



## Click LVP Installation & Care Guide

*Applies to: All floating click LVP (WPC and SPC) product lines from Deacon Floors*

*Floating installation only. Revised September 2026.*

**PLEASE READ THIS GUIDE COMPLETELY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. Improper installation, or installation over a subfloor that does not meet the requirements below, is not covered under warranty.**

### 1. General Information

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These instructions cover the floating installation of Deacon Floors LVP flooring (This includes Essentials Collection, SORA, and Belvera). Deacon Floors approves floating installation only — glue-down installation is not a supported method for these products. Read this guide in full before ordering trim, scheduling the crew, or beginning work.

- Deacon Floors click LVP is intended for interior, climate-controlled residential and light commercial use only. It is not intended for exterior use, unconditioned three-season rooms, saunas, or areas subject to standing water.
- Flooring should be one of the last items installed on a job. All “wet” trades — paint, drywall, concrete, masonry, and plumbing — must be complete and fully dry before flooring arrives on site.
- Order 5–10% additional material above the measured square footage to allow for cutting waste and future repairs. Add 10–15% for rooms with diagonal layouts or heavy angles.
- It is the installer's responsibility to document the installation date, product SKU and lot number, subfloor moisture readings, and site temperature/humidity at the time of installation, and to provide a copy to the property owner. This documentation is required for warranty coverage (see the documentation log on the last page of this guide).
- Failure to follow the guidelines in this document may void the product warranty.

### 2. Acclimation & Jobsite Conditions

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#### Acclimation

- Acclimate unopened cartons, stored flat (never on end or on side), in the room where they will be installed for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
- During acclimation, the room must be held between 65°F and 85°F with relative humidity between 35% and 55%.

#### Ongoing Site Conditions

- HVAC must be operational and maintained between 65°F–85°F with 35–55% relative humidity for at least 5 days before installation, and continuously thereafter for the life of the floor.
- If permanent HVAC is not yet available, temporary heating/cooling must hold the same range — never use kerosene heaters, and portable heaters alone are not considered reliable.
- Gutters, downspouts, and exterior grading should be complete, so water drains away from the building before flooring is delivered.

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### 3. Product Inspection & Carton Blending

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- Inspect every plank for color, finish, and quality in good lighting before installation. Do not install any plank that looks questionable — claims are not accepted once material has been cut or installed.
- Natural color and pattern variation between planks and between production lots is expected, not a defect.
- Work from a minimum of 4 open cartons at a time and mix planks as you go (“rack the floor”) to blend shade variation evenly across the room.

### 4. Subfloor Requirements

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#### 4.1 General

- Subfloor must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of wax, paint, oil, grease, dust, nails, staples, and old adhesive residue.
- Subfloor must be flat to within 3/16” over a 10-foot radius (1/8” over a 6-foot radius). Grind down high spots and fill low spots with a non-shrinking, Portland cement–based patching compound. Gaps should not exceed 3/16”.
- Correct any squeaks by screwing loose subfloor sections into joists before installation.

#### 4.2 Wood Subfloors

- Acceptable panels: plywood, OSB, particleboard, or waferboard, structurally sound, smooth, flat, and free of deflection. If the surface is not smooth, install a 1/4” underlayment panel over it.
- Do not install over wood subfloors that lie directly on concrete, over sleeper construction, or over dimensional lumber laid on concrete.
- Crawl spaces must have a minimum of 18” clearance from ground to the underside of joists, with cross-ventilation equal to at least 1.5% of the crawl space area, and the ground covered 100% with 6-mil black polyethylene.
- For wood subfloors, the moisture content should not exceed **12%** when tested with a reliable electronic pin or pin-less wood moisture meter

#### 4.3 Concrete Subfloors

- New concrete slabs must be fully cured — minimum 60 days — before installation.
- Test moisture using the in-situ probe method (ASTM F2170). Subfloor pH should fall between 7 and 9. Maximum Relative Humidity (RH) allowed is 90%.
- **Deacon Floors requires at least a 6-mil polyethylene moisture barrier under every floating installation over concrete — on, above, or below grade — regardless of the moisture reading obtained. This is a Deacon Floors requirement; it is not optional for concrete substrates.**
- Radiant-heated concrete is acceptable provided the floor's surface temperature never exceeds 85°F (see Section 10).

