

Installation Preparation

Maximus Rigid Vinyl Plank Flooring

- CAUTION**
- Do not install in wet areas like patios and showers, or in exterior areas.
 - Do not install under permanent kitchen cabinets
 - Do not install on concrete unless proper moisture testing is conducted and documented.
 - Do not install flooring with obvious visual defects.

- STORAGE & ACCLIMATION**
- Temperature can affect PVC products. For best product performance, ensure the temperature in the home is between 50° and 100° before, during, and after installation, and for the life of the flooring.
 - Acclimation time is not required when the product and worksite are within the above temperatures. Products must acclimate for 24 hours, however, when temperatures exceed these recommendations.
 - Product installed in homes with unregulated temperatures (summer or vacation homes, etc.) may experience gapping between planks or edge curling over time.
 - Stack boxes flat, and no more than eight cartons high. Keep away from direct sunlight.

- RECOMMENDED USE**
- This product is recommended for residential or light commercial interior use only. See the product’s warranty for details. This floor can be installed below, on, or above grade level.
 - This flooring installs like laminate flooring. It may be floated with or without underlayment.

- IMPORTANT PLANNING**
- Always install in good lighting so visual defects can clearly be seen and discarded prior to installation.
 - All other construction work should be completed prior to the installation of this product.
 - It is recommended to have an additional box left over after installation, to be used for repairs if needed.
 - For the best overall appearance, select planks from several boxes at a time when installing.
 - A waste factor of at least 5% for cutting is recommended per order. Diagonal installations may require 15% to 20%.
 - Provide a 3/8-inch expansion gap between the walls and floor, all around the perimeter of the floor and around any fixed objects. For areas 50 feet wide or more, a gap of 3/4-inch must be allowed.
 - Areas greater than 50 feet in any one direction must be broken by expansion breaks between planks in the floor, typically at doorways or hallway entrances. These gaps are commonly covered with T-molding.
 - Expansion breaks for 50-foot areas are not required when gluing the flooring planks to the subfloor.
 - The flooring should be glued down in areas with direct sunlight exposure. In floating applications, windows and sliding glass doors should have proper cover to prevent direct sunlight to the flooring.
 - Recommended adhesives are: Bostik LVT Lock™ GreenGrip and Duragrip, Mapei Ultrabond Eco 962® and Eco Quicklay spray adhesive.
 - Do not move furniture back onto the flooring until adhesive has cured.
 - When moving furniture and heavy equipment on the flooring, use luan board, plywood, or other similar covering to protect the floor.
 - Moldings are needed to cover the expansion gaps along walls, and when the floor edges transition to other floor coverings (carpet, tile, etc.)
 - This product is waterproof. However, in the event of a flood or significant water leaks, the planks should be removed to allow the subfloor to thoroughly dry before reinstalling.

- CRAWLSPACES**
- If installing over a crawlspace you must have a minimum of 18 inches of air space between the ground and floor joist. Crawlspaces should have adequate cross ventilation. The ground of the crawl space must be completely covered with a minimum 6mil or thicker polyethylene moisture barrier.

- WOOD SUBFLOOR**
- Wood subfloors should be flat within 1/8” over a 6’ span, and 3/16” over a 10’ span. Sand down high spots, and fill in low spots with a Portland-based floor patch.
 - Plywood subfloors should be a minimum 5/8” thick, OSB subfloors should be a minimum ¾” thick, and floor joists should be 16” apart.
 - Wood subfloors must be dry and not exceed 12% moisture content. Test the subfloor moisture in several locations. Readings above 12% on average indicate elevated moisture from water leaks or dampness that needs to be corrected before installation can begin.
 - Screw down loose or squeaky sections of plywood and replace areas that are damaged.
 - The subfloor should be clean & free of protruding fasteners and debris.
 - This flooring can be floated over any wood subfloor that meets the above requirements.
 - This flooring can be glued to plywood and OSB subfloors only. Do not glue over particle board subfloors. Instead, install plywood (3/8”) over the particle board prior to a glue down installation of this product.

