

# LUXURY VINYL FLOORING PROGRAM

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

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

1. Dri Back Vinyl Plank and Tile should be installed in indoor climate-controlled locations between 65° – 85°F. It should NEVER be installed outdoors.
2. Dri Back Vinyl Plank and Tile should be acclimated in the climate-controlled location for 48 hours before starting installation.
3. Dri Back Vinyl Plank and Tile should only be installed after the jobsite has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage a finished plank installation.
4. During the Dri Back Vinyl Plank and Tile installation, mix and install planks from several different cartons to minimize shade variation
5. The finished Dri Back Vinyl Plank and Tile installation should be protected from exposure to direct sunlight.

## SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Proper preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor, resulting in an unsightly surface and cause excessive wear on high spots or indentation on low spots. All subfloor and underlayment patching must be done with a non-shrinking, water-resistant Portland cement patching compound.

### A. Concrete Subfloor

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 and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
2. New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry (at least six weeks) and completely cured. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.
3. Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a Portland cement-based underlayment and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.
4. Concrete floors with a radiant heating system are satisfactory, provided the temperature of the floor does not exceed 90°F at any point. Before installation, turn on the heating system to eliminate any residual moisture.

### B. Wood Subfloor

1. Wood subfloors must be suspended at least 18" above the ground. Adequate cross-ventilation must be provided, and the ground surface of a crawl space must be covered with a suitable vapor barrier.
2. Wood subfloors directly on concrete or installed over sleeper construction are NOT suitable for the installation.
3. All wood and wood composition panels, including plywood, OSB, flake board and particle boards, can be used providing they are smooth, flat, structurally sound and free of deflection.
4. A 1/4" underlayment panel should be installed over the subfloor if the surface of the wood subfloor is not smooth.

### C. Existing Floor Coverings

1. Dri Back Vinyl Plank and Tile can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings provided the existing floor surface is smooth, or can be made smooth.
2. Ceramic tile should be made smooth by applying a cementitious overlay such as patching or leveling compound to smooth out grout joints.
3. For existing resilient floor, it may be required to apply an embossing leveler over a deeply embossed floor. Heavily cushioned vinyl flooring or vinyl flooring consisting of multiple layers are NOT suitable subfloor for installation.

## INSTALLATION MATERIALS AND REQUIRED ACCESSORIES:

**DO NOT USE ANY ADHESIVES** other than what is recommended. Allow adhesive to set until dry to the touch prior to installation of planks. Do not use wet lay method, if wet lay method is used warranty will be void.

- Adhesive set up time will vary depending on temperature, humidity and geographical location. The use of any adhesive which is not specifically recommended herein will void the warranty.

## PREPARATION FOR FLOORING INSTALLATION:

### A) Recommended Installation Tools:

- For porous subfloors and non porous subfloors:  
1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square notch trowel
- 100-pound, three-section steel roller
- Vinyl cutter and/or Utility Knife
- Dri-Tac 5000 pressure sensitive or equal

### B) For Interior Use Only:

- DO NOT install below grade unless moisture test is conducted
- DO NOT install over sealed subfloor
- DO NOT install in exterior areas
- DO NOT install over unsuitable subfloors such as Lauan plywood, particle board, any type of cement backer board, oriented strand board, or any other subfloor materials not approved. Use of these types of products will void the warranty by SSUSA.
- DO NOT install over subfloors where moisture exists

### C) Sub-floor Recommendations:

**ALWAYS USE** latex floor primer on all porous surfaces such as wood or concrete prior to installation. Do not use fans to speed up the dry time. **NEVER USE** solvent type sub-floor primers, fillers or levelers. Do not use latex or oil base paint primers, or any oil based primers.

- Dri Back Plank and Tile can be installed over dry concrete, existing wood floors, plywood and smooth well-adhered sheet vinyl or plank. Surfaces(s) must be clean, (free of dirt, dust, grease or other foreign substances) smooth, structurally sound and moisture free. Subfloor should be leveled to 3/16" within a 10' radius or 1/16" within 1' radius. Fill all low areas with a latex patching compound and let cure for 24-36 hours. High spots should be ground, chipped and sanded to a level surface. Remove all dust and debris.

