



# COMMERCIAL DRY-BACK LVP (Luxury Vinyl Plank) INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

\* DO NOT INSTALL PRODUCT WITHOUT FIRST READING DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

## General Information

- Do not store directly on concrete, allow for air circulation. Do not open the cartons but spread them out and protect corners from damage.
- To minimize shade variation, mix and install planks from several cartons.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods; such exposure may result in excessive movement of the floor.
- All subfloor patching must be done with a Portland based compound and allowed to dry completely prior to installing flooring.
- This product can be installed on, above, or below grade.

**CAUTION:** Do not install Dry-Back LVP - Vinyl Planks over carpet. This product is not suitable for any outside use, solariums, sauna, or rooms that have the potential of flooding. We also highly recommend you do not install in rooms or homes that are not temperature controlled.

**Acclimation:** The jobsite should be at “normal living conditions” for a minimum of 1 week prior to and during installation. Ensure substrate, flooring and adhesive are fully acclimated to between 65-85 degrees F with a relative humidity no greater than 65% for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. The home should be maintained at 55-85 degrees and 35-55% humidity. **L.W. Mountain, Inc. does not require that the 5.0mm Commercial Dry-Back Luxury Vinyl Planks be acclimated before installation. It is noted that in extreme temperatures (hot or cold), the product will be easier to work with if it is allowed to obtain a temperature of 60-70 degrees before installation.**

## Subfloor Information

- All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor covering, resulting in an unsightly surface and may cause excessive wear on high spots. Subfloor must be flat- 1/8" in 6' or 3/16" in 10'.
- Carpet staples or adhesive residue must be removed to ensure proper installation.
- Any unevenness over 1/8" (3 mm) must be sanded down or filled with a floor leveler.
- All subfloors must be tested at the time of installation to confirm appropriate conditions prior to the installation of flooring. Testing wood and concrete subfloors requires the use of meters, devices and testing materials specific to either wood or concrete subfloors. The use of meters or devices that are not specifically designed for the subfloor in question are unacceptable.
- Surface temperatures must be 55°-85°F and 10° above ambient Dew Point.
- Ambient conditions must be between 55°-85°F and 35-65% RH (relative humidity).
- Acceptable concrete testing options:
  1. ASTM F2659- A meter calibrated for concrete qualified by gravimetric testing must be used. Moisture Content must be less than or equal to 4.0% MC.
  2. ASTM F1869- Calcium Chloride testing to determine moisture vapor emissions. (MVER) less than 5 lb/24 hr per 1000 sq.ft.
  3. ASTM F2170- In-situ probe testing to confirm the Relative Humidity (RH) is less than 80%.

## Wood Subfloors:

1. Do not install Dry-Back LVP – Vinyl Planks over wood subfloors which lay directly on concrete or over sleeper constructions.
2. All wood and wood composition panels are suitable for the use under Dry-Back LVP – Vinyl Planks providing that they are smooth, flat, structurally sound and free of deflection. The panels include plywood, particle board, oriented strand board (OSB), flake board and wafer board.
3. All plywood subfloors must be covered with a minimum ¼" or heavier underlayment rated panels.
4. Moisture Content of wood subfloors must be between 6-12% MC.
4. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil. black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist is to be no less than 18" and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.

### **Concrete Subfloors:**

1. The concrete subfloor must be dry, smooth and free from dust, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, and any 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. Although Dry-Back LVP – Vinyl Planks are not susceptible to damage from moisture, excessive subfloor moisture is an ideal breeding ground for moldiness, mildew, and fungus. The limited warranty does not cover discoloration from mold or from any kind of water damage caused by flooding, leaking or similar conditions.
3. Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a Portland based latex compound underlayment, and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.
4. Concrete floors with in-floor radiant heating systems are allowed, provided the temperature of the floor never exceeds 85°F or 29°C. Before installing the flooring, the heating system must be turned on to eliminate residual moisture.

### **Existing Floor Covering:**

1. Dry-Back LVP – Vinyl Plank can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is smooth or can be made smooth. The existing floor surface must be adhered to the subfloor.

***NEVER install a Dry-Back LVP over a floating floor or as noted before over wood subfloors which lay directly on concrete or over sleeper constructions.***

2. Ceramic tiles should be made smooth by applying a cementitious overlay such as patching or levelling compound.
3. When the removal of the existing resilient floor covering is not an option then it must be covered with an embossing levelling compound or an equivalent to provide a smooth subfloor surface. Otherwise, telegraphing may occur.
4. Existing sheet vinyl should not be heavily cushioned and must consist of only one layer.
5. Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor, may affect the new floor covering.

***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 Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to [www.rfci.com](http://www.rfci.com)*

**NOTE:** Before laying out the floor, check the wall you are starting from and make sure it is square to the opposite wall. Simply measure the room from opposite ends of the wall to the far wall. If the measurements are different, you can make adjustments on the first row by scribing the plank.

### **Installation**

1. Inspect the planks for blemishes or defects.
2. For the best result, begin by installing planks from the center of the room. Measure and mark at the center point of each end wall. Connect the center points with a chalk line or a straight edge and pencil. Locate the center of this line and mark a second line at a right angle.
3. Place a row of planks along the chalk line from the center point to the wall.
4. Measure the space between the last full plank and the wall. For the best appearance, border planks should be at least 3" (1/2 of a full plank) wide. If it is not, snap a new parallel chalk line 3" from the original center line. Repeat this procedure with the perpendicular guideline and adjust it if required. The point where the new chalk lines cross is your starting point for installing planks.

5. Follow all guidelines for appropriate trowels and application methods as set forth by the adhesive manufacturer. Spread the adhesive in the manner instructed by the adhesive manufacturer. **Subfloor conditions and requirements take precedence over L.W. Mountain Inc. guidelines.**

6. Starting at your "center point", carefully place a plank at the intersection of the guidelines. Continue installing planks along the center line. Firmly press the plank in place. Place each plank snugly against a previously installed plank, making sure the corners meet. Each row should be offset by a minimum of 6" but in a random fashion for best appearance. Avoid establishing a repeating pattern.

7. When installing border planks, start by placing a border plank ("Plank 1") precisely over a plank in the row closest to the wall. Now lay another plank ("Plank 2") tightly against the wall and overlapping "Plank 1". Mark "Plank 1" with a pencil line drawn against "Plank 2". Cut the plank with the knife

score and snap method or with a heavy-duty tile cutter, cut “Plank 1” along the line and position it in the border space.

8.To properly fit planks around doorjambs, pipes or other obstructions, cut a paper pattern and trace on the face of a tile. Cut the tile and make sure it fits into place before installing.

9.Clean any excess adhesive from the face of the plank immediately following the installation. After installation, roll the floor with at least 100Lb roller. Do not wash your new floor for 48 hours after installation.

### **Floor Maintenance**

- Regularly sweep or vacuum the floor using the appropriate vacuum attachment.
- Immediately clean up spills and any excessive liquid.
- Protect flooring from constant direct sunlight.
- Occasionally damp mop the floor.
- DO NOT USE abrasive cleaners, bleach, or WAX.
- Support furniture with wide-bearing, non-staining floor protectors. Ideally, the protectors should be at least one inch in diameter, made of non-pigmented hard plastic, and rest flat on the floor. Non-staining felt protectors are also acceptable. Use protection mats under chairs with caster to avoid abrasion of the vinyl flooring. Make sure that any metal protectors are rust-proof.
- If you need to move heavy furniture and/or appliances across the floor, always use strips of wood or hardboard runways to protect the floor. Always use runways even if you have an appliance dolly, or even if the heavy objects are equipped with wheels or rollers.

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