

There Are Three Methods Of Installation Suitable For Sheet Vinyl Flooring

The installation method used is dependent upon the day-to-day activities and the overall floor dimensions.

1. Releasable Full Spread Installation Method using IVC Flex-Tech Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive.
2. Loose-Lay Installation (*in areas 25 square yards or less and no more than 1 seam*).
3. Permanent Full Spread Installation Method (*must be used for 'special needs' installations, all new construction and cold crack warranty jobs*).

NOTE: If you elect to permanently install your IVC residential flooring using this method, as opposed to the Releasable Installation Method with manufacturer-approved pressure-sensitive adhesive, that labor rates exceeding residential releasable removal and underlayment will not be covered.

Releasable Full Spread Installation Instructions Using IVC Flex-Tech Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive (Sheet Vinyl)

Materials Required for Installation

- IVC Flex-Tech pressure-sensitive, multi-functional adhesive
- IVC Flex-Seam premium seam bond
- Acrylic double-face tape for vinyl floors
- Straight edge
- Hand seam roller/wallpaper roller
- 3/8-inch short nap paint roller
- Sharp utility knife/extra blades
- Push broom
- IVC Flex-Prim acrylic latex primer (*if priming the floor is necessary*)

NOTE: IVC will not be held responsible for problems that may arise from alternative adhesives or seam sealers. Please contact the adhesive's manufacturer or seam sealer's manufacturer with issues.

NOTE: We recommend placing a single order for all rolls required for larger installations and commercial flooring projects.

Asbestos Warning

Warning! DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES. Previously installed resilient floor covering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesives used to install them may contain either **asbestos fibers** and/or **crystalline silica**. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless you are positive that installed product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings," for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

Underlayments

IVC's vinyl flooring products can be installed directly over most existing floor coverings, EXCLUDING carpet (*including needle felt*), floating laminate, floating floor systems, Luan and cushioned vinyl flooring. You may install directly over ceramic (*well-bonded with a skim coat*), Terrazzo (*well-bonded*), solid PVC, and VCT (*well-bonded, on and above-grade*), provided they are installed over a wooden subfloor. Any below-grade resilient tile and adhesive must be removed prior to installing your new floor.

NOTE: Do not use chemical adhesive removers to remove existing adhesive.

Wood Underlayments

Wood subfloor systems require a double-layer construction. The top layer must be underlayment-grade, as specified and warranted by the manufacturer. Always fasten underlayment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Any failure of the IVC flooring because of the underlayment is NOT the responsibility of IVC. Any porous wood underlayment must be primed.

- A moisture test is required using a pin-type moisture meter. The moisture content must not exceed 14%.
- Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and in compliance with local building codes.
- Double-layered, APA-rated wood subfloors should be a minimum 1 inch total thickness, with a least 18 inches of well-ventilated air space beneath.
- Insulate and protect the crawl space with a 6-mil vapor barrier.
- It is recommended that your chosen APA underlayment be designed for installation under resilient flooring and carry a written warranty.
- Underlayment can only correct minor deficiencies in the subfloor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring.
- Always follow the underlayment manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Wood subfloors directly fastened to concrete, or sleeper construction, are not recommended.
- APA-rated Sturd-I-Floor panels are designed as combination underlayment/subfloor and are designed for carpet only. Installing this resilient flooring over Sturd-I-Floor panels would require installation of a minimum 1/4-inch underlayment on top of the Sturd-I-Floor subfloor.

- IVC resilient flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant, treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. The materials used to treat the plywood may cause problems with adhesive bonding. An additional layer of APA-rated 1/4-inch thick underlayment should be installed over top of any treated subfloor.

OSB

- OSB panels and joints must be fastened and reinforced according to the manufacturer's instructions. Completely sand the floor with a floor sander, so that the floor is smooth and flat.
- Some chips in the OSB structure can stain vinyl flooring and may require repeated primer to eliminate the staining potential.
- The sanded OSB surface must be primed using an IVC acrylic latex primer.

NOTE: The chips in OSB overlap. Without sanding properly, OSB has high and low spots throughout the floor that could telegraph through the vinyl.

Particle Board

- Particle board underlayment panels must be underlayment-grade, as specified and warranted by the manufacturer.
- The surface must be primed using a IVC acrylic latex primer.

NOTE: Perform moisture tests using a reliable moisture meter in multiple locations. Moisture readings should never exceed 14% for plywood, OSB, particle board, chipboard, or solid hardwood subfloors. If moisture readings exceed 14%, conditions must be corrected at the job site before installing the flooring.

Resilient Floor Covering as an Underlayment

- Must be single layered, non-cushion backed, fully adhered and smooth.
- Must show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.
- Wax, polish, grease and grime must be removed.
- Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced.

NOTE: The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring is suitable to be installed over rests solely with the installer/flooring contractor on site. If there is any doubt as to suitability, the existing flooring should be removed, or an acceptable underlayment installed over it. Installations over existing resilient flooring may be more susceptible to indentation.

Concrete

New and existing concrete subfloors should meet the guidelines of the latest edition of ACI 302 and ASTM F 710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring," available from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

Moisture levels of concrete slabs before, during and after installation must be 8 lbs. or less per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours using an anhydrous calcium chloride test according to ASTM F1869 and pH must be between 5.0 and 9.0; or, if using ASTM F2170 in-situ probes, should be less than 90% RH (*relative humidity*). Three tests should be conducted for areas up to 1,000 sq. ft. Perform one additional test for each additional 1,000 sq. ft. Always measure, record and keep your testing results.

