

Interface Modular Flooring Systems LVT Installation Guide

Interface®

Storage and Handling (continued)

It is recommended that resilient floor covering installation shall not begin until all other trades are completed. All substrates to receive LVT require proper moisture testing.

Use only Portland based patching and leveling compounds. Do not install resilient floor covering over gypsum based patching and/or leveling compounds.

Material should always be visually inspected prior to installation. Any material installed with visual defects will not be considered a legitimate claim as it pertains to labor cost.

When moving any type of furniture or heavy equipment, protect the floor by covering with plywood, Masonite or other hard shell material to prevent scratching or permanent damage.

Use appropriate protectors under furniture. These should be felt or other soft material specifically designed to protect the hard surface from scratches or damage to the wear layer.

Note: Interface recommends using floor protection after installation. DO NOT use plastic adhesive based protection system.

These Installation Instructions cover most installation procedures. If you run across a situation that isn't addressed in this document or requires more detailed assistance, please contact the Interface Help Desk. U.S. (877) 733-7403 / Canada (888) 224-2972. Should you encounter any conditions or defects during installation that could jeopardize the installation or affect the installation procedure, you should STOP the installation immediately and call the Interface Help Desk. U.S. (877) 733-7403 / Canada (888) 224-2972.

The LVT products are warranted in accordance with Interface's Standard LVT Product Warranty. If you do not have a copy of Interface's Standard LVT Product Warranty and wish to obtain one, call the Interface Help Desk. U.S. (877) 733-7403 / Canada (888) 224-2972 or visit our website at www.interface.com.

WARNING: IN THE EVENT THAT ANY ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS OR OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ARE ENCOUNTERED DURING INSTALLATION, YOU SHOULD STOP THE INSTALLATION IMMEDIATELY AND OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM A QUALIFIED REMEDIATION CONSULTANT OR CONTRACTOR PRIOR TO PROCEEDING.

Storage and Handling

Flooring material and adhesive must be acclimated to the installation area a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.

Store cartons of tile or plank products flat and squarely on top of one another. Preferably, locate material in the "center" of the installation area (i.e. away from vents, direct sunlight, etc.).

Storing cartons in direct sunlight may affect proper acclimation by inducing thermal expansion/contraction.

When palletizing on a jobsite, vinyl tiles (squares or planks) need to be stacked two (2) rows high side by side with no airspace between and then quarter turned for two (2) rows side by side, not to exceed 12 boxes high. A $\frac{5}{8}$ " or thicker plywood must also be placed on the pallet first. Do not stack pallets two (2) high unless utilizing a $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick plywood cap between pallets.

Preinstallation Site Visit

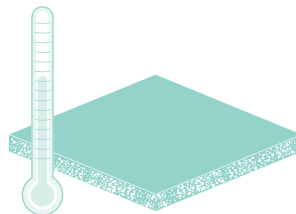
New concrete needs at least 90 days to dry under ideal conditions. Lightweight concrete and concrete poured above grade in metal pans take a considerably longer time to dry. Installation cannot begin until it is fully dried and in compliance with moisture and alkalinity requirements.

Areas to receive resilient flooring should be adequately illuminated during all phases of the installation process.

Controlled environments are critical. Fully functional HVAC systems are the best way to ensure temperature and humidity control.

DO NOT install resilient flooring products until the work area can be temperature controlled.

The permanent HVAC system must be operational and functional and set to a minimum of 65°F or a maximum of 85°F for a minimum of 7 days prior to, during, and after installation. Once the installation is complete, the temperature should not exceed 85°F.



Subfloor Information

Note: All substrates to receive resilient flooring shall be dry, clean, smooth and structurally sound. They shall be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening/parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation/laitance, mold, mildew and other foreign materials.

Subfloor Information (continued)

Wood Subfloors

Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and in compliance with local building codes.

It is recommended that your chosen APA underlayment grade panels be designed for installation under resilient flooring and carry a written warranty covering replacement of the entire flooring system.

Double-layered APA rated plywood subfloors should be a minimum 1" total thickness with at least 18" well ventilated air space beneath.

Insulate and protect crawl spaces with a vapor retarder covering the ground.

Particleboard, chipboard, flakeboard, OSB, hardboard or similar are not recommended subfloor materials and require the additional layer of 1/4" APA approved underlayment.

DO NOT install over sleeper construction subfloors or wooden subfloors applied directly over concrete.

