



# Installation & Maintenance Guide

## Read this guide before starting installation

Riverside Engineered Vinyl Plank is a waterproof floating floor but should not be used to seal an existing floor from moisture. It cannot inhibit the growth of mold or prevent structural problems associated with or caused by flooding, excessive moisture, alkalis in the subfloor, or conditions arising from hydrostatic pressure. Regardless of location, always remove standing water, urine, and other liquids promptly. Moisture issues should be addressed and corrected at the job site prior to installation.

### PRE-LAY CHECK

It is the installer's responsibility to verify the product is the correct product, color, pattern and quantity. Check each board for visual defects before installation. LW cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects. Color variations are to be expected. For best visual effect, shuffle planks from several cartons during installation.

### SITE CONDITIONS

LW EVP is more dimensionally stable than typical wood or vinyl based flooring products. For best results, it is recommended to maintain an optimum material temperature range for installation between 65°– 85°F. Extreme hot or cold conditions may cause the material to become too flexible or rigid, resulting in installation difficulty or damage to the locking system. Flooring should be stored in small lots in the rooms for 72 hours where the installation will take place and in a job controlled environment allowing for proper acclimation. Improper acclimation can cause the floor to buckle and/or the boards to shrink or cup after installation.

Installing a moisture barrier may prevent the floor getting wet in the future. LW Flooring is not responsible for site related moisture issues. For additional protection, you may want to consider applying a moisture barrier compound system.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of this instruction. As a floating floor, the floor can be installed over most existing floor coverings provided the floor is firmly attached to the structural floors and must be sound and sturdy. Moisture issues should be addressed and corrected at the job site prior to installation.

The subfloor should be flat within 1/8" in a 6 foot radius or 3/16" within a 10 foot radius. The substrate should not slope more than 1" per 6 feet in any direction.

LW recommends testing concrete substrates for relative humidity, moisture and pH before installing LW EVP. Test results should not exceed 85% relative humidity (RH). The Calcium Chloride Test for moisture should be no more than 8 lbs per 1000 SF in 24 hours MVER (Moisture Vapor Emission Rating) and pH tests for alkalinity levels should register between 7 and 9. LW Flooring recommends a 6 mil poly film when installing over concrete subfloors.

LW recommends checking wood substrates for moisture. Obvious signs of moisture issues include warping, peaking, degradation of the integrity of the substrate, rusted fasteners, and rusted floor registers. Even if obvious signs are not present, the material should be tested using an invasive moisture meter and moisture levels should not exceed 14%.

Radiant heating systems must be cast 1/2 inch below the surface of the concrete slab, and should be operating at least 2 weeks before installing LW EVP. Set the temperature of the radiant heating system to 68°F 48 hours before, during, and 72 hours after installation. The temperature of the radiant heat floor may be increased gradually 72 hours after installation, but the surface temperature should never exceed 85°F. Contact the manufacturer of your radiant heating system for further recommendations.

*Note: Follow and comply with various Federal, State and Local government agencies' regulations governing the removal of in-place asbestos-containing material. If you contemplate the removal of a resilient floor covering structure that contains (or is presumed to contain) asbestos, you must review and comply with all applicable regulations. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos.*

## **INSTALLATION PROCEDURES**

Installation exceeding 35-40 feet in each direction requires expansion trims. An expansion gap of no less than 3/8" is required. Do NOT adhere any tape to the face of the floor as it will damage the finish. No claims will be processed for tape damage.

1. Plan the direction of the area to be installed to maximize the visual appearance once installed. The direction of the plank grain should be confirmed and the installation should be balanced from the center of the area.
2. Start from the top left corner of the room by putting the first plank in place so both the head and side grooves are exposed. Planks should be installed from left to right. To assist in laying the first row straight, using masking tape across each short end locking system is recommended. Continue this for the first two rows and remove after completion of installation.
3. Install the second piece in the first row by laying the short-end tongue onto the previously installed piece short end groove. Lock the pieces together by firmly pressing down with your thumb along the seam to lock the planks together. This will engage the 5G locking tab into the piece you just placed. You will hear and feel the pieces lock together as the locking tab engages in the joint. Use a soft rubber mallet to vertically engage the joint.
4. Continue this manner for the rest of the first row. Make sure there is a 3/8" space between the first row and the walls.
5. Cut the piece at least 10" shorter so the short end is enough apart from the end of the first row. Install the first piece in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the piece in the first row at a low angle into the installed piece. Then firmly lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure towards the installed piece. The pieces should fit snugly together and lay flat. Finish the remainder of the second row.
6. It is critical to keep the first two rows straight and square since they are the foundation for the rest of the installation. Check often for straightness while installing the floor as failure to do so can result in gapping.
7. Continue installing. Make sure to maintain a random pattern repeat. Maintain a 3/8" expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces.
8. Check to be certain all planks are fully locked. If slight gapping is noticed, or pieces will not lie flat, simply disengage the long side joint and carefully slide the short end joint apart. Do not pull up on this joint as it will damage the locking mechanism! Reinstall the piece.

9. Install wall and door moldings last. Be sure that all moldings are fastened directly to the wall or subfloor. Do not place any fasteners through the floating vinyl flooring.

**Note:** *The 5G drop lock joints cannot be “lifted” or angled apart when removing or reposition a plank. To remove a plank, first disengage the long joint by lifting at a slight angle while pulling the complete rows away from each other. Then simply “slide” the drop joint apart along the floor. Failure to slide this joint will damage the drop lock mechanism and prevent proper re-installation of the affected plank.*

## **GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

**NEVER** use wax or oil based cleaning agents. All-purpose cleaners are not recommended as they can dull your floor’s finish or leave a hazy residue. Use furniture protectors to reduce indentation and walk-off mat at the entrance to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. Do not use a mat that has a rubber or latex back as they may permanently stain your floor.

- Do NOT adhere any tape to the face of the floor as it will damage the finish.
- LW Flooring recommends Bona brand cleaning products which are widely regarded as the best cleaning solution for urethane finish flooring.
- Sweep, vacuum or dust mop regularly.
- Use walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sinks.
- Install proper felt protectors under chair and furniture legs to prevent scratching.
- Close curtains or blinds to limit direct sun exposure.