

elevations

FLOATING RESILIENT GRAVITY GRIP FLOORING

ELEVATIONS is a revolutionary design in floating tile and plank floor technology. Using a non-skid backing and weight from its thick construction, which includes a high grade Fiberglass sheet for stability; it stays firmly in place! It has a strong durable ceramic coating and is quiet and warm under foot. Because of ELEVATIONS design the planks and tiles can be installed over all types of subfloors including natural wood, concrete, one layer of existing vinyl, ceramic and uneven subfloors. Subfloor preparation instructions on the following pages must be followed. ELEVATIONS is water resistant so it can be installed in moisture prone areas that wood flooring and laminate products would not be used.

What you need to get started

1. Tools: Utility knife & straight edge, depending on application a small amount of vinyl adhesive or tape specified below.
2. Material Needed: Measure the length & width of your room. If the room has alcoves or offsets, measure these separately. This will give you the square footage of the room. Have a minimum of 10% extra to cover mistakes, trimming and for future needs and or replacement.

Check what the amount of Square Footage is for the package carton and divide it by the room dimensions factoring in the alcoves and offsets and adding in your overage to determine the correct amount of cartons for your installation.

ELEVATIONS must be Condition Prior to installation: ELEVATIONS must be stored at room temperature of at least 65 degrees Fahrenheit. For 24 to 48 hours before installation. Stack cartons no more than 3 high with at least 4" of airflow around not next to and heat or cooling ducts and direct sunlight.

When installing tiles and planks you should work out of a minimum of 3 boxes and mix planks or tiles when installing.

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Subfloor Preparation

While ELEVATIONS is suitable for situations where many other types of flooring should not be used, certain precautions should be observed including and not limited to:

- 1: Make sure you have a sound, solid subfloor with little flexibility.
- 2: Evaluate your concrete floor if it has a moisture problem, Fix It! Hydrostatic pressure and/or High PH need to be addressed. It can create a highly corrosive substance that no flooring product can tolerate. There are many products on the market that can seal the concrete and protect ELEVATIONS from this issue. Polyurethane sheets can be used, as a precaution once the concrete floor has been tested not a solution for a problem. Our limits for the best precautions are as follows:

8 lbs using a Calcium Chloride Dome test using ASTM test methods or a RH reading of 85%, using ASTM RH relativity test methods and/or a PH higher than 9

- 3: Fill any large cracks, nail holes or voids, which must be filled with a Portland base patching compound. Concrete and wood subfloors should be flat within 3/16" in 10 FT.

- 4: Check environment! Keep clean and dust free work conditions during installation. The room temperature and the sub floor temperature should be between 65° and 85 ° Fahrenheit. Maintain proper temperature for 48 hours before, during and after installation. The building's heating and air-conditioning system should be turned on at least one to two weeks before installation. ELEVATIONS is an interior product only, and must be installed in a temperature controlled environment, maintained between 65 and 85 degrees F. Please keep in mind a concrete floor can be up to ten degrees colder than the actual room temperature.

Subfloor compatibility

All Levels of Concrete: Lightweight concretes are approved and Wood Subfloors. All other subfloors, i.e. particleboard, OSB, chipboard, wafer board, Gypsum Underlayment and Floor Toppings etc. must be sturdy, flat, and have little flexibility and manufacturers installation specifications need to be followed.

Caution: Soft underlayment and Substrates can diminish ELEVATIONS inherent strength in resisting indentations.

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Quarry tile, terrazzo, and ceramic tile need to be floated and grout joints filled with a high quality Portland base cement product.

For Radiant heat components must be a minimum of 1/2" separated from ELEVATIONS. This is the only type of radiant heat that is approved.

Subfloors should have been operational for at least 3 weeks prior to installation to drive out moisture and calibrate temperature settings. All radiant heat floors should be turned down so subfloor temperature is maintained at 65 degrees for 3 days prior to installation and kept at 65 degrees for at least 48 hours after installation to allow the adhesive to fully cure. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F.

Existing resilient tile and sheet vinyl floors are ok but must be in good condition and fully bonded to the structural floor. All existing vinyl needs to be stripped and cleaned of all wax and heavily embossed vinyl should be floated with a high quality Portland based cement. Any tile or sheet that is of a soft cushion construction must be removed. For all removal of any resilient glue down product follow RFCI's recommended Work Practices for removal of resilient floor covering. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Do not sand or bead blast during removal. Please visit RFCI.com for advice on vinyl installations if needed. Note: A layer of resilient or soft underlayments like lauan may compromise the inherent strength of ELEVATIONS. Do not install over more than one layer of existing flooring, to prevent indentations.

ELEVATIONS is water/moisture resistant, and does not support mold or mildew. However, excessive moisture in the subfloor can cause mold, mildew, and other moisture related issues like the trapping of moisture emissions under ELEVATIONS. This will cause an adverse affect on existing glue down substrates causing it to release.

