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Installation Guide

Solano Collection

Luxury Vinyl Tiles Inspired By Nature



Receipt and storage

Upon delivery all products and materials should be checked for any damage. Order quantity, colour and batch numbers should be checked to ensure they are as ordered, prior to the commencement of installation.

Acclimatisation

24hrs prior to installation all planks/tiles should be removed from the packaging and allowed to condition in the location the installation will take place. Planks/tiles should be rested flat to avoid any adverse dimensional changes, but not stacked more than 4 packs high (60 planks/tiles). It is also advisable to condition any other materials to be used during the installation in a similar manner – IE: Adhesives/Screeds/DPM's.

Conditioning time should be doubled where products have been stored/delivered significantly below the desired working range of 18oC-26oC.

SO Flooring will not be liable for any complaints arising due to incorrect conditioning.

Installation Environment

The temperature of the installation environment should be between 18°C-26°C and should not fluctuate more than 2°C for the duration of the installation.

In areas where the temperature can exceed 50°C it is important that a suitable high temp adhesive is used. These areas should also be brought within the advised temperature range for the duration of the conditioning and installation, plus a further 24hrs once the job is complete. In heavily glazed areas subject to increased solar gain, window shades are recommended throughout the conditioning and installation period to mitigate the potential fluctuations in temperature.

The Solano collection is suitable for use over underfloor heating where the system is suitably insulated to ensure the maximum surface temperature does not exceed 27°C.

Underfloor heating systems should be switched off and allowed to cool completely prior to installation. It is recommended to keep the system off for 48hrs prior and a further 48hrs after installation, with the temperature then brought back up gradually over a period of three days.

Subfloor Preparation

Subfloors should be tested with a hygrometer to ascertain the moisture content. Where the reading is above 75%RH a suitable damp proof membrane should be applied prior to installation of the planks/tiles.

Existing floor coverings (Carpet, Linoleum, PVC, Cork, Laminate)

Remove all existing floor coverings and take extra care to remove any old adhesive residues and underlayment from the original subfloor.

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Concrete/Sand Cement Screeds

The surface should be cleaned and any old contaminants removed. The subfloor should then be primed, prior to the application of a suitable smoothing compound to a minimum depth of 3mm.

Where a hygrometer reading over 75%RH is observed a suitable DPM should be applied beneath the smoothing compound. For power floated concrete floors surface abrasion will be required prior to the application of any damp proof membrane or smoothing compounds.

Ceramics

Check the floor for any broken or loose tiles, these should be removed and deep gaps filled with a rapid drying repair mortar. The existing tiles should then be cleaned and degreased before surface abrasion is carried out to ensure a good bond can be achieved. The surface should then be primed prior to the application of a smoothing compound to a minimum of 3mm thickness. Should any sinking appear over the old tile grout lines a second coat of primer and smoothing compound should be applied.

Timber floors

When installing over standard or tongue and groove floorboards ensure there are no loose or damaged boards. Any defective boards should be repaired or replaced.

Cover with flooring grade plywood to a minimum thickness of 6mm. Joints can be smoothed over with suitable skim coat, or a full coat of fibre reinforced smoothing compound can be applied.

For undulating timber floor, apply a primer to the plywood followed by a fibre reinforced smoothing compound to a minimum thickness of 3mm

When installing over Chipboard, MDF or similar, treat as above and cover with flooring grade plywood to a minimum thickness of 6mm. Joints can be smoothed over with suitable skim coat, or a full coat of fibre reinforced smoothing compound can be applied. For existing flooring grade plywood floors treat as above and smooth any joint lines or apply smoothing compound coat if required. Where the existing plywood thickness is less than 6mm, a further 6mm thickness flooring grade plywood should be put down prior to installation.

Adhesive application

Always follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for application carefully.

Apply the adhesive evenly to the substrate with a suitable notched trowel. Depending on the adhesive used it may be beneficial to go over the trowelled adhesive with a roller, pre wetted with the adhesive to flatten resulting ridges from the notched trowel. This will help to reduce the chance of 'grin though' on the finished installation.

Lay the flooring in place and then massage over the surface evenly. Leave a waiting time according to the application quantity, climatic conditions, substrate absorbency and type of covering.

Only apply as much adhesive as can be covered within the open time and with good transfer to the backing of the covering. Lay the planks/tiles whilst the adhesive is still wet and smooth out from the centre to remove any entrapped air and ensure full contact with the adhesive. Roll using a 68kg roller after approximately 30 minutes and again after the installation has been completed.

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