

# Vinyl Installation Instructions (Uniclic and Glue Down)

## Nuvelle 3.3mm Uniclic®

Nuvelle 3.3mm Uniclic Luxury Vinyl planks are constructed with the patented Uniclic® interlocking joint that locks the planks together to form a tight, durable, water resistant joint. Nuvelle 3.3mm Uniclic LVT flooring is installed as a floating floor so it's quick and easy to install and adhering product to the substrate is not recommended.

All you need is a smooth dry surface and a few basic hand tools. Once the floor is installed it can receive traffic immediately.

### Recommended Use

- Residential and light commercial applications
- Interior use in enclosed, climate controlled areas
- Do not install over ramps

### General Information

- Always store and transport cartons stacked neatly on a smooth, flat, solid surface
- Do not stack more than 10 cartons high.
- Acclimate flooring and room at a constant temperature between 65F and 85F for 48 hours prior to, during and 48 hours after installation. Do not store directly on concrete, allow for air circulation. Do not open the cartons but spread them out and protect corners from damage. Thereafter maintain temperatures between 65F and 85F. Please keep in mind a concrete floor can be up to ten degrees colder than the actual room temperature.
- Examine flooring for color and quality prior to installation. Flooring warranties do not cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.
- Mix planks from several different cartons to ensure a random appearance.
- Always allow a ¼" expansion space around the entire perimeter of the room and at all fixtures and pipes. Cover the exposed edges with trim or fill the gap with a high quality silicone caulking.
- Note: All base cabinets must be installed prior to installing flooring.
- Do not install base cabinets or island cabinets on top of the floor.
- Large rooms must have expansion joints every 32 feet width-wise to the panels and every 32 feet length-wise. We recommend having an expansion joint between different rooms (e.g. under the door). Expansion joints can be finished by means of a molding that is attached to the sub-floor.

- Only protect Nuvelle by laying sheets of breathable brown Kraft paper over the flooring
- Nuvelle is water/moisture resistant; however, excessive moisture in the subfloor may promote mold, mildew, and other moisture related issues like the trapping of moisture emissions under the flooring which may contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment.
- Nuvelle does not warrant nor is responsible for damage to floor covering due to moisture related issues.
- Installation is **NOT** allowed over any type of carpet.

### **Preparing the Area**

- Remove all furniture and appliances from the room(s)
- Remove wall and doorway trim
- Undercut door casings

### **Subfloor Recommendations**

Planks can be installed over a variety of subfloor surfaces including concrete on all grade levels, wood and many existing hard surface floors. The subfloors must be clean, smooth, flat, solid and dry. Do not install planks over floors that are sloped for drainage. Any uneven areas greater than 1/16" in 3' should be leveled with a portland cement based patching compound. Vinyl tiles are resistant to water damage but they do not prevent the transmission of moisture. Care should be taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of the vinyl floor to prevent the growth of mold and mildew.

### **Wood Subfloors**

Nuvelle 3.3mm Uniclic LVT planks are suitable for installation over double layer wood subfloors that are a minimum of 1" thick, or single layer subfloors constructed with APA rated Sturd-I-Floor panels, 23/32" or heavier. Joist spacing should not exceed 19.2". Set fasteners 1/32" below the subfloor surface, sand joints smooth and fill holes and gaps wider than 1/8" wide. Install suitable underlayment when necessary to achieve a flat or solid surface. Nuvelle 3.3mm Uniclic LVT planks can be installed over underlayment grade plywood, lauan plywood and other underlayments recommended by the manufacturer for use with luxury vinyl plank. Installation over oriented strand board and particle board is not recommended since these panels presents a greater risk of sub-floor instability and can detract from the performance of the floor. Wooden subfloors installed over a crawlspace should have a moisture barrier installed in the crawlspace with at least 18 inches of ground clearance.

NOTE: Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection because subfloor movement will telegraph through to the finished installation. Indications of excessive deflection are subfloor fastener release, squeaking, compromised or sectional contours such as bowing or dipping in floors and uneven flooring material. Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure boards with excessive vertical movement or deflection prior to installation of the Nuvelle 3.3mm Uniclic LVT planks. If the subfloor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete. Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

### **Concrete Subfloors**

1. New and existing concrete subfloors should meet the guidelines of the latest edition of ASTM F 710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring" available from the American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428; 610-832-9585; <http://www.astm.org>
2. Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
3. New concrete slabs must be dry. Maximum moisture level per CaCl test method is 8 lbs. per 1000 in 24 hr. Maximum level for ASTM 2170 In-situ Relative humidity test method - 85%.
4. Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions.
5. Maximum acceptable ph level of 9 or less
6. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.
7. Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a Portland based patching and levelling product, and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface

### **Existing Flooring**

Nuvelle 3.3mm Uniclic LVT planks can be installed over a variety of finished floors including single layer resilient sheet floor and tile, ceramic, marble and terrazzo. The surface must be in good condition and show no signs of excessive moisture conditions. Level deep or wide grout lines with embossing leveler. Do not install flooring over heavily cushioned floors or over tile installed over concrete below grade level. The grout joints in ceramic tile and marble must be leveled so they are flush with the tile surface. Additionally the tile may require several skim coats to achieve a flat surface.