Underlayment panels can only correct minor deflection deficiencies in the subfloor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring.

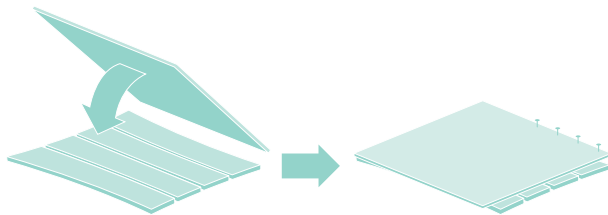
Any failures in the performance of the underlayment panel rest solely with the panel manufacturer and not with Interface.

Interface modular resilient flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood.

The materials used to treat the plywood may cause problems with adhesive bonding. An additional layer of APA rated 1/4" thick underlayment should be installed.

Strip-Plank Wood Flooring

Due to expansion/contraction of individual boards during seasonal changes a 1/4" or thicker APA underlayment panel must be installed over these types of subfloors.



Raised Access Floors

The platform floor surface shall be level to within a) +/- 1.5 mm over any 5 meter square and b) +/- 6.00 mm over any size of basic space.

The maximum gap between panels shall not exceed 1 mm.

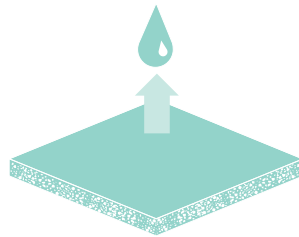
The difference in height between adjacent panels shall not exceed 0.75 mm.

The concavity or convexity of any panel shall not exceed 0.75 mm.

The use of an approved underlayment may also reduce the risk of telegraphing of seams through to the surface of LVT.

Concrete Subfloors

Before installing Interface LVT over a new or existing concrete subfloor, you must test the moisture and alkalinity levels of the concrete. All concrete substrates should be tested for moisture by use of the in Situ Probe RH test method (ASTM F 2170) and pH following ASTM F 710 guidelines.



Glue-Down Installations

Glue-down installation is required for projects greater than 60 sq. yds. and may be used as follows:

- For installation over concrete with up to 85% relative humidity (RH) and pH up to 9.0, install with XL Brands Adhesive 2000 Plus (U.S.) or Adhesive 2500 Plus (Canada). Standard installation instructions apply.
- For installation over concrete with up to 95% RH and pH up to 11.0, you may install with the recommended adhesive in conjunction with XL Brands RH95 moisture vapor reduction system. All XL Brands RH95 written requirements for product application, including, but not limited to, moisture and pH testing protocols, must be met or the LVT products will not be covered by warranty. More information concerning the proper use of XL Brands RH95 can be obtained through your local Interface representative or by visiting www.xlbrands.com.
- When moisture and/or pH conditions exceed these stated limits, STOP and contact Interface Americas Help Desk U.S. (877) 733-7403 / Canada (888) 224-2972.

TacTiles® Installations

For projects equal to or less than 540 sq. ft. (60 sq. yds.) Interface TacTiles connectors may be used instead of glue-down installation as follows:

- Over concrete with up to 85% RH and pH up to 9.0, you may install with Interface's TacTiles connectors. Standard installation instructions apply.
- Over concrete with up to 90% RH and pH up to 9.0, you may install with Interface's TacTiles connectors provided the following conditions are met:

Subfloor Information (continued)

- a. The concrete slab must be a new, bare concrete less than one year old from date of pour.
 - b. The slab must be on or above grade.
 - c. On grade slabs must have a functional vapor barrier under the entire slab.
 - d. An above grade slab must be a suspended slab or be poured in a vented pan.
- Over concrete with up to 97% RH and pH up to 11.0, you may install with Interface's TacTiles connectors in conjunction with XL Brands 9511 Moisture Vapor Reduction System. All XL Brands 9511 written requirements for product application, including, but not limited to, moisture and pH testing protocols, must be met or the LVT products will not be covered by warranty. More information concerning the proper use of XL Brands 9511 can be obtained through your local Interface representative or by visiting www.xlbrands.com.

Note: Moisture and pH test results reflect only the conditions of the concrete at the time of testing. If the concrete moisture exceeds these limitations, do not proceed with the installation. Interface will not be responsible for failures, problems, or damage arising from high moisture, high alkalinity or other subfloor conditions.