Check for any dips in the subfloor that can create a void underneath the floor that will cause stress on the plank seams when walking on it. ELEVATIONS is water resistant so it can be installed directly over concrete floors in the basement, (Refer to Subfloor preparation on page 1). If your concrete floor has any bumps or burrs of concrete sticking up, simply knock them off with a hammer and chisel and fill in the holes.

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Installation of ELEVATIONS Measure out your room and determine the length and width of the perimeter plank or tile keeping a balanced perimeter row on each side of the room. ELEVATIONS is very easy to cut by scoring with a sharp blade and snapping or a vinyl cutter. Avoid small perimeter pieces less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in width. Check the walls and make sure it is square to the opposite wall if not you can scribe the plank or tile on the edge that goes against the wall to create a straight square-starting row. Never expose scribe or cut ends they should always be covered by molding. Installation should start at corner of the room and work your way out. The perimeter needs to be secured for all installations to lock remainder of floor in place. Glue the whole perimeter using a Pressure Sensitive Adhesive. Create at least a 10-inch perimeter in width for planks and 14-inch perimeter in width for 12" x 24" tiles including all walkway entrances and under heavy appliances and furniture. Leave an expansion space from wall at least 1/8th inch covered by molding. The recommended Pressure Sensitive Adhesive to accomplish this is R88 Gravity Grip Spray Locking Adhesive. Follow all instructions on can. Please contact your Elevations provider for adhesive details. Once the starting perimeter row is in place just lay your plank or tiles down and adjust all side and end seams tight and square to each other. The best part to an ELEVATIONS installation is that you can just pull up and reposition a tile or plank if it does not look right. Avoid walking on tile or planks as much as possible until all the perimeter tiles or planks are in place to lock in the installation. For planks make sure you stagger the rows with different size planks so the ends of the planks do not line up in a straight uniform line. No starting row piece or end piece should be less than 6 inches and a random staggered method is best. For 12" x 24" tile an offset method is best. Start first perimeter row with a full tile then next row with a half tile then alternating though out installation. A point-to-Point installation with each corner of the tile together is warranted but not the preferred method. For your typical residential installations only you can use a heavy-duty double face tape to secure the perimeter planks or tile from moving. First remove the paper from one side and secure tape to the back of the tile or plank. Then remove paper and place tile or plank to floor. The acceptable amount of tape is 3 rows running length wise down plank if using 2-inch wide tape and 5 rows for tile.

For cutting around irregular objects make a pattern out of heavy paper to fit around the object then place and trace the pattern upon the plank and cut along the lines with a utility knife or heavy duty scissors and lay the plank. For any reason you need to replace a plank that is damaged just pull up the plank and put another in its place it's that easy.

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Maintenance for ELEVATIONS Tile and Planks

Easy as 1-2-3- Sweep, Vacuum and Mop floor regularly! Our strong durable ceramic coating will protect your floor for many years. Follow the precautions below for keeping your floor looking good for years to come. Use, plastic, glass or other non-staining cups with flat under surfaces not less than 2 inches in diameter for legs of heavy appliances and furniture. Use proper floor protectors on all chairs. Remove all small diameter buttons from legs of straight chairs and replace with medal glides no smaller than 1 inch in diameter. Examine your protectors periodically, check for burs or debris or wear make sure the surface is smooth. Do not drag any types of furniture across your floor! These precautions will prevent scratches and indentations from appearing on your floor. Avoid rolling type caster wheels on chairs and/or heavy objects if possible. If not make sure the rollers are the double type wheels at least 2" in diameter. This will help disperse the weight properly to prevent any issues with Dynamic Load, which is the affect of heavy rolling objects that are not stationary. Heavy weighted loads that are not properly dispersed can put a strain on flooring material to move. If exposed to this the best solution is to glue these areas with our recommended R88 Gravity Grip Spray Locking Adhesive, which will eliminate any potential issues. Do not expose floor to frequent standing water and wipe up all spills quickly. Watch for tracked in dirt and grit particles. Use walk off mats at all room entrances. Do not use rubber or latex back mats. Certain chemicals in backing can stain vinyl. Use Non-staining vinyl mats or woven rugs that are colorfast. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolong periods. The use of drapes and blinds are recommended. Direct sunlight over long period of time can cause discoloration.

No finishes are needed. ELEVATIONS has a strong permanent ceramic finish. Do not use any type of floor wax, harsh detergent or solvents like lacquer thinner, abrasive cleaners or Mop and Shine type products, which can leave a film. Avoid vinegar as a cleaning agent. Use cleaners that are recommended for vinyl. The use of steam mops is ok. Do not use vacuums with beater bars.

Commercial Installations: Follow same recommendations as above. Daily sweeping, dust mopping or vacuuming will prevent dirt and grit particles from being grounded into surface of plank or tile. The amount of foot traffic will dictate you maintenance program but washing the floor by damp mopping and use of an auto scrubber should be part of the program. Heavy use and extremely dirty floors should be scrubbed with a 175-300RPM-floor buffer. No Scrubber or Buffer can exceed 300 RPM! A red type pad should be used for scrubbing and a white pad for buffing. Suitable made for vinyl-cleaning products should be used.