- CONCRETE SUBFLOOR**
- Concrete should be flat within 1/8” over a 6’ span, or 3/16” over a 10’ span. Grind down high spots, and fill in low spots with a Portland-based floor patch.
 - Caution: This floor is waterproof; however, moisture intrusions from concrete hydrostatic pressure, flooding, or plumbing leaks, along with high levels of alkalinity, can affect floor coverings over time. Moisture can also be trapped below the flooring and create mildew or mold. The installer - not the manufacturer - is responsible for making sure that site conditions, concrete moisture, and alkalinity are at suitable levels prior to installation of this floor.
 - **DO NOT INSTALL OVER WET OR DAMP CONCRETE.** Ensure the concrete is dry. Concrete slabs must be at least 90 days old. High moisture in a concrete slab can cause water to condense or pool under the flooring. Moisture itself will not harm this product, but can cause mold growth under the floor, or may cause a highly alkaline condition to develop that can damage the flooring or weaken the glue over time.
 - **A MOISTURE TEST IS ALWAYS REQUIRED WHEN INSTALLING OVER CONCRETE.** Moisture testing ensures the product is being installed over dry concrete. Acceptable tests are ASTM F1869 Calcium Chloride test, or ASTM F2170 relative humidity (RH) test. Slabs with moisture levels exceeding 3lbs per 1000sqft using the Calcium Chloride test, or over 75% when using the RH test, must have an appropriate moisture barrier installed between the concrete and flooring.
 - Moisture protection for floating floor installations: 6-8 mil polysheeting with all seams completely taped.
 - Moisture protection when gluing over cocrete slabs: Use a moisture protecting adhesive, or roller-applied Bostik D250 epoxy with Bostik LVT Lock or DuraGrip.

- EXISTING FLOORS**
- May be floated over existing clean, flat, dry, and well secured tile flooring, vinyl flooring, and hardwood flooring.
 - This flooring can only be glued down to existing properly prepped flooring that has been approved by the adhesive manufacturer.
 - Do not install this flooring over existing carpet flooring, cushioned vinyl flooring, or existing floating wood and vinyl floors.

- INSTALLATION TOOLS**
- Tape measure • Wall spacers • Pencil • Hammer • Chalk line
 - Pull bar • Table saw • Miter saw • Jig saw • Moisture meter
 - Safety glasses • Dust mask

- UNDERLAYMENT PAD FOR FLOATING INSTALLATIONS**
- Underlayment padding is not required for the installation of this product. However underlayment pads can help smooth out minor subfloor imperfections, add extra moisture protection, insulation, and sound control properties. The Bellawood Premium, Bellawood Platinum, Quiet Walk, Eco Silent Sound, and Tranquility underlayment can all be used in conjunction with the floating installation of this product. It is recommended to install 6 mil polyethylene over all concrete floors prior to floating the floor.

How to Assemble “Angle Angle” Tongue and Groove Planks

Groove

Tongue

PROFILE (END VIEW)

1. Connect the **short** ends of the planks:

A. Angle the plank and Insert the tongue into the groove.

B. Push down fully engage planks, end-to-end.

2. Connect the **long edges** of the planks:

A. Angle the connected planks and Insert the long edge tongue into the groove of the previous row.

B. Push the planks down to fully engage.

Starting Wall

Cut off the tongues on the first row of planks.

1/2” Gap

Be sure locking system is fully engaged! Planks must be flat next to each other, without gaps, before continuing.

Installation Steps

Door Jamb

Baseboard

1 inch

Cutting Line

Jamb saw

Extra flooring plank

1.

2.

3.

Tongue edge

Groove edge

min 8"

min 12"

A.

B.

C.

1. A. Remove any existing quarter round, shoe moldings and doorway transitions. Check that all doors will swing open with adequate clearance over the new flooring.

B. Undercut all door casings and door jams with a jamb saw to allow the flooring planks to slide under the doorjamb. If a baseboard is still in place, extend the undercut about 1" beyond the door frame casing. If no baseboard, just cut the door casing. Important: Do not cut metal door frames!

C. To find the height to cut the jamb, lay a scrap piece of flooring (and underlayment, if used) next to the doorframe, and lay the saw blade on top.