NEW AND EXISTING CONCRETE SUBFLOORS SHOULD MEET THE GUIDELINES OF THE LATEST EDITION OF ACI 302 AND ASTM F 710, "STANDARD PRACTICE FOR PREPARING CONCRETE FLOORS TO RECEIVE RESILIENT FLOORING" AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS, 100 BARR HARBOR RIVE, WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, PA 19428; 610.832.9585; [HTTP://WWW.ASTM.ORG](http://www.astm.org)

Substrates shall be smooth, structurally sound, dry, clean and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, old adhesive residue, curing/hardening compounds, sealers and other foreign material.

On or below grade slabs must have an effective vapor barrier under the slab.

LEVELNESS - Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 1/8" in 6 feet or 3/16" in 10 feet. F-number System: Overall values of FF 36/FL 20 may be appropriate for resilient floor coverings.



Expansion and isolation joints in concrete are designed to allow for the expansion and contraction of the concrete. Resilient flooring products should never be installed over expansion joints. Expansion joint covers designed for use with resilient floor coverings should be used. Control joints (saw cuts) may be patched and covered with resilient once the concrete is thoroughly cured, dry and acclimated.

Radiant Heated Subfloors

Radiant heated substrates must not exceed 85°F surface temperature.

Seven days prior to installing resilient products over newly constructed radiant heated systems, make sure the radiant system has been on and operating at maximum temperature to reduce residual moisture within the concrete.

24 hrs. prior to installation lower the temperature to 70°F and maintain that temperature for 48 hrs. after installation. After continuous operation of the radiant system, ensure the temperature of the surface does not exceed 85°F.

Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC (CUTBACK) ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

These products may contain either 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 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 the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institutes (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information for instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For more information go to www.rfci.com.

Existing Resilient Floor Covering

Must be single layered, non-cushion backed, fully adhered and smooth.

Show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.

Waxes, polishes, grease, grime and oil must be removed.

Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents, and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced.

Embossing leveler recommended to aid in proper bonding and to prevent telegraphing.

Subfloor Information (continued)

NOTE: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING IF THE EXISTING FLOORING IS SUITABLE TO BE INSTALLED OVER TOP OF WITH RESILIENT, RESTS SOLELY WITH INSTALLER/ FLOORING CONTRACTOR ON SITE. IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS TO THE SUITABILITY, THE EXISTING FLOORING SHOULD BE REMOVED, OR AN ACCEPTABLE UNDERLAYMENT INSTALLED OVER IT. INSTALLATIONS OVER EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING MAY BE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INDENTATION.

Existing Quarry Tile, Terrazo, Ceramic Tile, Poured Floors (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless)

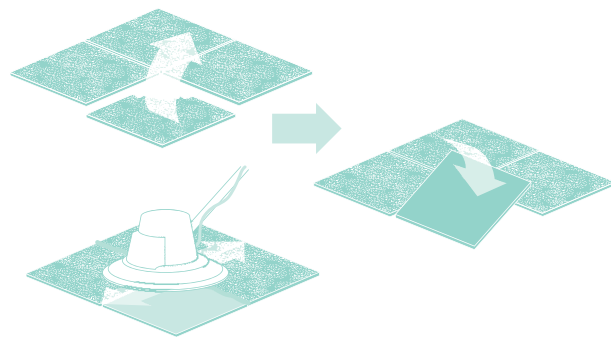
Must be totally cured and well bonded to the concrete.

Must be free of any residual solvents and petroleum derivatives.

Show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.

Waxes, polishes, grease, grime and oil must be removed.

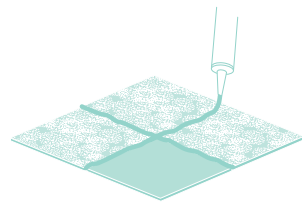
Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced.



Fill any low spots, holes, chips and seams that may telegraph through the new flooring.

Grind any highly polished or irregular/smooth surfaces.

Tile grout joints and textured surfaces must be filled with an embossing leveler or substrate manufacturer approved material.



Old Adhesive Residue

Adhesive residue must be dealt with in one of two ways:

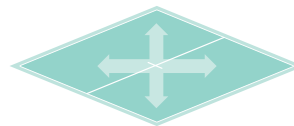
1. It may be mechanically removed by methods such as: sanding, grinding, bead blasting or scarifying. Encapsulate the residual with XL Brands TriSeal or similar product specifically designed for adhesive encapsulation.

