions/Preparations

- All substrates must be structurally sound, dry, clean, flat, and smooth with minimal deflection. Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, other foreign matter and contaminants that could cause staining or interfere with the bond of the adhesive.
- High spots on the substrate should be leveled and low areas filled with appropriate underlayments.
- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.
- In renovation or remodel work, remove any existing adhesive residue so that 100% of the overall area of the original substrate is exposed.
- When installing over an existing resilient floor,

use S-199 One-Part Embossing Leveler or S-194 Patch, Underlayment & Embossing Leveler/S-195 Underlayment Additive to fill and smooth any embossing in the old floor.

- Embossed ceramic tile floors, ceramic and marble grout joints, and irregularities in concrete should be filled and leveled using S-194 Patch, Underlayment & Embossing Leveler/S-195 Underlayment Additive or other Armstrong cementitious underlayments.
- The area to receive resilient flooring, flooring materials and adhesives should be maintained between 65° F (18° C) and 85° F (29° C) for 48 hours before installation, during installation, and 48 hours after completion. Maintain temperatures between 55° F (13° C) and 85° F (29° C) thereafter.
- Resilient flooring should only be installed in temperature-controlled environments. It is necessary to maintain a constant temperature. Therefore, the permanent HVAC system must be in operation before the installation of resilient flooring. Portable heaters are not recommended as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.
- For concrete subfloors, the water vapor emission level should be 5 lbs./1000 sq.ft./24 hours, or less, as determined by calcium chloride testing.
- Radiant heated substrates must not exceed a maximum surface temperature of 85° F (29° C).
- EXQUISITE should not be exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. It can result in discoloration and excessive temperatures that may cause expansion. The use of drapes or blinds is recommended during peak sunlight exposure.

Procedure

Remove baseboard, quarter-round moldings, wall base, appliances and furniture from room. For best results, door trim should be under-cut to allow flooring to move freely without being pinched. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.

Note: Planks are easily cut with a tile cutter or by using a straight edge and utility knife. Score the face of the plank several times and snap it. If it doesn't separate, lightly cut through the back on the fold mark.

Layout

Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. The end joints of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 6" apart. Do not install over expansion joints.

Determine which direction the planks will run. Find the center of each of the end walls (the walls perpendicular to the long dimension of the planks) and place a pencil mark on the floor. Connect these points by striking a chalk line down the center of the room. Do a dry layout of planks from the center line to the wall running parallel to the long direction of the planks to determine the width of the last row of planks.

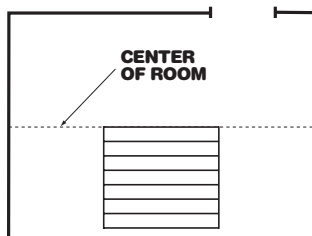


Fig. 1 – Dry layout to determine width of border plank.

Avoid having border pieces less than 2-1/4" (5.7 cm) wide for the 4-1/2" (11.4 cm) wide planks, less than 3" (7.5 cm) wide for the 6" (15.2 cm) wide planks and less than 6" (15.2 cm) wide for the 12" (30.5 cm) wide tiles. If you find the border planks will be less than 1/2 the width of the plank, the center starting line should be shifted a distance equal to 1/2 the plank width. This will "balance" the room and provide for a larger cut piece at the wall.

Installation

Most installations will start along the longest, straight wall in the room. The planks will be installed starting in the corner of the room on the left side of the starting wall (as you are facing it). The bottom overlap film should be exposed on the side and end of the plank facing away from the left corner of the starting wall (Figure 2). Remove the paper release liner exposing the adhesive on the bottom overlap film.

Note: The pressure sensitive adhesive has a long working time after the release paper has been removed. It must, however, be protected from dust and debris after the release paper is removed and until it is covered with another plank. If the job is stopped prior to completion, leave the release paper intact on the long edge only, of the last row of planks. This will prevent dust or traffic from other trades from interfering with the adhesive's performance.

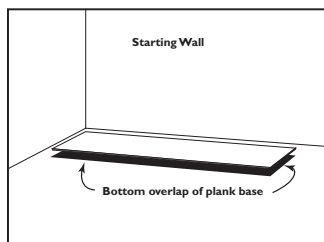


Fig. 2 – Left corner of starting wall.

CAUTION – Do not stand or walk on release paper liner, as it is extremely slippery. Place it in a wastebasket immediately upon removal from the plank.

