



## Vinylinx Looselay Flooring Installation Guide

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Vinylinx Looselay Floorings are comfortable underfoot, durable, and easy to maintain. LooseLay is a versatile floor covering and is particularly suitable for use in temporary installations or where floorings may need to be removed to allow access to floor panels. These Looselay floorings are not suitable for installation outdoors nor in rooms that will be continually wet. A separate underlayment is not normally recommended.

Before installation, all materials must be checked to ensure that batches are identical and free from defects. Complaints regarding clearly identifiable defects cannot be accepted after installation.

### INSTALLATION TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Approved adhesive
- Adhesive applicator, notch trowel
- Measuring tape
- Utility knife
- Tile cutter
- 45 kg floor roller or hand roller
- Chalk line
- Firm sponge, cloth
- Straight edge
- Primer (if necessary)

### CONDITIONING

Conditioning is a required procedure prior to the installation of Vinylinx Looselay Flooring. The climatic conditions acceptable for the installation are:

- Floor temperature > 15°C
- Room temperature > 18°C
- Air Relative humidity  $\cong$  65%

Before installation, floorings must be removed from their packaging and laid flat at the room where the installation is to take place at a minimum of 48 hours. The room temperature should be kept between 18 and 28°C before and during the installation.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Vinylinx Looselay Flooring should only be installed on to a smooth, clean, and dry surface, free from contamination and dust. Any adhesive residue from prior installations should be completely removed. Remove any unevenness in the subfloor prior to installation. Subfloor levels should be in accordance with local national standards and in any event, should never exceed a maximum deviation of 2mm when measured under a 2m long straight edge.

Suitable subfloors include concrete, timber and ceramic tiles. Do not install on asphalt, bituminous surfaces or over existing floor coverings.

#### **Concrete Subfloors**

Moisture testing must be performed on all concrete subfloors. The Residual Moisture Content must meet the following requirements:

Reinforced concrete  $\leq$  3.5% CM

Cement mortar and fine aggregate concrete  $\leq$  2% CM

Underfloor heating  $\leq$  1.8% CM

Also, the concrete Tensile Adhesive Strength should be at a minimum of 1.0 Mpa.

High spots should be levelled and low spots should be filled with a proper material to ensure substrate is flat (not exceed 2mm when measured under a 2m long straight edge).

All construction seams, expansion joints, and holes should be filled level with the surrounding surface to eliminate telegraphing of such irregularities.

#### **Timber Subfloors**

For boarded timber floors, any loose boards should be firmly fixed and high spots removed by sanding. The timber should be overlaid with 6mm Hardboard or Cement fibre or as recommended by the manufacturer. Sheet layout details, type of fixing and spacing of fixings must be strictly in accordance with the material manufacturers recommendations, all fixings must be below the surface of the board. The surface should then be primed with a suitable primer.

#### **Ceramic Tiles**

Test floor for evidence of damp. If after testing, dampness is detected consult your supplier. Check floor area for unstable, loose or broken tiles, waxes and sealers. Remove loose pieces and fill deep holes with rapid drying mortar. Degrease, rinse and abrade the surface of the floor. Apply a cement-based floor patch or embossed leveller as per manufacturer's instructions to standards of ASTM F710.

#### **Existing Resilient Floorcoverings**

Always uplift the existing resilient floorcovering, and remove as much as possible of the old adhesive. Floorings accept no responsibility for overlaying over existing floors, carpets, vinyl, linoleum or rubber. If the flooring appears damp, or if there is a musty smell, or visible evidence of

mould or mildew, professional advice should be sought before proceeding with the flooring work.

#### **Underfloor heating/Radiant heated floors**

Floorings may be installed over underfloor heating systems, provided it is insulated such that the temperature between the underside of the floorings and subfloor does not exceed 27°C. It should then be switched off 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after installation. The planks should be installed with the appropriate full spread glue-down method. 48 hours after installation the temperature can be gradually increased to the desired temperature (at no more than 3°C per day). Do not raise the temperature to more than the tolerated maximum surface temperature of 28 °C as Looselay flooring may accidentally function.

**Caution: Electrical underfloor heating: Must consult manufacturer before installation to ensure that their system is compatible with this flooring.**

### APPLICATION OF ADHESIVE

Only use approved pressure sensitive quality acrylic-based adhesive.

**All commercial installations require full spread glue-down method.**

Trowel notching to be as recommended by the manufacturer of the adhesive.

For porous concrete and wood it is recommended to use a high quality floor covering primer. This will improve adhesion by sealing the surface and locking any loose dust.

### INSTALLATION

#### **Commercial Installation**

All commercial installations require approval from a Vinylinx dealer or sales representative.

Please refer to the following procedures for residential installations but do note that all commercial installations require the full spread glue-down method. Contact your Vinylinx dealer or sales representative for further details.

#### **Residential Installation**

Looselay must always be fitted tight to the wall and to each adjacent plank, using one of the following three options:

##### **1. Rooms smaller than 16 m<sup>2</sup>**

Planks should be glued to the substrate around the perimeter of the room with a 25-30 cm band of pressure-sensitive adhesive. The planks are to be fitted tightly to the walls. Then lay down the planks in the rest area of the room.

##### **2. Rooms larger than 16 m<sup>2</sup>**

If a room is greater than 4 m in any direction, a grid pattern of adhesive is required. A strip of 25-30 cm should be applied in both directions in the middle of the room. In even greater areas, a grid pattern of adhesive should be applied every 3 m x 3 m.

##### **3. Heavy Traffic Areas:**

In areas of high traffic, such as high footfall- entrances, high frequency wheeled traffic; planks should be installed with the appropriate full spread glue-down method.

Full spread glue-down method is the preferred method for optimal performance for the above three options.

**Caution: Flooring that cannot be protected from direct sunlight is required to be installed with adhesive. Failure to install Looselay flooring with Vinylinx approved adhesive when such flooring will be exposed to direct sunlight voids all warranties, express or implied; the end user shall assume full responsibility for any failure of the flooring, and Vinylinx shall be released from any claims, damages, or liabilities whatsoever arising out of or related to the failure to install the flooring with approved adhesive when the flooring is exposed to direct sunlight.**

Installation: Starting from one corner of the room, lay down the first row of planks moving towards the other wall. When placing the second row and every subsequent row, make sure to stagger the end joints a minimum of 300mm apart from the previous row. Staggering the planks creates a more authentic appearance.

Any adhered portion of the installation, including the perimeter, will require the use of a floor roller to remove any trapped air and to ensure that the flooring is well bonded to the substrate.

### IMPORTANT

Vinylinx Looselay Flooring is only used for indoor and floor covering only.

Looselay Flooring must be protected from direct sunlight exposure. Vinylinx recommends using UV protective film, blinds or curtains in all windows that provide direct sunlight to ensure that the products are not overheated.

Care must be taken to avoid damage to the floor caused by localised 'hot spots/thermal blocks. Care must also be taken in placing rugs, and items of furniture which do not allow hot air circulation. No responsibility for damage to flooring can be accepted under these circumstances.