- Never use liquid adhesive remover or solvent cleaners for removing old adhesive residue or other substances on the substrate; their use will cause future failures in the new flooring.
- On or below-grade slabs must have an effective vapor retarder directly under the slab.
- Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 3/16 inch over a 10-foot span.
- F-Number System: Overall values of FF 36/ FL 20 may be appropriate for resilient floor coverings.
- Glossy or waxed floors may require a higher value FF 75/ FL 50 to prevent telegraphing issues.

Old Adhesive Residue

- If the adhesive is asphalt-based (*cutback*) or any other type of adhesive is present, it must be dealt with in one of two ways:
 1. It may be mechanically removed using methods such as bead blasting or scarifying, using a licensed professional contractor (*See Asbestos Warning above*).
 2. A Portland-based, self-leveling underlayment may be applied over it. Check with the underlayment manufacturer for suitability, application instructions and warranties.

NOTE: Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor will affect the bond between the new adhesive and the new floor covering.

Other Approved Underlayments

- Self-leveling and patching compounds (*latex-fortified, Portland cement-based only*).
- Radiant heat floors (*not exceeding 85°F [29°C] and approved by the manufacturer for the use of their product with resilient vinyl flooring applications*).
- Gypcrete can be utilized when necessary due to radiant heat and in high-rise buildings. Gypcrete must be sealed using an IVC acrylic latex primer to stabilize the surface for adhesive bond. All issues with gypcrete cracking, crumbling, powdering and resulting in the release of adhesive bond are NOT warranted by IVC.

Storage & Handling

- Acclimate the flooring and adhesive for a minimum of 24 hours before installation in the area where it will be installed. Conditions between 65°F and 85°F (18°C and 29°C) are required before, during and after installation. Rolls should be stored in either a flat horizontal or vertical position. In order to minimize the risk of pressure marks when storing in a horizontal position, the rolls should not be stacked one on top of another.

Subfloor & Wall/Door Preparation

- The floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Remove all foreign substances such as wax, grease, dirt, construction markings and contaminants, and any substance or chemical that would interfere with a good bond. Fill all holes and cracks with a latex-fortified, Portland cement-based patching compound. Sand high spots to eliminate the possibility of telegraphing. Prime the floor, if needed, with IVC Flex-Prim Acrylic Latex Primer to prevent over-absorption of adhesives, dust containment, and to ensure a better bond of the adhesive to the subfloor.
- Any unevenness of more than 1/8 inch over a 10-foot span (3 mm over a length of 3 m) must be leveled out. Remove bumps in the subfloor by sanding or scraping. The same applies to unevenness of more than 1/32 inch over a length of 1 foot (1 mm over a length of 30 cm).
- Fill any low spots in the subfloor and cracks or gaps 3/16 inch (4 mm) in width or greater with a Portland cement-leveling compound.
- Ceramic tile and embossed flooring exceeding the above requirements will require skim coating with a Portland cement-based patch to avoid bottom-up pattern telegraphing.
- Remove any existing floor molding. Removal of wall baseboards is optional, provided a quarter round is installed to cover the required expansion gap.
- Undercut doorjamb, allowing the rigid luxury vinyl flooring to slip under the doorjamb/case molding.
- Sweep the subfloor clean. The floor must also be free of all contaminants.

Job Site Conditions

- It is recommended that resilient floor covering installation shall not begin until all other trades are completed.
- Areas to receive flooring shall be clean, fully enclosed, with the permanent HVAC set at a uniform temperature range of 55°F (13°C) and 85°F (29°C) and maintained following the installation.
- Adhesive working and open times vary based on job conditions, substrate, temperature and humidity.

NOTE: Do not install flooring if moisture test results exceed recommended limits.

Temperature - Radiant Heat

- Radiant-heated substrates must never exceed an 85°F (29°C) surface temperature.
- Several days prior to installing resilient products over newly constructed radiant-heated systems, make sure the radiant system has been on and operating at maximum temperature to reduce residual moisture within the concrete.
- Three days prior to installation, lower the temperature to 65°F (18°C), and 24 hours after installation, gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5°F.
- After continuous operation of the radiant system, ensure the surface of the floor does not exceed 85°F (29°C).

Releasable Installation Instructions Using IVC Flex-Tech Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive

Inspection of the flooring material prior to installation is required. Any defects should be immediately reported to the retail store from which the flooring was purchased. IVC will not be responsible for labor costs to repair or replace material with defects that were apparent before or noticed at the end of an installation.

1. Prepare the substrate for the surface to be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Undercut all wooden doorjamb to maintain a 3/8-inch relief gap.
2. Place acrylic double-face tape for vinyl floors at all doorways where a transition strip is needed, next to sliding doors, in front of tubs and shower stalls, and similar areas where an expansion gap will not be covered with trim. Place double-face acrylic tape around all floor vents to eliminate air migrating under vinyl and causing bubbles. Do not tape along walls or around perimeter of room, as this is not perimeter install flooring.
3. Align the pattern with the most dominant wall to achieve the best appearance in the room. Using a sharp utility knife, trim away excess material along the walls, and cabinets, etc., leaving approximately 2 inches of vinyl at these areas to be trimmed off later (*rough cut*). Never install cabinets on top of sheet goods installed with releasable adhesive.
4. If a seam is required, please follow the "Seaming Instructions in a Releasable Full Spread," installation method with pressure-sensitive adhesive found in the section below.
5. Make relief cuts at corners and projections to allow the material to lay flat before the final cuts are made. Final trimming should be done by cutting in with a utility knife or trimmer, leaving a 3/8-inch expansion gap. The gap allows for subfloor movement caused by changes in atmospheric conditions. The material should not touch the wall, corners or objects at any point, or bubbles or wrinkles may occur. The material must lay flat to stay flat. Final cuts must be made prior to applying adhesive.
6. Fold back material one half at a time, and roll on a consistent layer of IVC Flex-Tech Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive with the 3/8-inch short nap paint roller.
7. Before placing the material in the adhesive, make sure the adhesive is completely dry (*must be dry and tacky to the touch*). There should be no transfer of adhesive to the material. If the adhesive is not completely dry before the installation of material, the adhesive will continue to release gasses, causing bubbles under the vinyl material.