### D) Concrete Sub-floors:

Always determine if moisture is present before beginning installation. Your dealer can assist with testing procedure(s). If moisture exists in slab you must correct the problem and apply a moisture barrier (suggested by dealer) before installing tile. New concrete sub-floors must be sufficiently cured prior to installation. On or below grade concrete must be absent of hydrostatic pressure, moisture or alkalinity. The ph level of the concrete must be between 5 and 9, and the moisture level of concrete must be below 3 lbs./1000 sq. ft./24 hours (1.36 kg/92.9m<sup>2</sup>/24 hours) as determined by a calcium chloride test according to ASTM F-1869 test method.

The selling Dealer and Manufacturer are not responsible for installation of Dri Back Plank or Tile over:

1. Any subfloor containing moisture.
2. Concrete slabs containing anti-freeze, chemicals, admixtures, quick dry mix or curing compounds which are hygroscopic, are NOT ACCEPTABLE.
3. **DO NOT INSTALL** over previously sealed subfloors. First, strip or cover with sheet vinyl or other approved underlayment.
4. Radiant heated sub-floors where surface temperatures do not exceed 80°F (26.67 degrees C) and above.

### E) Wood Underlayment:

Use APA registered underlayment grade plywood with fully sanded face. Underlayment board, such as plywood and other suitable sub-floor should be underlayment grade minimum 1/2" thick and have 1/8" gap around perimeter. If subfloor is at least 1" thick it is acceptable to use an underlayment grade minimum of 1/4" thick. Reminder, always apply tile to the smooth side of the underlayment material making sure that the underlayment sub-floor is securely fastened with countersink screws.

- Level and smooth the sub-floor with latex based product that is recommended by your dealer. **ALWAYS USE** latex floor primer on all porous surfaces such as wood or concrete prior to installation.

**Subfloor Preparation:** All substrates must be structurally sound, dry, solid and stable. Substrate should be clean and free of dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint, curing agents, concrete sealers, loosely bonded toppings, loose particles, old adhesive residues, and any other substance or condition that may prevent or reduce adhesion. Concrete slabs exceeding 3 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. (1.36 kg) MVER according to ASTM F1869 and 75% Relative Humidity according to ASTM F2170 must be treated prior to the installation.

**Acclimation and Application:** Condition adhesive, plank or tile, other installation materials and subfloor at 65°F to 85°F (18°C to 29°C) for 48 hours prior to, during and 48 hours after installation. Adhesive must be spread uniformly with the recommended trowel (see Coverage information below). Proper adhesive application is critical. Excessive amounts of adhesive applied with an improper trowel will delay drying time. Insufficient coverage (normally caused by worn notches on adhesive trowels) will prevent proper adhesion or bond to the tile. Allow adhesive to dry to a tack, approximately 45 to 60 minutes depending on humidity and subfloor porosity. The adhesive will turn from off-white to clear when tacky dry and will not transfer to the finger when firmly touched. Do not use fans to accelerate adhesive drying time.

Flooring must be installed within 2 hours of applying the adhesive. Position flooring at a low angle into adhesive and press firmly without sliding. Immediately after installation, roll flooring diagonally to plank joints in both directions with a 100-lb. (45 kg), three-section steel roller. Additionally roll all plank joints with hand-held seam roller.

**Cleanup:** Wet adhesive may be removed with a damp cloth; dry adhesive may be removed with a cloth dampened with mineral spirits. Do not reuse adhesive container. Dispose of in accordance with local regulations. **CAUTION:** Solvents are hazardous materials and should be used with caution, in accordance with the manufacturer's label instructions.