2. A self-leveling Portland based underlayment may be applied over it. Check with a substrate manufacturer for suitability, application instructions, and warranties.

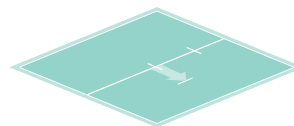
Note: Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in/on the substrate may affect the new adhesive and floor covering.

Layout and Installation

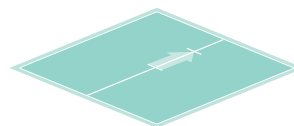
1. Material should always be visually inspected prior to installation. Any material installed with visual defects will not be considered a legitimate claim as it pertains to labor.
2. Interface LVT (squares and planks) – install using conventional square and plank tile installation techniques. Plank products should have a minimum of 6-8" seam stagger.
3. Carefully determine where to begin square or plank tile installation based on your center line of the main room.
4. a. Measure to determine the center point and mark.
Snap a chalk line.



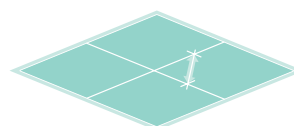
- b. Measure 8' out from your center point along the chalk line.



- c. Measure 6 feet (182.9 cm) from your center point at a right angle to your chalk line and make a mark.



- d. Measure the distance between your marks. It should be exactly 10 feet.



Note: If the room is too small for the above measurements, reduce them by half. Measure 4' vertically and 3' horizontally. The measurement between your marks should be exactly 5'.

5. It is customary to center the rooms and hallways so borders are not less than half a square or plank tile.

Layout and Installation (continued)

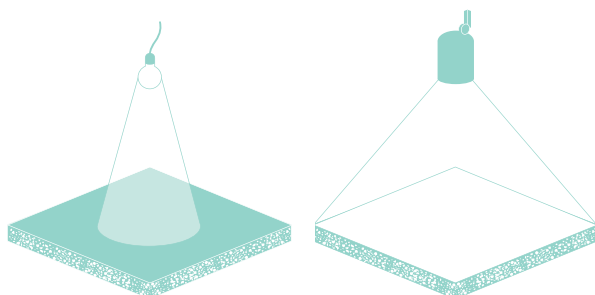
6. Working out of multiple boxes at a time is recommended.
7. Make sure cut edges are always against the wall.
8. To properly cut LVT products, score the top side of the material with a utility knife. Bend the product and finish the cut through the backside. This will ensure the cleanest cut. It may be necessary to use a heat gun to cut around vertical obstructions. Allow the heated LVT to return to room temperature before installation.
9. Cutting the product into a fine point may lead to delamination. Use an ethyl cyanoacrylate based super glue to help fuse the LVT point together. Be sure to clean all glue from the decorative surface immediately. Alcohol based super glues may cause the vinyl to swell.
10. If using adhesive, roll the plank/tile with a 3 section coated 100 lb. roller. Re-roll the entire glued floor area with the 100 lb. roller within the working time of the adhesive. Continue to roll the floor throughout the working day to ensure proper bond..

Tools

Steel Metric Tape
White Chalk Line
Utility Knife with Replacement Blades
Steel Straight Edge
Hammer
Mallet
Tile Cutter with Steel Blade
Carpenter Pencil and Non Permanent Marker
Flat Screw Driver

Lighting

The lighting to be used by the building occupants must be in service for proper inspection of color and joints.



Installation Methods

Interface LVT is designed to be installed as an integrated system with Interface carpet tile. It has been developed to install with XL Brands Adhesive 2000 Plus (U.S.) or Adhesive 2500 Plus (Canada). TacTiles connectors may be used for small installation projects up to 540 sq. ft. (60 sq. yds.). Glue-down installation is required for projects greater than 60 sq. yds.

For larger areas and areas with heavy traffic we recommend the use of XL Brands Adhesive 2000 Plus (U.S.) or Adhesive 2500 Plus (Canada) pressure sensitive adhesive. These adhesives have been developed for use in both carpet tile and LVT installations and provide excellent coverage, adhesion and release capability. Both are formulated with Intersept®, which acts as a mold and bacteria inhibitor.

TacTiles connectors work well in small, general areas up to 540 sq. ft. (60 sq. yds.) as they are glue-free, virtually eliminate VOCs and create a floating floor that makes replacement easy and simple.

