

# Hill Country Innovations

## Installation Guide for Luxury Vinyl Plank and Tile

### PRE-INSTALLATION

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Failure to follow these guidelines may result in voiding the warranty

1. Hill Country Innovations (HCI) advises you to thoroughly inspect all material for correct color, style and any imperfections prior to installation. Contact your Dealer or Distributor immediately if defects are discovered prior to installation of the product.
2. Installed flooring found to be visually defective in manufacturing, style or color after installation will not be considered for warranty coverage.
3. All labor costs and incidental costs associated with installation of defective products will not be considered under the terms of this warranty.
4. Luxury vinyl planks and tiles are waterproof. Moisture emissions from the concrete substrate and wooden subfloor will not affect the flooring product. Therefore, the need to test the substrate for moisture emissions is solely dependent upon the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines for testing. Bond related issues associated with the adhesive are not a warranty issue with the flooring and will not be considered. (Test methods for concrete substrates are a "Point in Time" test and cannot predict acceptance of a concrete substrate in the future) These tests should be recorded and documented for future use if needed for warranty purposes.
5. Testing performed with electronic meters will only indicate an area that may need further quantitative testing and do not indicate the suitability of a substrate for installation.

### MATERIAL HANDLING

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1. All products must be jobsite acclimated prior to installation in climate controlled areas for a minimum of 48 hours in unopened cartons.
2. Do not store HCI products on their sides or edges prior to installation. Cartons must remain flat during acclimation to insure dimensional stability. Do not store products directly on top of concrete slabs or wooden substrates. Product must be elevated from the substrate during acclimation to allow for air movement around and under the product.
3. Substrate areas must be clean of all dirt, oil, paint, construction debris and any other materials that may interfere with the bond of the product to the substrate. Areas must be well-lit and fully enclosed prior to installation of the product.
4. Permanent HVAC must be operating on the jobsite at a minimum temperature of 65°F - 95°F for 48 hours prior to installation and continue to operate during and after the installation has been completed.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

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1. The responsibility for determining subfloor suitability rests solely with the installer, regardless of qualifications.
2. All subfloor materials must be rigid, smooth, flat, dry, clean and free of all foreign materials, including, but not limited to, - dust, paint, grease, oils, solvents, curing/parting compounds, sealers, and residue from old adhesives.
3. HCI recommends installation over concrete substrates, however underlayment grade plywood products are also acceptable and must be of at least BC Grade in order to comply with the above requirements. Luan panels are not acceptable subfloor products and should not be used due to their lack of compressive strength.
4. Non-shrinking water-resistant Portland cementitious-based patching compounds are recommended for substrate preparation and are the only patching/leveling compounds recommended. Gypsum-based patches and leveling compounds are not approved by ASTM to accept resilient flooring and are not recommended by the manufacturer.

5. Due to vast differences in moisture emissions requirements between adhesive manufacturers, moisture test results must not exceed the intended adhesive manufacturer's recommendations. Claims should specify both the moisture test results and the adhesive manufacturer's type of adhesive used.