8. Position the material in place so that no shifting can occur. Do not lift the vinyl into place because it may shift slightly and wrinkle.
9. Starting in the center of the floor, remove air from under the material using a push broom.

NOTE: Do not use any type of flooring roller, i.e. 75- or 100-lb. Do not twist material when placing it onto the adhesive.

10. Repeat steps 6-8 for the remaining portion of the flooring material.
11. Use a quarter round or baseboard to cover the exposed expansion gap. When installing a quarter round or any molding, make sure it is fastened only to the wall, and do not pinch the material at any point.

NOTE: Material not installed in accordance with IVC recommended guidelines, including all problems caused by using non-recommended adhesive, seam sealer/bond, underlayment and/or improper preparation of the substrate are not covered under the IVC warranty system.

Seaming Instructions in a Releasable Full Spread Installation Method using IVC Flex-Tech Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive

1. After the adhesive is rolled on and completely dry, position the flooring by overlapping the seam edges. Make sure to match patterns.
2. With a straight edge and a sharp, new utility knife blade, cut through both layers of flooring material (*double-cut*) at the designated match point. Make sure the utility knife blade is held in an upright position for a clean, 90-degree cut.
3. Remove and discard waste material.
4. Fold back about 8 inches of the vinyl on one side of the seam, and apply a small bead of IVC Flex-Seam Premium Seam Bond to one edge of the vinyl that is on the floor.
5. Tuck the seam edges together, and wipe off excess bond/sealer with a clean, damp cloth.
6. Use a resilient flooring-type hand roller (*or wallpaper seam roller*) to squeeze out any remaining bond/sealer from the seam. Immediately clean the seam with a damp cloth, followed by a clean, dry cloth.
7. Protect the seam and allow it to dry (*approximately 6 hours*).

Additional Instructions/Notes

- DO NOT slide or roll heavy appliances or furniture over or across the flooring. Always lift objects and place them on the flooring or gently reposition appliances and furniture using headboards or sliders between the object and the flooring.
- In-floor heat/AC registers may rest on the vinyl floor, but leave space under registers that are attached to the floor or wall. They should not pinch the flooring material. Be sure to allow a larger opening around the screw to enable movement.
- Apply caulk next to bathtubs, showers, sliding doors or similar areas.
- For bathroom installations, it is not necessary to remove the toilet. Make relief cuts around the perimeter of the toilet and make sure the vinyl flooring is lying flat before trimming off the excess material. Apply caulk around the toilet, next to bathtubs and showers to prevent moisture from getting under the vinyl.
- Make sure furniture legs have large-surface, non-staining plastic floor protectors or non-staining felt pads. The protectors should be at least 1 inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor.
- Do not use a trowel for application of pressure-sensitive adhesive.
- Never use tape around the perimeter of the room.
- Never apply flooring to wet adhesive. This could cause permanent bond or wrinkling.
- When installing shoe molding, do not compress the trim to the floor or nail the trim into the flooring.
- For metal doorjamb that cannot be undercut, leave a 1/8-inch expansion gap, and caulk with 100% silicone caulking.

Care & Maintenance

To help protect and keep your floor clean, follow these proper care and maintenance guidelines:

Preventative Maintenance

- Prevent indentations and scratches by using non-staining floor protectors on the legs of chairs, appliances and all heavy furniture. Floor protectors should be at least 1 inch in diameter.
- Do not flood the floor or subject it to standing water.
- Protect your floor from tracked-in dirt by using mats at all outside entrances. Mats should have a non-rubberized backing and be marked as non-staining.
- Avoid tracking in tar or asphalt from driveways.
- Avoid high heel shoes on your floor, as they can cause permanent indentations.
- Protect your floors against burns. Burns from cigarettes, matches or other extremely hot items can cause permanent damage.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods as this can cause discoloration.

- Ensure furniture legs have large-surface, non-staining plastic floor protectors or non-staining felt pads. The protectors should be at least 1 inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor.
- Heavy furniture or appliances that are not moved often should be equipped with flat, non-staining composition furniture or cups of appropriate size.

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Sweep the floor regularly with a soft-bristle broom to remove loose dirt.
- Wash the floor with non-abrasive, neutral-pH floor cleaner.
- For everyday maintenance, a mop moistened with warm water will suffice.
- Spills should be cleaned up immediately.

DO NOT use the following on your vinyl flooring:

- Soap-based detergents
- Abrasive or mop-and-shine products
- Floor wax
- Vacuum cleaners with a rotating beater bar
- Ammonia
- Bleach solution greater than 3%

NOTE: Always read the cautionary information on all cleaners prior to use.

NOTE: Never push, pull or drag furniture, appliances or other items across the floor. When moving furniture or heavy items, always lift and carry the items. To minimize the risks of scratches and gouges when moving heavy objects, place plywood underlayment between the flooring and object to be moved.

How to Treat Stains, Spills & Scuffs

Follow the remedies in order. Unless instructed otherwise, use a clean, white cloth or towel with products recommended for the manufacturer's LVT flooring. Always rinse the affected area with clean water after treatment.

