

# MERIDIAN COMPOSITE CORE LUXURY VINYL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Recommended Use

- Residential and light commercial applications
- Interior use in enclosed, climate controlled areas

## General Information

- Always store and transport cartons flat
- Acclimate flooring and room at a constant temperature between 65F and 85F for 48 hours prior to, during and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter, maintain temperatures between 65F and 85F.
- Mix planks from several different cartons to ensure a random appearance.
- Always allow a ¼" expansion space around the entire perimeter of the room and at all fixtures and pipes. Cover the exposed edges with trim or fill the gap with a high quality silicone caulking.
- Meridian floors can be installed in rooms up to 40' long x 40' wide. Use T-moldings to reduce length or width if installing in areas larger than the 40' maximums.
- If installing Meridian floors in multiple rooms it is highly recommended that T-moldings be used to separate rooms.
- **Note:** All base cabinets must be installed prior to installing flooring. Do not install base cabinets or island cabinets on top of the floor.

## Room Preparation

- Remove all furniture and appliances from the room(s)
- Remove wall and doorway trim unless you plan to use a base shoe molding (eg. quarter round)
- Undercut door jambs

## Subfloor Recommendations

- Planks can be installed over a variety of subfloor surfaces including concrete on all grade levels, wood and many existing hard surface floors.
- Subfloors must be clean, smooth, flat, solid and dry.
- Do not install planks over floors that are sloped for drainage.
- Any uneven areas greater than 1/16" in 3' should be leveled with a Portland cement based patching compound.
- Composite core luxury vinyl floors are resistant to water damage but they do not prevent the transmission of moisture. Care should be taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of the vinyl floor to prevent the growth of mold and mildew.
- Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

## Wood Subfloors

Composite core luxury vinyl planks are suitable for installation over double layer wood subfloors that are a minimum of 1" thick, or single layer subfloors constructed with APA rated Sturd-I-Floor panels, 23/32" or heavier. Joist spacing should not exceed 19.2". Set fasteners 1/32" below the subfloor surface, sand joints smooth and fill holes and gaps wider than 1/8" wide. Install suitable underlayment when necessary to achieve a flat or solid surface. Wooden subfloors installed over a crawlspace should have a moisture barrier installed in the crawlspace with at least 18 inches of ground clearance.

## Concrete Subfloors

Composite core luxury vinyl planks can be installed over concrete on all grade levels. A 6 mil polyurethane moisture barrier must be used with concrete subfloors. Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 5 lbs./24 hour per 1,000 sq. ft. when tested with the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test in accordance with ASTM F 1869 or 80% RH in accordance with ASTM F 2170 "Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Slabs using in situ Probes." Fill cracks; saw cuts and control joints and level uneven areas that exceed 1/16" in 3'. Do not install flooring over expansion joints.

### **Existing Flooring**

Composite core luxury vinyl planks can be installed over a variety of finished floor coverings including sheet vinyl, ceramic, marble and terrazzo. The surface of the existing floor must be in good condition and show no signs of excessive moisture. Level deep or wide grout lines with embossing leveler so it is flush with the tile surface. Do not install flooring over heavily cushioned floors or over tile installed over concrete below grade level.

### **Stair Cases**

Meridian should be installed on a staircase by adhering the planks directly to the subfloor. An appropriate strength adhesive should be used to glue the product and nails may be used to hold the planks in place during the glue set time. Underlay is not used on staircases and so the pre-attached underlay should be removed prior to installing the product on the stairs so that the adhesive bonds directly to the core of Meridian.

### **Radiant Heated Systems**

Composite core luxury vinyl planks can be installed over in-floor radiant heating systems provided the subfloor surface does not exceed 85F at any point. The initial floor temperature should not exceed 70F for 24 hours prior to and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter the temperature should be gradually increased to the desired setting up to 85F. Radiant heating systems that are installed on top of the subfloor surface and covered with self-leveling underlayment are not recommend.

### **Tools Required**

- Power Saw (table saw, circular saw, etc.)
- Carpenter Square
- Tape measure
- Pencil

### **Installation**

#### **1. Installing the First Row**

- i. Lay the first plank with the long edge tongue facing the wall.
- ii. Lift the right side of the second plank to a 30 degree angle and place its short end tongue into the groove of the first plank.
- iii. Lower the plank to lock the two together.
- iv. Continue in this manner until the first row is complete.
- v. Use the remainder of the last plank of the first row to start the second row provided that it is a minimum of 16" (40cm) long. If the cut piece is shorter than 16" (40cm) long, cut a new plank in half and use it to begin the second row.

#### **2. Installing All Other Rows**

- i. Install the first plank of the second row by installing its long edge to the previous row's groove.
- ii. Install remaining planks as follows:
- iii. Install the long edge of the plank to the previous row (FIG. 1).

- iv. Before lowering the plank, make sure it's short end tongue overlaps with the previous plank's short end groove.
- v. Lower the plank slowly (a short oscillating or up-and-down motion may help lower the plank).
- vi. Apply pressure to the planks short edge so as to activate the locking mechanism (FIG. 2). You will typically hear an audible click sound.

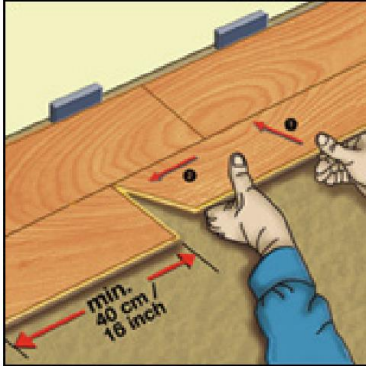


FIG. 1

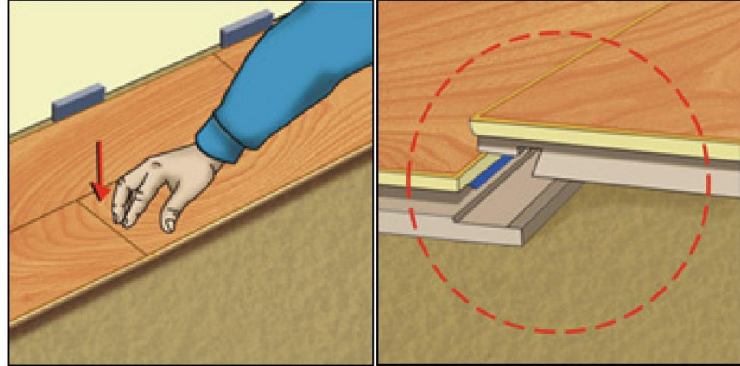


FIG. 2

### Finishing

- Remove all spacers.
- Install wall trim lightly over the floor surface. Drive fasteners into the wall and not the floor.
- When installing doorway transition moldings allow a ¼" expansion space between the edge of the floor and the molding. Do not drive fasteners in to the floor.
- Return appliances to the room by rolling or sliding over strips of hardboard to prevent damaging the floor.

### Care and Maintenance

- Furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor.
- Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Avoid using a vacuum with a beater bar.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do not use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor.