VIVAfloors

Installation instructions

Click variant planks and tiles

Acclimatisation

The fitting process is essential for a great-looking floor and good preparation starts with acclimatisation! To achieve optimal fitting results, it is therefore important to give the floor enough time to adjust to temperature.

Tips for acclimatising

1. Ensure that the room in which the floor is to be fitted is between 18° and 26°C.
2. Check the room's humidity. The ideal humidity is between 40% and 60%.
3. Lay the PVC packs separately from each other and well-spaced in the room where the floor is to be fitted.
4. Allow the floor to acclimatise for at least 48 hours.

Important information

- Do not place objects heavier than 50KG/cm² on the floor (ISO 24343–1);
- If the room is more or less square and the room's climate does not vary too much during the day, you can fit up to 13 linear metres without adding extra expansion joints, otherwise extra expansion joints will be needed.

Good preparation is three-quarters of the work.

Visual check

Storage

Make sure the material is resting on a flat surface at all times. If the material is not stored flat, this could create problems during the fitting process.

Floors

Our floors undergo careful inspection before leaving the factory, ensuring a high quality standard. Nevertheless, we cannot guarantee the exclusion of defects. Therefore, any defects found after installation are excluded from the warranty. You should therefore check the goods prior to fitting.

Checking the subfloor

Always check that the subfloor is dry, level, crack-free, clean, and displays tensile and compression strength (as defined in DIN 18365).

Installation method

1 Decide the direction you want the floor to be fitted. As a rule, floorboards and tiles are fitted down the length of the room. In a square room, PVC boards or tiles are usually fitted lengthwise in the direction of the window. Next, mark a straight line on the subfloor using, for example, a laser line level.

2 To avoid narrow board widths or short board lengths near walls/doors, it is important to plan ahead carefully. Based on the width of the room, you can calculate how many full boards or tiles will fit in the area and what space will be left over. This space will have to be covered using boards or tiles that are cut to size.

3 Start in the right corner of the room with a whole board or tile. Fit the tongue of the board or tile parallel to the wall. Fit the first row of boards or tiles along a chalk line. Leave 6.5 mm along the wall to allow for floor expansion. The tongue on the board or tile, on the wall side, can be removed by making a cut into the tongue and bending it downwards.

4 The floors are easy to install without glue. The tongue on a board or tile should be clicked into the groove on another board.

5 Start installing the first row. Lay a board or tile flat on the floor with the tongue facing the wall. Align the end of the second board or tile with the first and click the joint together by pushing straight down on the first board or tile. Lock the short ends of the flooring together until the first row is complete. Cut the last board or tile in the row to the required length. If the wall is not straight, the first row should not be laid along the wall, but rather away from the wall, along a straight line. Make sure the boards are staggered, with a minimum overlap of 300 mm. This ensures a strong joint.

6 After the first row of floorboards has been installed, align the first board or tile of the second row so that its outer side is parallel to the outer side of the first row. Make the joint by clicking the tongue on the long side into the groove, holding the board at a 45-degree angle and then pressing down on the board or tile of the 2nd row.

7 The second board or tile can then be clicked first into the end of the first board. Then the entire second board or tile can be lifted to a 45-degree angle to click the long side into the first row. Repeat this for each board or tile.

8 Vivafloors' click floors can also be installed with a pull bar or tapping block and rubber mallet. This is useful in awkward spaces, such as door frames and the last row. Use a pull bar and rubber mallet to lock the joints in the last row together. Always use a pull bar on the board's cut edge. The click edges may be damaged if the pull bar is used directly on the tongue or groove.

Start-up protocol for underfloor heating

PVC flooring combined with underfloor heating is an ideal solution! A PVC floor is thermally conductive, which means that heat travels well through the floor and the underfloor heating system needs to use less energy for the same result than, for instance, laminate.

Start-up protocol for milled underfloor heating

Milled underfloor heating means that the underfloor heating pipes are laid in slots milled into the existing subfloor. The slots have to be filled professionally. After this, the floor will need to dry for an average of 24 hours. Meanwhile, the temperature should be at least 18°C in the room.

After drying, you can initiate the start-up process towards the maximum temperature over approximately 21 days. The maximum temperature and length of the start-up period may vary. Always discuss this with your underfloor heating installer. Starting up too quickly at too high a temperature can lead to cracks and warping of the floor. To prevent damage, the surface temperature of the floor should never exceed 28°C. If the floor temperature does exceed 28°C, the water temperature should not be raised further and the cooling cycle should be started immediately. If necessary, call upon the help of your underfloor heating installer as well.

Start-up protocol for underfloor heating with wire mesh mats and studded plates

With studded plates and wire mesh mats, the underfloor heating pipes are placed directly between the studs. An advantage of this is that it also has a sound-damping effect. The surface temperature should never exceed 28°C. The water temperature may be lower or higher than stated here due to various factors.

Please note! Water temperature and surface temperature are two different things. Always discuss this with your underfloor heating installer. The temperature can be controlled at the supply manifold. (Room temperature thermostat set to 20 degrees)

Start-up protocol:
Ambient temperature
Dag 1: +1°C
Dag 2: +1°C
Dag 3: +1°C
Dag 4: +1°C
Dag 5: +1°C
Dag 6: +1°C
Dag 7: +1°C
Dag 8: +1°C
Dag 9: +1°C
Dag 10: Proceed to max. of about 30°C. In winter, the temperature can be set slightly higher, but the floor should never exceed 28°C

Maintenance

Vivafloors' PVC floors are extremely easy to maintain. Indeed, that is one of the great advantages of PVC. All the maintenance tips are set out below, so that you can continue to enjoy our PVC floors to the full and for many years.

Daily and periodic maintenance
Our PVC floors are easy to clean. Just vacuum, mop weekly with Vivafloors Cleaner and you're done! Depending on the intensity of use, the floor may need some extra attention over time. Vivafloors Polish restores and protects your PVC floor. You'll have your floor back in top condition.

Vivafloors Cleaner
Vivafloors Cleaner is a highly concentrated neutral cleaning product. For daily mopping, mix 15–20 ml of cleaner with 1 litre of hot water. For heavy soiling, use 50–60 ml Vivafloors Cleaner per 1 litre of hot water. Our Vivafloors Cleaner has strong degreasing power, allowing you to keep your PVC floor clean with absolute ease.

Vivafloors Cleaner is available exclusively at our authorised sales outlets.

Vivafloors Polish
With Vivafloors Polish, you can treat light damage and dull spots on your PVC floor, making the floor look like new again. It creates an abrasion-resistant and water-repellent protective film on the entire surface. The Polish also protects the floor's coating from dirt, contributing to ease of maintenance. Apply undiluted with a micro cloth to a clean and dry floor (1 litre per 20 m^2). You can walk on the floor again as soon as it is dry.

Vivafloors Polish is available exclusively at our authorised sales points.