Stain or Spill:

Acids, alkalis, blood, ketchup, mustard, food, fruit, fruit juices, candy, cleaners, strong soaps, dye, dye markings, urine and feces, grass, iodine, mercurochrome and rust.

Remedy:

- First, remove as much solid material as possible.
- Scrub the area with cleaner at full strength.
- Rub the area with isopropyl alcohol.
- If the rust stain does not respond, use lemon juice or a cream of tartar solution.

Paint & Solvent Spills:

Dry cleaning fluids, lacquer and latex paint, nail polish, solvents, oil-based paints, wood stains and varnish.

Remedy:

- If the substance is dry, gently peel it from the floor. Avoid sharp instruments that could scratch the floor.
- Scrub the area with non-abrasive cleaner.
- Rub lightly with odorless mineral spirits or paint thinner.

NOTE: DO NOT USE ACETONE OR NAIL POLISH REMOVER!

Substances That Won't Wipe Up:

Adhesives, chewing gum, oil, grease, candle wax and tar.

Remedy:

- First, remove as much solid material as possible.
- Carefully remove excess with a spoon or fingernail.
- Scrub the area with non-abrasive cleaner.
- Rub lightly with odorless mineral spirits, isopropyl alcohol or lighter fluids.

Scuffs & Smudges:

Rubber heel marks, shoe polish, scuffs and smudges.

Remedy:

- Rub the scuff with your fingertip, and the rubber will come off. The friction from the rubbing will remove rubber.
- Scrub the area with non-abrasive cleaner.
- Rub lightly with isopropyl alcohol or lighter fluid.

CAUTION! Isopropyl alcohol, lighter fluid, odorless mineral spirits and paint thinner are flammable solvents. Carefully read and follow cautionary information on their respective labels. Keep traffic off the treated area for 30 minutes.

Releasable Full Spread Installation Instructions using IVC Flex-Tech Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive (Sheet Vinyl)

Materials Required for Installation

- Acrylic double-face tape for vinyl floors
- Sharp utility knife/extra blades
- Straight edge
- Push broom
- If a seam is required, you will also need either a vinyl or wallpaper seam roller
- IVC Flex-Seam premium seam bond (if seaming is required)

NOTE: We recommend placing a single order for all rolls required for larger installations and commercial flooring projects.

NOTE: IVC will not be held responsible for problems that may arise for alternative seam sealers. Please contact the alternative seam sealer's manufacturer with issues.

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- After continuous operation of the radiant system, ensure the surface of the floor does not exceed 85°F (29°C).

Loose-Lay Installation Instructions

1. Prepare the substrate for the surface to be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Undercut all doorjamb to maintain a 3/8-inch relief gap. If there is a metal doorjamb, leave a 3/8-inch expansion gap, and caulk before completing the job.
2. Align the pattern with the most dominant wall to achieve the best appearance in the room. Using a sharp utility knife, trim away excess material along the walls, at cabinets, etc., leaving approximately 2 inches of vinyl at these areas to be trimmed off later (*rough cut*). Do not install cabinets on top of loose-lay installations.
3. Place acrylic double-face tape at all doorways where a transition strip is needed, next to sliding doors, patio door sills, in front of tubs and shower stalls and similar areas where an expansion gap will not be covered with trim. Place acrylic double-face tape around all floor vents to eliminate air migrating under the vinyl and causing bubbles. Do not tape along walls or around the perimeter of the room.
4. Apply an "X" of acrylic double-face tape under appliances and pivot points, making sure not to overlap the tape.
5. Make relief cuts at corners and projections to allow the material to lay flat before the final cuts are made. Final trimming should be done by cutting in with a utility knife or trimmer, leaving a 3/8-inch expansion gap around the perimeter of the room and cabinets. The gap allows for subfloor movement caused by changes in atmospheric conditions. The material should not touch the wall, corners or objects at any point, or bubbles or wrinkles may occur. The material must lay flat to stay flat.
6. Use the push broom method to thoroughly remove the air from under the vinyl. Make certain all air is removed.
7. Use a quarter round or baseboard to cover the exposed expansion gap. When installing a quarter round or any moldings, make sure that they are fastened only to the wall and do not pinch the material at any point.

Seaming in a Loose-Lay Installation

1. Position the flooring by overlapping the seam edges (*make sure to match patterns*).
2. With a straight edge and a sharp, new utility knife blade, cut through both layers of flooring material (*double cut*) at the designated match point. Make sure the utility knife blade is held in an upright position for a clean, 90-degree cut.
3. Remove and discard waste material.
4. Carefully fold back about 6 to 8 inches of the vinyl along both edges. Apply a strip of double-face tape where the seam edges come together. Press the tape firmly to the floor. Remove backing from the top of the tape, and carefully place back one edge over the tape.
5. While the other edge is still folded back, apply a small bead of IVC Flex-Seam Premium Seam Bond or an approved alternative seam sealer, Taylor 2062, to the edge of the vinyl that is on the floor.
6. Tuck the seam edges together, and wipe off excess bond/sealer with a clean, damp cloth.
7. Use a resilient flooring-type hand roller (*or wallpaper seam roller*) to squeeze out any remaining bond/sealer from the seam. Immediately clean the seam with a damp cloth, followed by a clean, dry cloth.
8. Protect the seam and allow it to dry (*approximately 6 hours*).

