

Best Install Practices



Our Tile

Perfection Floor Tile is made of vinyl. All vinyl flooring stretches with heat and shrinks in the cold. Vinyl tile should be installed between 68° and 98° F. Any colder and the tile could be 1/16" smaller than when we made it. Therefore, when the temperature changes from 45° F to 105° F, a floating vinyl floor installed within a garage with 10 tiles across by 20 tiles long will expand 5/8-inch on one side and 1¼-inch on the other. On the other hand, if you install the tile at 20° or 110° and it never changes more than 20° one way or the other, the project will not expand or contract enough that anyone would notice. If a floor buckles or shows gaps there is only one reason, it could not expand or contract as one interlocked floor.

Installation Methods

There are three methods used to install vinyl flooring:

- Floating: flooring is not bonded to the substrate by any adhesive.
- Full Spread: means the adhesive is troweled over the entire substrate.
- Perimeter Adhered: means the adhesive is only applied to the outside edges of the flooring and at the seams. We never recommend this type of installation.
- Self-Adhesive Tile: the tile is pre-glued and comes with a removable paper backing.

Substrate

The surface on which the vinyl flooring will be laid is called the substrate. You can install over wood, concrete, old vinyl or any solid surface. It is important that the subfloor be clean and level. This helps insure your new vinyl flooring will be beautiful and well supported.

If you have cracks or gaps larger than ¼" we recommend you fill them with plastic cement or concrete and wood filler on plywood floors. Tile will conform to the substrate whatever that looks like. Any bumps or dips you leave under the tile will be mirrored in the finished project.

Preparation

Subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation.

- Leave a ¼-inch gap around all edges, poles, cabinets, garage door, railings, or anything that will stop the floor from expanding or contracting.
- When installing baseboard, keep above the ¼-inch gap.
- Do NOT lay over any type of carpet.
- Seal or remove paint before installation.
- Scrape or sand off old glue
- Plywood floors will need a sealer: use two coats of silicone before installation.
- Radiant Heat Floors: turn on the heat while installing.
- Wet areas with plywood floors or rough surfaces: lay down a plastic liner before installing tile, we recommend 7mm garden plastic.

When You Should Glue Or Use Our Self-Adhesive Tile:

Question: I thought this was a floating floor?

Answer: It is in most cases but there are exceptions.

Question: What glue should I use?

Answer: Any VCT floor tile adhesive. We like Henry's 430 Pro Clear Adhesive, but any good VCT adhesive will work. Follow the directions on the label and remember thinner is best, you do not want the glue coming up through the seams.

- South facing garage with windows
- Owner keeps the garage door open a lot and for long periods during the day.
- Garages where heavy material or weight will sit on the tile for an extended period, for example cars that do not move.
- Anywhere you want a water proof installation.
- Warehouses where fork lifts or heavy loads on small wheels will be used.
- Anywhere you want to control expansion and contraction.

Before You Start

- Check the batch codes, the small sticker on the front edge of the box. Are they all the same? If not, do not install. It is impossible to make exactly the same thing twice. We can normally get so close that the eye can't detect a difference, but not always.
- Remeasure, make sure you have purchased enough for the same reason stated above. If you have to order more it may not be exactly the same.
- Existing baseboards and/or moldings have to be removed prior to wall to wall installation.

Acclimate

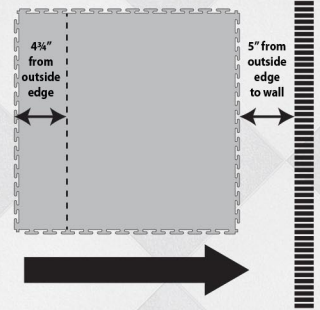
At the location of the job site take the tile out of the carton and spread them around the floor so that they will be the same temperature as the floor. Wait 48 hours before installation.

Installation

1. Find the center point of the room, lay one row of tile, working from the front to the back of the room. Use a plastic or rubber mallet. Gently tap the tabs in place.
2. Next, lay a row of tile in the opposite direction creating a +. You should have a cross with four open areas. Look at the edges to be sure there is equal distance from both sides of the wall to the last full tile. It will not be exact, as there are no straight walls. Now fill in the four squares starting in the center working to the wall.
3. Note: If you are using a Full Spread method, the only difference is when you fill in the four open areas you will spread the adhesive as you go. Follow the adhesive manufacturers recommendations for trowels, thickness and time.

Cutting the Edge Tile

Measure from the edge (inside the tab with exposed tabs) of the last full tile installed to the wall, then back off a ¼ inch for expansion. In the below example 5". Now measure from the outside edge (from the inside edge of the tab with exposed tabs) in 4 3/4" (see illustration below). Using a straight edge, draw a line from the top of the tile to the bottom. Using a sharp blade utility knife score the tile a couple of times, fold the tile at the cut line then draw your knife down from top to bottom. Watch those fingers and keep your blade sharp to make your job easier. After you are finished reinstall your moldings. Do not push down to hard or you will defeat the purpose of the ¼ gap you just left.



Choose a Trim

You may need a profile (reducer edge) for our tile to carpet or to ceramic tile or to floor tile. Leather, Slate and LVT have rounded edges and do not normally need a trim piece. If you need a reducer strip you can use our rolled edging that we will cut to size. For hidden lock tiles or interlocking edges for standard interlocking tile. Most flooring retailers sell profiles, use the ones made for ceramic tile. Our tile is around 1/4" thick as is most ceramic tile. Our reducer strips look like this.....



Doors

Interior doors often have space at the bottom to accommodate new flooring. If yours do, then you're good to go. If yours don't, or they're cut for something lower than the floor you're installing, you may need to trim the bottom of the door molding. Lay a tile up next to the door frame, mark it with a pencil, then trim door just above the pencil mark.

Clean Up

To clean the floor after installation, use a solution of ½ cup white vinegar in a gallon of water and damp mop. If you would like to add protection, you can use a commercial vinyl tile sealer. This is recommended in a commercial building. If it is a residential install, we recommend two coats of Armstrong Shine Keeper or Rejuvenate. Both are applied with a mop and dry quickly. We recommend an application every year, it will not build up, but will make the floor look great and easier to keep clean.

After the Install: Full Spread

- Try to stay off new vinyl floor for 24 hours. If you must walk on the floor, avoid the seams.
- To allow the adhesives to setup properly, keep the room at 68° F or greater for at least 2 days.
- Ventilate the area well for 48 to 72 hours.
- Light foot traffic is allowed after 24 hours.
- Don't wet mop your floor for about five days. The adhesives need time to cure.
- Most of all follow the instructions on the adhesive label.

After the Install: Floating Method

- Foot traffic is fine immediately following installation.

Furniture and Appliance Placement

- Don't rely on furniture or appliance wheels and do not drag appliances over your new floor!
- Lay down a piece of thin plywood and move the appliance over the floor on the wood, or use furniture sliders made specifically for this purpose.

Notes

- Although our products are colorfast, avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. Exposure may result in discoloration. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the drapes or blinds is recommended
- Perfection Floor Tile is water/moisture resistant, however, excessive moisture in the subfloor could promote mold, mildew, and other moisture related issues like the trapping of moisture emissions under the flooring, which may contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment.
- Perfection Floor Tile does not warrant nor is responsible for damage to floor covering due to moisture related issues.
- We also recommend keeping some leftover pieces of vinyl for future repairs "just in case."