Recommended Trowel: 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" Square Notch  
Approximate Coverage: 150 sq. ft. per gallon (14 m<sup>2</sup> per 3,78 L)  
Flooring Type: Solutions Tile and Plank Trowel:  
1/32" x 1/16" x 1/32" U-Notch  
Approximate Coverage: 225-250 sq. ft. sq. ft. per gallon  
(20,9-23,2 m<sup>2</sup> per 3,78 L)

**Shelf Life:** One year if original container is not opened. Store between 70° - 85° degrees.

**Notice:** Before using, user shall determine the suitability of the product for its intended use and user alone assumes all risks and liability whatsoever in connection therewith. ANY CLAIM SHALL BE DEEMED WAIVED UNLESS MADE IN WRITING TO US WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM DATE IT WAS INSTALLED, OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED. **NONFLAMMABLE / NONCOMBUSTIBLE NOTICE:** The seller makes no representation, express or implied, with respect to this

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adhesive in conjunction with any product other than seller's products referred to herein. Installation or service failures due to excessive moisture, vapor, or alkali through concrete subfloors are not the responsibility of SSUSA, and it does not assume liability for such failures.

#### INSTALLATION:

##### A) LAYOUT OF ROOM:

Measure and Mark Room: Find center point of room and draw a center line using a suitable straight edge or chalk line.

1. Proper placement of the first row is key to the installation, place parallel to the longest wall and draw a line 6 inches along wall.
2. Dry lay a test row of Plank or Tile along the line with the groove side on line. If the line is not square reposition.
3. Measure and mark centerline. That centerline must be perpendicular to line the runs along side wall.
4. Using adhesive and trowel recommended in these instructions spread adhesive as instructed on label of adhesive and set first plank into position, on center line with groove side to wall.

##### B) CUT PLANK:

1. Remember cut and set plank at each end of the row before installing next row.
2. Using proper caution, cut planks with a utility knife, remember to follow all safety precautions.
3. Remember as you proceed, clean planks with adhesive remover recommended by your selling dealer.

##### C) COMPLETE THE INSTALLATION:

1. The second row begins at the center of plank 1 and plank 2.
2. Randomly stagger the plank per these instructions and above diagram.
3. Tightly install each row staggered.
4. After floor is set, install final planks in space open from step 1.

#### NOTES:

- Must use laytex primer on all porous sub-floors
- Allow adhesive to set dry to the touch prior to installation of plank
- Do not allow planks to set in adhesive for longer than 1/2 hour, you must immediately roll with a 100 lb. 3 section steel roller. You must also roll all seams with 3 section hand roller or handheld j roller, applying adequate pressure to ensure proper bond.

**CUTTING PLANKS:** Use a utility knife to score the top surface and snap plank, or use optional cutter, for odd shapes and curves around doors use a coping saw or hack saw. Proper placement of the first plank is key to a successful installation.

**APPLIANCES:** When installing or re-installing appliances make sure to use hard board to roll appliances on, including stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers, ice makers, etc., for protection on the newly installed plank. Additionally, place heavy gauge card board over entire surface area as protection for workers, painters, electricians, etc., if work is still being completed in home or apartment.

**NOTE:** The use of felt protectors must also be used for chairs, tables, heavy objects, or the warranty will be void.

#### EXCLUSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY

SSUSA provides a one (1) year Limited Warranty. Dri Bac Vinyl Plank and Tile product is free of any manufacturing defects. If such products are found to be defective, SSUSA will supply new products of the same or similar style, size, color, grade and gauge for repair or replacement of the defective area and will pay reasonable labor cost if it was professionally installed. Non defective products that were damaged by improper installation would not constitute a valid claim under this Limited Warranty. SSUSA reserves the right to inspect any claim, request photographs and/or samples prior to approving such claim.

#### PRE-INSTALLATION LIMITED WARRANTY

Surface Source USA warrants that this product is free of visual defects. You and/or your installer should carefully inspect each piece before installation. Any pieces that appear to have defects should not be installed. SSUSA will not be responsible for any claim for product installed with visual defects.

#### WEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

Luxury Vinyl Flooring is protected with a wear layer. SSUSA warrants that there will be no wear-through of the wear layer for the amount of years indicated for the specific product. "Wear-through" means complete loss of the wear layer so that the printed layer is changed or affected. This Limited Warranty only applies provided the recommended installation and maintenance procedures are followed. For complete details on the SSUSA Limited Warranty and installation instructions and maintenance recommendations, please contact your SSUSA specialty retailer.