Additional Instructions/Notes

- DO NOT slide or roll heavy appliances or furniture over or across the flooring. Always lift objects and place them on the flooring or gently reposition appliances and furniture using headboards or sliders between the object and flooring.
- In-floor heat/AC registers may rest on the vinyl floor, but leave space under registers that are attached to the floor or wall. They should not pinch the flooring material. Be sure to allow a larger opening around the screw to enable movement.
- Apply caulk next to bathtubs, showers, sliding doors or similar areas.
- For bathroom installations, it is not necessary to remove the toilet. Make relief cuts around the perimeter of the toilet, and make sure the vinyl flooring is lying flat before trimming off the excess material. Apply caulk around the toilet, next to bathtubs and showers to prevent moisture from getting under the vinyl.
- Make sure furniture legs have large-surface, non-staining plastic floor protectors or non-staining felt pads. The protectors should be at least 1 inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor.
- Do not use a trowel for application of pressure-sensitive adhesive.
- Never use tape around the perimeter of the room.
- Never apply flooring to wet adhesive. This could cause permanent bond or wrinkling.
- When installing shoe molding, do not compress the trim to the floor or nail the trim into the flooring.
- For metal doorjamb that cannot be undercut, leave a 1/8-inch expansion gap and caulk with 100% silicone caulking.

Care & Maintenance

To help protect and keep your floor clean, following these proper care and maintenance guidelines:

Preventative Maintenance

- Prevent indentations and scratches by using non-staining floor protectors on the legs of chairs, appliances and all heavy furniture. Floor protectors should be at least 1 inch in diameter.
- Do not flood the floor or subject it to standing water.
- Protect your floor from tracked-in dirt by using mats at all outside entrances. Mats should have a non-rubberized backing and be marked as non-staining.
- Avoid tracking in tar or asphalt from driveways.
- Avoid high heel shoes on your floor, as they can cause permanent indentations.
- Protect your floors against burns. Burns from cigarettes, matches or other extremely hot items can cause permanent damage.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, as this can cause discoloration.
- Ensure furniture legs have large-surface, non-staining plastic floor protectors or non-staining felt pads. The protectors should be at least 1 inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor.
- Heavy furniture or appliances that are not moved often should be equipped with flat, non-staining composition furniture or cups of appropriate size.

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Sweep the floor regularly with a soft-bristle broom to remove loose dirt.
- Wash the floor with non-abrasive, neutral-pH floor cleaner.
- For everyday maintenance, a mop moistened with warm water will suffice.
- Spills should be cleaned up immediately.

DO NOT use the following on your vinyl flooring:

- Soap-based detergents
- Abrasive or mop-and-shine products
- Floor wax
- Vacuum cleaners with a rotating beater bar
- Ammonia
- Bleach solution greater than 3%

NOTE: Always read the cautionary information on all cleaners prior to use.

NOTE: Never push, pull or drag furniture, appliances or other items across the floor. When moving furniture or heavy items, always lift and carry the items. To minimize the risks of scratches and gouges when moving heavy objects, place plywood underlayment between the flooring and object to be moved.

How to Treat Stains, Spills & Scuffs

Follow the remedies in order. Unless instructed otherwise, use a clean, white cloth or towel with products recommended for the manufacturer's LVT flooring. Always rinse the affected area with clean water after treatment.

Stain or Spill:

Acids, alkalis, blood, ketchup, mustard, food, fruit, fruit juices, candy, cleaners, strong soaps, dye, dye markings, urine and feces, grass, iodine, mercurochrome and rust.

Remedy:

- First, remove as much solid material as possible.
- Scrub the area with cleaner at full strength.
- Rub the area with isopropyl alcohol.
- If the rust stain does not respond, use lemon juice or a cream of tartar solution.

Paint & Solvent Spills:

Dry cleaning fluids, lacquer and latex paint, nail polish, solvents, oil-based paints, wood stains and varnish.

Remedy:

- If the substance is dry, gently peel it from the floor. Avoid sharp instruments that could scratch the floor.
- Scrub the area with non-abrasive cleaner.
- Rub lightly with odorless mineral spirits or paint thinner.

NOTE: DO NOT USE ACETONE OR NAIL POLISH REMOVER!

Substances That Won't Wipe Up:

Adhesives, chewing gum, oil, grease, candle wax and tar.

Remedy:

- First, remove as much solid material as possible.
- Carefully remove excess with a spoon or fingernail.
- Scrub the area with non-abrasive cleaner.
- Rub lightly with odorless mineral spirits, isopropyl alcohol or lighter fluids.

Scuffs & Smudges :

Rubber heel marks, shoe polish, scuffs and smudges.

Remedy:

- Rub the scuff with your fingertip, and the rubber will come off. The friction from the rubbing will remove rubber.
- Scrub the area with non-abrasive cleaner.
- Rub lightly with isopropyl alcohol or lighter fluid

CAUTION! Isopropyl alcohol, lighter fluid, odorless mineral spirits and paint thinner are flammable solvents. Carefully read and follow cautionary information on their perspective labels. Keep traffic off the treated area for 30 minutes.

Permanent Full Spread Installation Method (Sheet Vinyl)

The Permanent Full Installation Method can be used for 'special needs' areas, such as those with rolling traffic, extremely high traffic, or areas with accelerated concrete moisture up to 8 lbs. The permanent full spread installation method must be used in new construction.

NOTE: If you elect to permanently install your IVC flooring using this method as opposed to the Releasable Installation Method that labor rates exceeding residential releasable removal and underlayment will not be covered.