#### 4.4 Existing Floor Coverings

- Acceptable to install over: solid wood, single-layer non-cushioned sheet vinyl, VCT, ceramic, or stone tile with grout lines filled level with a cementitious patch.
- Do not install over: carpet of any kind, cushioned or foam-backed vinyl, rubber, cork, laminate, another floating floor, or wood flooring installed over concrete.
- Never sand, dry-sweep, dry-scrape, or mechanically chip existing resilient flooring or old adhesive — these materials may contain asbestos. Follow RFCI “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” if removal is required.

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## 5. Moisture Barrier Installation (Concrete Subfloors)

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A 6-mil polyethylene moisture barrier is required under all Deacon Floors click LVP installed over concrete, without exception (see Section 4.3).

1. Roll the poly film out parallel to the starting wall, running it approximately 2" up the wall (trim flush after flooring is installed).
2. Roll the next run parallel to the first, overlapping the seam a minimum of 6".
3. Smooth out all wrinkles and creases, then tape all seams with a waterproof tape.
4. Roll the poly out one row at a time as you install — do not cover the entire subfloor at once, which can create a slip hazard.
5. Install flooring directly over the poly, taking care not to puncture or damage it.

## 6. Underlayment Policy

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**Our Click LVP products are sold with an attached pad. Do not install any additional padded underlayment beneath these products, with one approved exception: Eco Silencer Infinity by Foam Products, sold by Deacon Floors, may be used beneath the flooring where added sound reduction is desired.**

An extra layer of cushioned underlayment beyond Eco Silencer Infinity can compromise the plank's locking system and is not covered under warranty.

## 7. Tools & Materials Needed

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| Measuring & Layout             | Cutting                  | Installation      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Tape measure                   | Circular saw or hand saw | Rubber mallet     |
| Chalk line                     | Utility knife            | Tapping block     |
| Pencil                         | Jigsaw (for cutouts)     | Pull bar          |
| Moisture meter (wood/concrete) |                          | 1/4" spacers      |
| Square/straight edge           |                          | Pry bar / crowbar |

- 6-mil polyethylene sheeting and waterproof seam tape (concrete subfloors only)
- Safety glasses, dust mask, knee pads
- Broom or vacuum

## 8. Installation Instructions — Floating Method

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### Step 1: Prepare the Room

- Remove existing baseboards, shoe molding, and door thresholds.
- Undercut door casings 1/16" higher than the flooring thickness, using a scrap plank as a guide, so the flooring can slide underneath while maintaining the expansion gap.

### Step 2: Establish a Starting Line

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- Choose the longest, straightest wall in the room — typically an exterior wall — and plan to run planks parallel to it, ideally in the same direction as the main light source.
  - Measure out the width of one plank plus 1/4" for expansion from the starting wall, in at least two places, and snap a chalk line.

### Step 3: Install the First Row

- Place 1/4" spacers against the starting wall to maintain the expansion gap along its full length.
- Start in the left-hand corner with the tongue side facing the wall. Working left to right, click the short end of each new plank into the previous plank at a slight angle and fold down.
- Cut the last plank in the row to fit, leaving the required 1/4" expansion gap at the end wall.

### Step 4: Rack & Continue the Installation

- Begin each new row with the cut-off end from the previous row, provided it is at least 8" long; otherwise cut a fresh plank to a random length. Stagger end joints a minimum of 6" between adjacent rows.
- Insert the long-side tongue into the groove of the previous row at a low angle, then rotate down and press until the joint is fully seated. Use a tapping block and rubber mallet on the long seams if any gapping appears — never strike the locking profile directly.
- Work across the room row by row, checking regularly that the first two rows remain straight and square — they set the foundation for the rest of the floor.

### Step 5: Complete the Floor

- At the final row, lay a loose plank on top of the last installed row, place another plank against the wall to mark the cut line, and cut accordingly — remembering to leave the expansion gap.
- Use a pull bar to draw the last row tight where a mallet cannot reach.

### Step 6: Doorways, Pipes & Irregular Cuts

- For pipes and other penetrations, mark the center point, drill a hole roughly 1/4" larger in diameter than the obstruction, and cut to the hole with a jigsaw or utility knife.
- For irregular shapes, make a cardboard template of the area first and transfer it to the plank before cutting.