NOTE: IN HIGH TEMPERATURE APPLICATIONS OVER 85 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, WE RECOMMEND THE USE OF PERMANENT ADHESIVE.

Installation With Adhesive

XL Brands Adhesive 2000 Plus (U.S.) or Adhesive 2500 Plus (Canada) is recommended with Interface LVT. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines for use.

Install resilient flooring into adhesive when the adhesive has completely dried according to the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines. Roll with a coated 100 lb. roller immediately after the flooring is placed, ensuring complete contact with the adhesive.

Installations in areas subjected to heavy rolling loads and areas of direct sunlight should use the recommended spread adhesive.

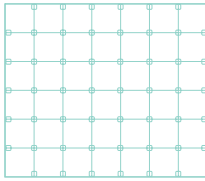
IMPORTANT: DO NOT use any adhesive that is not intended to be used with resilient flooring. Loss of adhesion can result if the flooring is not installed within the working time of the adhesive. Perform bond testing to determine compatibility of adhesive to substrate. A primer can always be used to promote better adhesion.

Installation With TacTiles

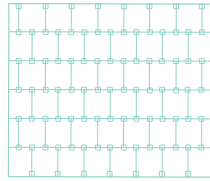
50cm Tile Averages:

- Monolithic, Quarter-Turn, Non Directional – 4 TacTiles Connectors/sq. yd.
- Ashlar, Brick – 6 TacTiles Connectors/sq. yd.

Quarter-Turn, Monolithic & Non Directional Installation



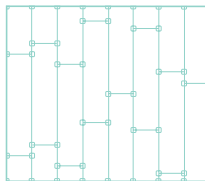
Brick and Ashlar Installation



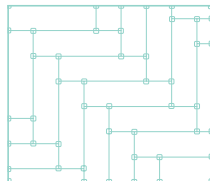
25cm x 1m Plank Averages:

- Ashlar – 7 TacTiles Connectors/sq. yd.
- Herringbone – 8 TacTiles Connectors/sq. yd.

Ashlar Installation



Herringbone Installation



TacTiles connectors may be used for installation of LVT products in the following areas:

- Projects up to 540 sq. ft. (60 sq. yds.)
- Areas not exposed to direct sunlight or temperatures in excess of 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

Interface LVT products can be installed with TacTiles applied at the rate set out in this manual. TacTiles should be placed on each corner of each LVT tile (squares and planks). TacTiles should also be placed in the middle of the 25cm x 1m LVT planks. The LVT should be cut net to the wall and perimeter tiles secured using XL Brands Adhesive 2000 Plus (U.S.) or Adhesive 2500 Plus (Canada). Tiles should be placed underneath the wall until it stops at the seal.

Some applications may require an additional TacTiles connector in the center where tile edges meet. If unsure, consult your local Interface account executive.

Note: TacTiles should not be used to install LVT over a heated subfloor. Installing over a heated floor requires a full spread of XL Brands Adhesive 2000 Plus (U.S.) or Adhesive 2500 Plus (Canada). Adhesive should be applied using a 1/16"x1/32"x1/32" U notch trowel (spread rate 220-260 sq. ft. per gallon).

Note: Open time and working times may vary based on temperature, humidity, substrate porosity and air flow.

Installation in Bathrooms

1. Make sure the floor is clean, smooth, and dry. Refer to substrate guidelines in the LVT installation instruction.
2. Apply XL Brands Adhesive 2000 Plus (U.S.) or Adhesive 2500 Plus (Canada) following the manufacturer's guidelines for use.
3. Once adhesive has flashed off, position first LVT plank/tile.
4. Add a small bead of solvent based vinyl seam sealer to the base of the LVT plank/tile, ensuring the sealer bead is also in contact with the subfloor.
5. Lay in second LVT plank/tile pressing into place.
6. Use a clean wet rag to remove any excess sealer that may have transferred to the surface.
7. Continue in this manner adding seam sealer along the joints (head seams, butt seams, and/or side seams) prior to installing adjacent LVT planks/tiles and using a clean wet rag to remove any excess sealer from the surface of the LVT.
8. Once bathroom installation is completed, apply a bead of silicone caulking around perimeter seams and plumbing fixtures where the LVT plank/tile terminates.

www.interface.com

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Climate change is undeniable. And reversible. Our mission is to prove it. **Join the #ClimateTakeBack and help create a climate fit for life.**