Materials Required for Installation

- New 1/16-inch x 1/32-inch x 1/32-inch U notch trowel
- IVC Flex-Tech pressure-sensitive adhesive
- IVC Flex-Seam premium seam bond
- 100-lb. roller
- Acrylic double-face tape for vinyl floors
- Sharp utility knife/extra blades
- Straight edge
- Plastic putty knife
- Clean cloths
- Denatured alcohol
- IVC Flex-Prim acrylic latex primer (if priming the floor is necessary)

NOTE: IVC will not be held responsible for problems that may arise from alternative adhesives. Please contact the alternative adhesive's manufacturer with issues.

NOTE: We recommend placing a single order for all rolls required for larger installations and commercial flooring projects.

Asbestos Warning

Warning! DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES. Previously installed resilient floor covering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesives used to install them may contain either **asbestos fibers** and/or **crystalline silica**. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless you are positive that installed product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings," for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

Underlayments

IVC's sheet vinyl flooring products can be installed directly over most existing floor coverings, EXCLUDING carpet (including needle felt), floating laminate, floating floor systems, Luan and cushioned vinyl flooring. You may install directly over ceramic (well-bonded with a skim coat) PVC, VCT (well-bonded, on and above-grade), Terrazzo (well-bonded), glued laminate, glued hardwood and fixed wooden boards provided they are installed over a wooden subfloor. Any below-grade resilient tile and adhesive must be removed prior to installing your new floor.

NOTE: Do not use chemical adhesive removers to remove existing adhesive.

Wood Underlayments

Wood subfloor systems require a double-layer construction. The top layer must be underlayment-grade, as specified and warranted by the manufacturer. Always fasten underlayment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Any failure of the flooring because of the underlayment is NOT the responsibility of the manufacturer. Any porous wood underlayment must be primed

- A moisture test is required using a pin-type moisture meter. The moisture content must not exceed 14%.
- Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and in compliance with local building codes.
- Double-layered, APA-rated wood subfloors should be a minimum of 1 inch total thickness, with a least 18 inches of well-ventilated air space beneath.
- Insulate and protect the crawl space with a 6-mil vapor barrier.
- It is recommended that your chosen APA underlayment be designed for installation under resilient flooring and carry a written warranty.
- Underlayment can only correct minor deficiencies in the subfloor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring.
- Always follow the underlayment manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Wood subfloors directly fastened to concrete, or sleeper construction, are not recommended.
- APA-rated Sturd-I-Floor panels are designed as combination underlayment/subfloor and are designed for carpet only. Installing this resilient flooring over Sturd-I-Floor panels would require installation of a minimum 1/4 inch underlayment on top of the Sturd-I-Floor subfloor.
- IVC resilient flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant, treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. The materials used to treat the plywood may cause problems with adhesive bonding. An additional layer of APA-rated, 1/4-inch thick underlayment should be installed over top any treated subfloor.

OSB

- OSB panels and joints must be fastened and reinforced according to the manufacturer's instructions. Completely sand the floor with a floor sander, so that the floor is smooth and flat.
- Some chips in the OSB structure can stain vinyl flooring and may require repeated primer to eliminate the staining potential.
- The sanded OSB surface must be primed using an IVC acrylic latex primer.

NOTE: The chips in OSB overlap. Without sanding properly, OSB has high and low spots throughout the floor that could telegraph through the vinyl.

Particle Board

- Particle board underlayment panels must be underlayment-grade, as specified and warranted by the manufacturer.
- Surface must be primed using the manufacturer-approved acrylic latex primer.

NOTE: Perform moisture tests using a reliable moisture meter in multiple locations. Moisture readings should never exceed 14% for plywood, OSB, particle board, chipboard, or solid hardwood subfloors. If moisture readings exceed 14%, conditions must be corrected at the job site before installing the flooring.

Resilient Floor Covering as an Underlayment

- Must be single layered, non-cushion backed, fully adhered, and smooth.
- Must show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.
- Wax, polish, grease and grime must be removed.
- Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced.

NOTE: The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring is suitable to be installed over rests solely with the installer/flooring contractor on site. If there is any doubt as to suitability, the existing flooring should be removed, or an acceptable underlayment installed over it. Installations over existing resilient flooring may be more susceptible to indentation.

Concrete

New and existing concrete subfloors should meet the guidelines of the latest edition of ACI 302 and ASTM F 710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring," available from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

Moisture levels of concrete slabs before, during and after installation must be 8 lbs. or less per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours using an anhydrous calcium chloride test according to ASTM F1869 and pH must be between 5.0 and 9.0; or, if using ASTM F2170 in-situ probes, should be less than 90% RH (*relative humidity*). Three tests should be conducted for areas up to 1,000 sq. ft. Perform one additional test for each additional 1,000 sq. ft. Always measure, record and keep your testing results.

- Never use liquid adhesive remover or solvent cleaners for removing old adhesive residue or other substances on the substrate; their use will cause future failures in the new flooring.
- On or below-grade slabs must have an effective vapor retarder directly under the slab.
- Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 1/32 inch over a 12-inch span and 3/16 inch over a 10-foot span.
- F-Number System: Overall values of FF 36/ FL 20 may be appropriate for resilient floor coverings.
- Glossy or waxed floors may require a higher value FF 75/ FL 50 to prevent telegraphing issues.

Old Adhesive Residue

- If the adhesive is asphalt-based (*cutback*) or any other type of adhesive is present, it must be dealt with in one of two ways:
 1. It may be mechanically removed using methods such as bead blasting or scarifying, using a licensed professional contractor (*See Asbestos Warning above*).
 2. A Portland-based, self-leveling underlayment may be applied over it. Check with the underlayment manufacturer for suitability, application instructions and warranties.

NOTE: Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor will affect the bond between the new adhesive and the new floor covering.