Begin laying the first row of planks. Place the top overlap on the exposed bottom overlap film (with adhesive) of the preceding plank. Press into place to obtain adhesion. Use a hand roller if available, or, rub the seam with moderate hand pressure using a clean dry cloth. Neatly butt the plank face edges

together. Continue, left to right, with the first row of planks until you near the end and need to cut the last plank to fit. Try to avoid having planks shorter than 8" at the ends of rows. You may have to cut some additional length off the starting plank and slide the first row toward the left so the last plank will be at least 8" in length. Remember to leave a gap of 1/8" from the end wall and cut the last piece in that row to fit.

Start the second row on the left side with a piece cut to about 2/3 the length of the starting plank in the first row. It is important to keep the end joints staggered a minimum of 6" in adjacent rows (Figure 3). Both the long side edges and the short ends of planks should be neatly butted against adjoining planks and those in adjacent rows. Use one hand to hold the plank, and the other hand to guide the edges into place by lowering the plank as you go. It's important to butt the edges together neatly. Press into place or use a hand roller to obtain adhesion. If the joints are not tight, or a mistake is made in fitting, the planks can be easily peeled up and repositioned at the time of installation.

Note: EXQUISITE is precisely made to size and squareness. After the first 3 rows of planks are installed they should be checked with a string line to insure that rows are still running straight. If they are not, it could be that the starting wall has some irregularities that caused bowing in the installation. If so, the starting row of planks may have to be scribed and retrimmed to account for any unevenness in the wall. This can be done without having to disassemble the beginning rows.

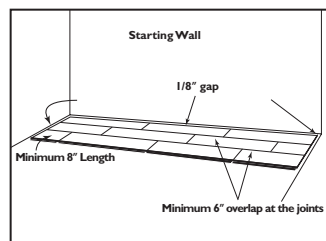


Fig. 3 – Stagger end joints by 6", cut pieces at ends of row should be 8" or greater.

Continue installing the remaining rows in similar fashion. Maintain the 6" minimum staggered end joints between rows and maintain the gap at perimeter and vertical surfaces. After you have enough rows in place, you may find it easier to turn around and work on top of the newly installed planks for the remainder of the room.

After the installation is completed, roll the entire floor, in both directions with a 100-pound roller. Use a hand roller in confined areas where the large roller will not reach, such as under toe kicks.

Finishing the Installation

Replace molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface, not through the flooring. At doorways and at other areas where EXQUISITE may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a "T" molding or similar to cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks. Leave a small gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.

When replacing appliances, or whenever moving heavy furniture over the flooring, place a wood panel under the object. Without moving the panel, slide or roll the object over it. Follow with additional panels as needed. This prevents scratches, tears or buckling of the flooring material.

Care and Maintenance

IMPORTANT: Do not wash or scrub the new EXQUISITE flooring for at least 5 days after the installation. This will allow the planks to become "seated" in the adhesive and prevent excess moisture and cleaning agents from interfering with the adhesive bond.

Proactive Protection for Your Floor

- When moving appliances or heavy furniture it is always wise to lay a plywood panel on your floor and "walk" the item across it. This protects your floor from scuffing and tears.
- Use floor protectors, such as Armstrong Floor Protectors, under furniture to reduce indentation. As a general rule of thumb, the heavier the item, the wider the floor protector needed.
- Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. We strongly recommend mats without a latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration.
- All Armstrong floor care products have been specifically developed to care for Armstrong floors.

Caring for Your Floor

- Sweep or vacuum regularly, to remove loose dirt which can scratch your floor.
Note: We do not recommend vacuums that have a beater bar since it can visibly damage your flooring surface. Additionally, we do not recommend electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding as use may result in discoloration and deglossing.
- Wipe up spills as soon as possible. Never use highly abrasive scrubbing tools on any resilient floor.
- Wash your floor regularly with a vinyl floor cleaner such as Armstrong Once 'n Done® Resilient & Ceramic Floor Cleaner.
- Do NOT use detergents, abrasive cleaners, or "mop and shine" products. These products may leave a dull film on your floor.
- Over time, if the shine on your floor begins to dull, apply Armstrong SatinKeeper® Resilient Low Gloss Floor Finish to restore the appearance of EXQUISITE. Do NOT use paste wax or solvent based polishes.
- Vinyl flooring, like other types of smooth floors, can become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after washing. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substance, or wet feet.