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## Glue Down - Con't. Pg 2

### INSTALLATION

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1. Hill Country Innovations (HCI) is compatible with many adhesive options, but suitability of an adhesive is a responsibility that rests solely with the installer/dealer. If unsure of suitability, please confirm with your dealer or distributor for further information regarding compatibility, making sure they are informed of the jobsite conditions.
2. Prior to installation of the product, make sure the rooms are square by marking intersecting lines both horizontally and vertically on the floor in the middle of the room. Measure three (3) feet along the horizontal line and place a mark. Then measure four (4) feet along the vertical line and place a mark. Using a tape measure, draw a line from the horizontal mark to the vertical mark. This measurement should be five (5) feet. If the measurement is not five (5) feet, adjust the horizontal line or vertical line to make it so. This will give you a square line to start installation and this line can be carried to a starting wall, making sure to leave an adequate expansion space of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " at all vertical walls and obstructions. For tile installation, this crossing of the horizontal and vertical lines should be used as a starting point in the center of the room, working outward from this point in a pyramid pattern
3. Undercut all doorjamb's using a power jamb saw or hand saw and a scrap piece of floor material turned face down on the substrate
4. Follow all adhesive manufacturer's working (open) time for the specific adhesive you have chosen, trowel notch sizes and amount of adhesive spread rates. Do not spread more adhesive than can be covered in the recommended working (open) time. Follow all adhesive manufacturer's guidelines for temperature and humidity on the jobsite and the recommended temperature of the substrate during installation.
5. Balance the layout in the room to prevent small strips at the ending wall. Measure the width of the room and divide by the width of the plank. If the width remainder is less than half the width of a plank, adjust the starting row to compensate.
6. Install out of 3 to 5 cartons at a time to eliminate shade differences between planks
7. Avoid clustering of end joints. End joints should be staggered a minimum of 6" and no pieces shorter than 6" should be used at the starting of a row or end of a row. Do not stagger joints so as to produce H-joint effects in the floor and keep a random stagger going throughout the installation of the floor
8. Remove an installed plank occasionally during the installation of the floor to make sure the adhesive is bonding properly to the floor and substrate
9. Roll the entire floor during installation and after installation with a minimum 100 lb. 3- section roller. Be certain to roll the floor in both directions to imbed the flooring into the adhesive.
10. As you install the floor, remove any excessive adhesive from the face of the floor with a soft clean cloth and mineral spirits or the recommended product from the adhesive manufacturer
11. Install trim as needed to complete the job

### ADHESIVES

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1. Hill Country Innovations (HCI) vinyl planks and tiles are compatible with many adhesives options. Adhesives specifically designed for the installation of vinyl or vinyl-backed tiles will be acceptable. These adhesives are typically acrylic-based and highly plasticizer-resistant and are designed to develop strong bond strength and limit dimensional movement of flooring materials. Multi-purpose adhesives are not recommended for use with HCI luxury vinyl products. HCI recommends the use of hard-set adhesives for these products.

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### Glue Down – Con't Pg. 3

Pressure sensitive adhesive may be suitable for certain installations, however they do have certain limitations and must be used according to the manufacturer's written guidelines.

2. For most installations of HCI luxury vinyl products, concrete substrates with low emissions (under 5 lbs./1,000 square feet. per 24 hours), HCI recommends DriTac, W F Taylor or Spray-Lock adhesive products specifically manufactured for luxury vinyl plank and tile applications. (See manufacturer's recommendations for use). HCI highly recommends the use of low-VOC adhesives to reduce health risks associated with poor indoor air quality.
3. Substrates that have low porosity, high moisture emissions, increased levels of humidity, large temperature swings, exposure to heavy objects/rolling loads or are prone to high volumes of topical moisture may warrant the use of epoxies or 2-part urethane adhesives. Please consult your dealer/distributor for more information and recommendations for use.
4. Please consult with the adhesive manufacturers specific recommendations for trowel notch sizes and coverage rates. Test the substrate for porosity using a small nickel- sized amount of water poured onto the substrate in several areas. If the water soaks into the substrate in a few seconds, the substrate can be considered porous. If the water does not soak into the substrate, the substrate will be considered non-porous. Follow adhesive manufacturers suggested recommendations for remediation of such issues.
5. Follow adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for rolling the floor as installation progresses. Most adhesives should be rolled during and after installation in both directions to set the flooring into the adhesive product.
6. Periodically lift a plank or tile to ensure positive adhesive transfer to the flooring. If the adhesive is not developing transfer to the back of the tile or if the adhesive is lifting from the substrate - **STOP THE INSTALLATION** - and call the distributor or manufacturer of the adhesive for further instructions.
7. Be sure to allow adequate time for the adhesive to dry and cure before exposing the floors to traffic and/or rolling loads which can lead to improper setting of the flooring material or indentations in the adhesive. Adequate times will differ according to the adhesive manufacturer and jobsite conditions. Please follow all adhesive manufacturer recommendations.
8. Any excess adhesive on the flooring should be cleaned immediately during the installation of the floor. Follow all adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning of excess adhesive from the flooring product.
9. Do not allow the application of any water based cleaning/maintenance products on the new installation for a minimum period of 48 hours after installation. This time period will allow the adhesive to set and fully cure.

**WARNING:** Do not sand, dry scrape, bead blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic "cutback" adhesive or other adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the 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. RFCV's Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings are a defined set of instructions addressed to the task of removing all resilient floor covering structures. These instructions should be consulted with each installation.