Other Approved Underlayments

- Self-leveling and patching compounds (*latex fortified, Portland cement-based only*).
- Radiant heat floors (*not exceeding 85°F [29°C] and approved by the manufacturer for the use of their product with resilient vinyl flooring applications*).
- Gypcrete can be utilized when necessary due to radiant heat and in high-rise buildings. Gypcrete must be sealed using an IVC acrylic latex primer to stabilize the surface for adhesive bond. All issues with gypcrete cracking, crumbling, powdering and resulting in the release of adhesive bond are NOT warranted by IVC.

Storage & Handling

- Acclimate the flooring and adhesive for a minimum of 24 hours before installation in the area where it will be installed. Conditions between 65°F and 85°F (*18°C and 29°C*) are required before, during and after installation. Rolls should be stored in either a flat horizontal or vertical position. In order to minimize the risk of pressure marks when storing in a horizontal position, the rolls should not be stacked one on top of another.

Subfloor & Wall/Door Preparation

- The floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Remove all foreign substances such as wax, grease, dirt, construction markings and contaminants, and any substance or chemical that would interfere with a good bond. Fill all holes and cracks with a latex-fortified, Portland cement-based patching compound. Sand high spots to eliminate the possibility of telegraphing. Prime the floor, if needed, with IVC Flex-Prim Acrylic Latex Primer to prevent over-absorption of adhesives, dust containment, and to ensure a better bond of the adhesive to the subfloor.

- Any unevenness of more than 1/8 inch over a 10-foot span (*3 mm over a length of 3 m*) must be leveled out. Remove bumps in the subfloor by sanding or scraping. The same applies to unevenness of more than 1/32 inch over a length of 1 foot (*1 mm over a length of 30 cm*).
- Fill any low spots in the subfloor and cracks or gaps 3/16 inch (*4 mm*) in width or greater with a Portland cement-leveling compound.
- Ceramic tile and embossed flooring exceeding the above requirements will require skim coating with a Portland cement-based patch to avoid bottom-up pattern telegraphing.
- Remove any existing floor molding. Removal of wall baseboards is optional, provided a quarter round is installed to cover the required expansion gap.
- Undercut doorjamb, allowing the rigid luxury vinyl flooring to slip under the doorjamb/case molding.
- Sweep the subfloor clean. The floor must also be free of all contaminants.

Job Site Conditions

- It is recommended that resilient floor covering installation shall not begin until all other trades are completed.
- Areas to receive flooring shall be clean, fully enclosed, with the permanent HVAC set at a uniform temperature range of 55°F (*13°C*) and 85°F (*29°C*) and maintained following the installation.
- Adhesive working and open times vary based on job conditions, substrate, temperature and humidity.

NOTE: Do not install flooring if moisture test results exceed recommended limits.

Temperature - Radiant Heat

- Radiant-heated substrates must never exceed an 85°F (*29°C*) surface temperature.
- Several days prior to installing resilient products over newly constructed radiant-heated systems, make sure the radiant system has been on and operating at maximum temperature to reduce residual moisture within the concrete.
- Three days prior to installation, lower the temperature to 65°F (*18°C*), and 24 hours after installation, gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5°F.
- After continuous operation of the radiant system, ensure the surface of the floor does not exceed 85°F (*29°C*).

NOTE: Use NEW 1/16-inch x 1/32-inch x 1/32-inch U notch trowel.

Permanent Full Spread Installation Steps

Inspection of the flooring material prior to installation is required. Any defects should be immediately reported to the retail store from which the flooring was purchased before installation. IVC will not be responsible for labor costs to repair or replace material with defects that were apparent before or noticed at the end of an installation.

1. Prepare the substrate for the surface to be clean, smooth, flat and dry. Undercut all wooden doorjamb to maintain a 3/8-inch relief gap.
2. Align the pattern with the most dominant wall and, using a sharp utility knife, trim away excess material along the walls, cabinet and other permanent objects, leaving approximately 2 inches of material to be trimmed off later.
3. Make relief cuts at corners to allow the material to lay flat before the final cuts are made. Final trimming does not require a 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch expansion gap when using IVC Flex-Tech Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive as this is a permanent installation.
4. Fold back half of the material and apply IVC Flex-Tech Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive to the substrate using the appropriate trowel. If a seam is required, leave an 18-inch dry zone at the edge of the seam. Then, follow the Seaming Instructions in a Permanent Full Spread Installation found below.
5. Do not immediately place the material onto wet adhesive. To avoid bubbling, allow time for the adhesive to flash before positioning the material. When testing the adhesive with a finger, there will be a slight transfer of adhesive to the skin when it is ready for installation. Do not allow the adhesive to dry completely.
6. Position the material in place and remove air and vapors under the material using a 100-lb. roller over the entire adhered vinyl.
7. Repeat steps 3-5 for the remaining half of the flooring material.

NOTE: Material not installed in accordance with IVC recommended guidelines, including all problems caused by using non-recommended adhesive, seam sealer/bond, underlayment and/or improper preparation of the substrate are not covered under the IVC warranty system.

Seaming Instructions in a Permanent Full Spread Installation Method

1. After positioning the flooring, overlap the seam edges (*make sure to match patterns*).
2. With a straight edge and a sharp, new utility knife blade, cut through both layers of flooring material (*double cut*) at the designated match point. Make sure the utility knife blade is held in an upright position for a clean, 90-degree cut.
3. Remove the discarded waste material.
4. Fold back both sides of the seam area and apply the IVC Flex-Tech Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive to the dry zone. Allow the adhesive to flash before placing the material into the adhesive.
5. Place one side of vinyl into the adhesive and roll the seam using a 100-lb. roller.
6. Apply small bead of IVC Flex-Seam Premium Seam Bond along the edge of the installed vinyl.