2. Install 6 mil polyethylene film vapor barrier if sub-floor is cement.

3. **INSTALLATION DIRECTION**
Begin laying planks on the left side of the starting wall and work from left to right. The tongue side of the plank will face the starting wall, with the groove side facing out.

4. Spacers: Use wedged laminate spacers to achieve 3/8" expansion gap. It is important to have your starting row perfectly straight and properly supported against your starting wall. Be sure to place spacers adjacent to each plank joint, as shown. Always place spacers at the beginning and end of each row as well. This will lock-in assembled panels and prevent shifting during installation. Always allow a 3/8" gap around all other fixed objects including upright pipes or other fixtures.

5. **BOARD PLACEMENT**
Start the first row using a full plank. The second row with 1/2 of a plank. Then the third row with 1/3 of a plank. This pattern can be repeated to ensure a good stagger of joints. The minimum spacing between seams is 12".

6. **IMPORTANT:** When laying out planks, always stagger the end joints from row to row by at least 12" to ensure the structural integrity of your floor and a pleasing appearance.

Work from different cartons of planks to minimize clustering of patterns.
Pay attention to avoid "stairstep" or "H-patterns" appearing in the flooring. Continue installing planks in this manner until room is completed.

7. **THE FIRST ROW**
A. Lay the first plank in the left-hand corner, up against the spacers, with the groove side facing toward you.
B. Install the second plank by inserting the tongue of the short end of the plank into the groove in the end of the first plank. You will need to lift the second plank at a slight angle to insert the tongue.
C. Press the second plank down flat.

NOTE: Continue installing the first row. See step 4 for how to cut the last plank.

8. **CUTTING END-OF-ROW BOARDS**
The last board in each row must be cut to fit, while still maintaining a 3/8" expansion gap at the walls. Here's how:
A. Flip the plank over, end-to-end.
B. Lay the flipped board next to the row of planks, and mark it.
C. Cut the plank at the mark.
D. Flip the plank back over and install as normal.

NOTE: The cut off piece may be used to start the next row - if it is at least 8" long.

9. **SECOND & CONSECUTIVE ROWS**
A. Angle the first plank at 45° and insert the long side into the groove edge of the first row. Lower the plank down until the joint closes.
B. Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short side tongue into the first plank short side groove. The previous plank should be slightly lifted off the subfloor to make this easier.
C. Insert the short end of the second plank into the short end of the first plank as shown – offset the planks by about 1/2". Then, gently slide the second plank down into the long groove in the first row. Finally, press both planks down to the floor together.

1. Join the ends, offset by 1/2"
2. Slide plank #2 into first row groove
3. Press both planks to floor

NOTE: Repeat this process with each plank until you reach the end of the row.

10. **LAST ROW**
The last row may need to be cut lengthwise to fit. Here's how to get it just right:
A. Lay a plank of flooring right on top of the last full row in place.
B. Then lay another plank of flooring on top of that plank, with the tongue side touching the wall.
C. Use plank B as a straight-edge guide, and mark a line lengthwise on plank A.
D. Cut plank A lengthwise along this line.
E. Plank A can now be installed as the last row.

NOTE: We recommend you use edge glue when installing the last row of planks.

AFTER INSTALLATION / FLOOR CARE & MAINTENANCE

- Sweep up all trash and debris
- Save extra material and store it in a climate controlled space.
- Save one box label in case future product is needed for repairs.
- Install trim to cover expansion gaps, and transitions where the new floor meets other existing areas.
- Properly protect the flooring before moving furniture back into place.
- Use felt protectors on furniture legs
- Dream Home or Bellawood brand floor cleaners are recommended for cleaning the floor.
- Avoid sun exposure to the flooring for long periods. Close blinds and drapes during peak sunlight hours. Excessive heat can cause expansion and warping of the product.
- Caster wheels should have wide rubber casters. Non-staining, protective mats are required under rolling chairs. Do not use plastic mats, as the urethane in the mats may bond with the floor.
- Use walk-off mats at entrances to prevent grit and dirt from being tracked on the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly. Use a vacuum designed for hard surface floors that does not have a beater bar. Or, the beater bar should be turned off.
- Do not use polishes, waxes, harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners on this floor.
- Wipe up spills immediately with a damp cloth.