### **Radiant Heated Systems**

Radiant heat components must have a minimum of 1/2" separation from the product. This is the only type of radiant heat system that is approved. Radiant heat system must be on and operational for at least 2 weeks prior to installation to reduce residual moisture within the concrete. Three days prior to installation lower the temperature to 65 degrees, after installation gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5° F to avoid overheating. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

### **Tools Required**

- Utility Knife
- Carpenter Square
- Chalkline
- Tape measure
- Pencil

### **Installation**

- For best appearance planks should be installed parallel to the long dimension of the room and preferably parallel with outside light sources i.e. windows and doors.
- Determine the layout to achieve the largest cut planks at the walls and snap a chalkline at the starting point.
- Install planks in a random layout Start with a whole plank in the left hand corner of the room with the tongue side and end toward the wall. Lay the first row of planks along the chalkline and trim to fit to the wall allowing a ¼" expansion space. Note: If starting the first row with a whole width plank it will be necessary to trim the tongue off against the wall. Always place the cut edge against the wall. To trim planks, use a utility knife and a straight edge. Score the top surface of the plank and flex it downward to separate the pieces.
- Attach the end joints of the planks in the first row. Insert the tongue into the groove while holding the plank at a 20° to 30° angle to the floor. Apply pressure inward and down until the planks lock together (Use spacers between the edge and end of the planks and the wall to maintain a ¼" expansion space).
- Start the second row using 1/3rd of a plank. Place the cut end against the wall. Insert the tongue on the long side of the plank into the groove of the plank in the first row. Hold the plank in a 20° to 30° angle while applying pressure inward and down until they lock together. To complete the second and all successive rows it will be necessary to lock the short end into the previous plank first before locking the long side of the plank. Angle the plank and push the tongue into the groove and adjust it until the tongue locks into place. It may be necessary to lift both planks slightly to lock the joint together. Complete the second row allowing a ¼" expansion space at the cut plank at the end of the row
- Start the third row using 2/3rds of a plank with the cut end against the wall. Complete each row thereafter using a random layout with end joints off-set by at least 8". Plan the layout to avoid using small planks (less than 6") at the walls. The cut piece at the end of the row can often be used to start the next row provided it achieves a random layout. Always place the cut end against the wall and allow a ¼" expansion space.
- Nuvelle 3.3mm Uniclic LVT planks are unique in that they can also be installed with a pull bar or tapping block and rubber mallet in difficult areas, such as the last row, and when fitting around door trim. Use a pull bar and rubber mallet to lock the joints

together in the last row. Always use a pull bar on the cut edge of the plank. Factory edges can be damaged if the pull bar is used directly against them.

- When fitting around door trim it will be necessary to slide the plank under the trim. This can be accomplished easily by starting the row on the side of the room with the door trim and then sliding the plank into place once it is attached. The row can be completed by inserting the tongue in to the groove or the groove into the tongue depending on the direction. A special Uniclic approved tapping block and pullbar can also be used to lock the joints together while the planks are in a flat position. Use a series of light taps until the joint is gradually locked together.

## **Special Instructions**

### Bathrooms

When the LVT planks are installed in a bathroom the flooring can be laid under the toilet only if the floor is separated from adjacent rooms with a doorway threshold. Otherwise the flooring should be installed around the toilet leaving a 1/8" expansion space. Use a high quality silicone caulking to fill the expansion space at the tub, shower and all wet areas to prevent surface water seepage under the floor.

### Stairs

Nuvelle 3.3mm Uniclic Luxury Vinyl Tile is not recommended for use on stairs or steps.

### Finishing the Job

Remove all spacers. Install wall trim lightly over the floor surface. Drive fasteners into the wall and not the floor. When installing doorway transition moldings allow a 1/4" expansion space between the edge of the floor and the molding. Do not drive fasteners in to the floor. Return appliances to the room by rolling or sliding over strips of hardboard to prevent damaging the floor.

For new construction installations, following the installation and clean up, protect it by laying sheets of breathable brown Kraft paper over the flooring and then a layer of plywood sheets. Leave until the work of all trades has been completed.

## **Nuvelle 2mm Dry Back Glue Down**

- Proper installation plays a key role in the performance of 2MM DRY BACK LUXURY VINYL floors.
- For installation of vinyl tile, these basic guidelines should be followed:
- Store planks for 48 hours in room where they will be installed. Keep room at a minimum of 65°F during that time and during installation. After installation, temperature should not fall below 65°F for the first 48 hours, and not below 55°F after that.
- If room is heated by radiant coils in the subfloor, the TEMPERATURE OF THE FLOOR should not exceed 85°F.
- The subfloor must be level, clean, and free of wax, grease, oil or dust.

- If necessary, patch or fill any cracks in the subfloor with patch, or latex underlayment.
- Use embossing leveler to smooth any texture or embossing on the old floor.
- Install over smooth, well-bonded resilient floors or over dry concrete and wood floors with a plywood overlay.
- Warranty valid ONLY with use of CAPITAL VA550 (follow adhesive installation guidelines)

## **Floor Care**

- Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do not use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Avoid using a vacuum with a beater bar.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do not use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor.

### **Asbestos Warning**

WARNING! DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES. Previously installed resilient floor covering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesives used to install them may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. The products in this carton DO NOT contain asbestos or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline 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 previously installed 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 and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.