7. Place the edge of the uninstalled vinyl against the edge of the installed vinyl, and press into place.
8. Remove excess bond/sealer using a plastic putty knife, followed by wiping the seam area using a clean, dry cloth, followed immediately with a clean cloth dampened with appropriate cleaner.
9. Using a clean cloth, repeat until all residue is removed from the surface of the vinyl, and protect the seam for 6 hours minimum.

Additional Instructions/Notes

- DO NOT slide or roll heavy appliances or furniture over or across the flooring. Always lift objects and place them on the flooring or gently reposition appliances and furniture using headboards or sliders between the object and the flooring.
- In-floor heat/AC registers may rest on the vinyl floor, but leave space under registers that are attached to the floor or wall. They should not pinch the flooring material. Be sure to allow a larger opening around the screw to enable movement.
- Apply caulk next to bathtubs, showers, sliding doors or similar areas.
- For bathroom installations, it is not necessary to remove the toilet. Make relief cuts around the perimeter of the toilet and make sure the vinyl flooring is lying flat before trimming off the excess material. Apply caulk around the toilet, next to bathtubs and showers to prevent moisture from getting under the vinyl.
- Make sure furniture legs have large-surface, non-staining plastic floor protectors or non-staining felt pads. The protectors should be at least 1 inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor.
- Do not use a trowel for application of pressure-sensitive adhesive.
- Never use tape around the perimeter of the room.
- Never apply flooring to wet adhesive. This could cause permanent bond or wrinkling.
- When installing shoe molding, do not compress the trim to the floor or nail the trim into the flooring.
- For metal doorjamb that cannot be undercut, leave a 1/8-inch expansion gap and caulk with 100% silicone caulking.

Care & Maintenance

To help protect and keep your floor clean, following these proper care and maintenance guidelines:

Preventative Maintenance

- Prevent indentations and scratches by using non-staining floor protectors on the legs of chairs, appliances and all heavy furniture. Floor protectors should be at least 1 inch in diameter.
- Do not flood the floor or subject it to standing water.
- Protect your floor from tracked-in dirt by using mats at all outside entrances. Mats should have a non-rubberized backing and be marked as non-staining.
- Avoid tracking in tar or asphalt from driveways.
- Avoid high heel shoes on your floor, as they can cause permanent indentations.
- Protect your floors against burns. Burns from cigarettes, matches or other extremely hot items can cause permanent damage.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, as this can cause discoloration.
- Ensure furniture legs have large-surface, non-staining plastic floor protectors or non-staining felt pads. The protectors should be at least 1 inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor.
- Heavy furniture or appliances that are not moved often should be equipped with flat, non-staining composition furniture or cups of appropriate size.

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Sweep the floor regularly with a soft-bristle broom to remove loose dirt.
- Wash the floor with non-abrasive, neutral-pH floor cleaner.
- For everyday maintenance, a mop moistened with warm water will suffice.
- Spills should be cleaned up immediately.

DO NOT use the following on your vinyl floor

- Soap-based detergents
- Abrasive or mop-and-shine products
- Floor wax
- Vacuum cleaners with a rotating beater bar
- Ammonia
- Bleach solution greater than 3%

NOTE: Always read the cautionary information on all cleaners prior to use.

NOTE: Never push, pull or drag furniture, appliances or other items across the floor. When moving furniture or heavy items, always lift and carry the items. To minimize the risks of scratches and gouges when moving heavy objects, place plywood underlayment between the flooring and object to be moved.

How to Treat Stains, Spills & Scuffs

Follow the remedies in order. Unless instructed otherwise, use a clean, white cloth or towel with products recommended for the manufacturer's LVT flooring. Always rinse the affected area with clean water after treatment.

Stain or Spill:

Acids, alkalis, blood, ketchup, mustard, food, fruit, fruit juices, candy, cleaners, strong soaps, dye, dye markings, urine and feces, grass, iodine, mercurochrome and rust.

Remedy:

- First, remove as much solid material as possible.
- Scrub the area with cleaner at full strength.
- Rub the area with isopropyl alcohol.
- If the rust stain does not respond, use lemon juice or a cream of tartar solution.

Paint & Solvent Spills:

Dry cleaning fluids, lacquer and latex paint, nail polish, solvents, oil-based paints, wood stains and varnish.

Remedy:

- If the substance is dry, gently peel it from the floor. Avoid sharp instruments that could scratch the floor.
- Scrub the area with non-abrasive cleaner.
- Rub lightly with odorless mineral spirits or paint thinner.

NOTE: DO NOT USE ACETONE OR NAIL POLISH REMOVER!

Substances That Won't Wipe Up:

Adhesives, chewing gum, oil, grease, candle wax and tar.

Remedy:

- First, remove as much solid material as possible.
- Carefully remove excess with a spoon or fingernail.
- Scrub the area with non-abrasive cleaner.
- Rub lightly with odorless mineral spirits, isopropyl alcohol or lighter fluids.

Scuffs & Smudges:

Rubber heel marks, shoe polish, scuffs and smudges.

Remedy:

- Rub the scuff with your fingertip, and the rubber will come off. The friction from the rubbing will remove rubber.
- Scrub the area with non-abrasive cleaner.
- Rub lightly with isopropyl alcohol or lighter fluid.

CAUTION! Isopropyl alcohol, lighter fluid, odorless mineral spirits and paint thinner are flammable solvents. Carefully read and follow cautionary information on their perspective labels. Keep traffic off the treated area for 30 minutes.