To obtain a warranty claim form and/or information, you may call 1-888-862-9898 (Attention: Claims Department). Any claim under this Limited Warranty must include a claim form properly filled out accompanied by a dated proof of purchase or invoice. THIS LIMITED WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS. YOU MAY HAVE OTHER RIGHTS THAT VARY FROM STATE TO STATE.

# DRI-BACK INSTALLATION

#### EXCLUSIONS TO LIMITED WARRANTY

- Dissatisfaction due to improper installation or maintenance. For additional information for proper installation and maintenance, please review the information on the product packaging.
- Damages resulting from misuse or abuse including, but not limited to, scratches, cuts, burns, stains, indentations, improper or insufficient maintenance, and lack of proper floor protector.
- Floor products sold as irregulars or second quality which is sold "as is".
- Damages or failure of floor to adhere to subfloor resulting from excessive moisture, alkali and / or hydrostatic pressure.
- Color variations between samples or printed illustrations and the actual production runs.
- Discoloration due to use of rubber-backed mats, coco-fiber mats, solvent-based polishes or cleaners, or asphalt tracked in from driveways or parking lots.
- Reduction of gloss from use.
- Residential or Commercial installations with heavy wheeled vehicle traffic that permanently indents, or damages the flooring.

This limited warranty is made solely to the original purchaser of Dri Back Vinyl and Tile products and is not transferable under any circumstances. This limited warranty is expressly in lieu of any other expressed warranty whether oral or written. No representative, employee, or agent, or any other person, is authorized to assume for any additional liability or responsibility in connection with these products. Consequently, agents, employees, distributors, and dealers are not authorized to make modifications to this limited warranty, or additional warranties. Accordingly, additional statements such as dealer advertising or presentations, whether oral or written, do not constitute warranties and should not be relied upon. IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY ARE LIMITED TO A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. IN ANY CASE, COMPANY SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, INDIRECT OR OTHER DAMAGES ARISING FROM BREACH OF LIMITED WARRANTY, BREACH OF CONTRACT, NEGLIGENCE OR OTHER LEGAL THEORY EVEN IF **SSUSA** OR ITS AGENTS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

#### LUXURY VINYL FLOORING

Luxury Vinyl Tile is a state of the art flooring product available in a variety of construction thicknesses and installation methods including a 2mm, 3mm, 4.2mm and 5mm overall thickness. Both the 4.2mm and 5mm are available exclusively in a free floating locking click system. Both the 2mm and 3mm are available only as a direct glue system.

#### INSTALLATIONS USING DRI-TEC 5000 ADHESIVE or Equal

DRI-TEC adhesive or equal for glue down installations over all approved substrates. Set tiles as recommended in any installation brochure.

Since manufacturer has no control over the quality control or raw material components used in the manufacturing of competitive adhesives, therefore, in order to satisfy warranty coverage we only can recommend the use of DRI-TEC 5000 under recommended products.

If a competitive adhesive is considered, please consult with the adhesive manufacturer prior to installation on their product recommendations and warranty coverage.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Luxury Vinyl Flooring is recommended for interior use in residential and light commercial application. LVF is not recommended for use in showers, countertops or ceilings. Condition the room, product and adhesive at a constant temperature of between 65 degrees F (18 degrees C) and 85 degrees F (29 degrees C) for 48 hours prior to, during and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter maintain a room temperature between 55 degrees F (13 degrees F) and 100 degrees F (38 degrees C).

When installing from two or more cartons, check the dye lot info to assure pattern and shade numbers match.

#### APPROVED SUBSTRATE

**Floors:** Dry concrete at all grade levels, suspended wood, qualifying properly prepared existing resilient floors. Substrate must be clean and dry, free from dirt, dust, grease or other extraneous materials that will inhibit bond. Deviations in the flatness of the floor cannot exceed 1/16" in 1 foot or 3/16" in 10 foot. Identify and fill any low areas with a portland based latex patching compound. Gypsum based patches are not recommended.

\*Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, beadblast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt or asphaltic cut back adhesives or other adhesives. These product may contain asbestos fibers and or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory track hazard.

Various federal, state and local government agencies have regulations covering the proper removal of asbestos based products, please consult with these jurisdictions prior to consideration and removal.

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