## 9. Expansion Space & Transitions

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- Maintain a continuous minimum 1/4" expansion gap around the entire perimeter of every room — at walls, door frames, pipes, cabinetry, and all other fixed vertical surfaces.
- Never nail, screw, or glue the flooring to the subfloor, and never fasten baseboard, quarter round, or transition trim through the flooring — fasten trim to the wall or existing baseboard only.
- Do not install cabinetry, kitchen islands, tubs, or other fixed/permanent objects on top of floating flooring. Install those items first or build in a proper expansion break around them.

**A floating installation must not exceed 40 feet in any single continuous direction without a T-molding or other expansion break to relieve stress in the floor system. This applies through doorways as well — a T-molding is not required at a doorway only if the total continuous run on both sides stays under 40 feet.**

- Coordinate transition moldings (T-molding, reducer, end cap, stair nose, quarter round) with the flooring before installation begins; trim pieces are coordinating, not an exact color match.

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## 10. Radiant-Heated Subfloors

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- Concrete must be fully cured a minimum of 6 weeks before the radiant system is operated.
- Run the heating system at roughly two-thirds of maximum output for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to installation, in both heating and non-heating seasons, to help residual moisture dissipate.
- Reduce the system to 65°F for 48 hours prior to and during installation. After installation, raise the temperature gradually — no more than 5°F per day — back to the normal operating level.
- Surface temperature must never exceed 85°F, with no more than a 5°F variance over any 24-hour period.
- Use a separate thermostat per zone, and install a T-molding at every heating-zone boundary.

## 11. Installing on Stairs (Optional)

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**Note: this is the one place these instructions depart from the floating method. Stair treads must be permanently fixed for safety, so risers and treads are bonded with adhesive rather than floated.**

- If any planks are used on stairs, remove the attached pad, and scrape and clean the back of the plank to remove all pad residue before bonding.
- Clean treads and risers thoroughly and confirm rise/run is consistent (no more than 3/8" variance) and meets local building code.
- Dry-fit all pieces first. Bond risers, treads, and nosing with a premium urethane construction adhesive, applied in an S-pattern, and press firmly for full contact.
- Hold pieces in place with painter's tape for 24 hours while the adhesive cures. Do not allow foot traffic on stairs for 24 hours after installation.

## 12. Finishing the Installation

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- Reinstall or replace baseboard, quarter round, and transition moldings, fastened to the wall or baseboard — never through the flooring.
- Protect the finished floor during ongoing construction with breathable rosin paper or builder's board secured to the baseboards — never tape directly to the flooring, and never cover the floor with plastic sheeting.
- Store any leftover cartons flat, in a climate-controlled space, for future repairs — keep at least one full box per room.

## 13. Care & Maintenance

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- Sweep or vacuum regularly (no beater bar) to remove grit before it can scratch the surface.
- Clean periodically with a pH-neutral vinyl floor cleaner. Avoid soap-based, wax-, oil-, or vinegar-based cleaners, which can leave a dull film or damage the finish.
- Do not wet-mop or use a steam mop — standing water and steam can damage the floor and will void warranty coverage related to that damage.
- Use non-staining felt protector pads under furniture legs, and wide, non-marking casters on rolling chairs.
- Place walk-off mats at exterior entrances (avoid rubber- or coco-fiber-backed mats, which can stain resilient flooring), and use window coverings during peak sun hours to limit heat buildup and fading.
- When moving heavy furniture or appliances, always lift — never slide — across the floor.

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## 14. Installation Documentation Log

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Complete and retain this record with the sales receipt for warranty purposes. Provide a copy to the property owner.

| Field                             | Recorded Value |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Job Name / Address                |                |
| Product & Color (SKU)             |                |
| Lot / Run Number                  |                |
| Installation Date                 |                |
| Subfloor Type                     |                |
| Subfloor Moisture Reading         |                |
| Site Temperature at Install       |                |
| Site Relative Humidity at Install |                |
| Installer Name / Company          |                |
| Installer Signature               |                |

*Questions not covered in this guide? Contact Deacon Floors before proceeding with installation.*