



# Active Tec Floating Luxury Vinyl Tile Flooring

## INSTALLATION

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Active Tec is a revolutionary flooring system that combines durability with fast, easy installation to reduce down time. The pre-adhered finished planks are laid directly over an included flexible underlayment so there is no adhesive odor, adhesive set-up time or delay in getting your customer back to work.

## I. Jobsite Conditions

1. Active Tec should be installed only after permanent HVAC is in operation for 7 days and the work of all other trades is completed.
2. The temperature must be kept between 65° F (18° C) and 75° F (24° C) for 48 hours before, during and after installation.
3. The flooring material must be acclimatized 48 hours prior to installation. Flooring should be removed from the pallet 24 hours prior to installation and stacked no more than 3 cartons high with at least 4" (10 cm) of air ow around the cartons. Do not leave boxes close to heat or cooling ducts or in direct sunlight.
4. After that, maintain temperatures between 65° F (18° C) and 85° F (29° C). Active Tec should not be exposed to prolonged periods of direct sunlight, as it may cause the flooring to expand. We recommend closing drapes and blinds during peak sunlight hours.
5. Flooring products with arrows on the back should be installed with all the arrows pointing in the same direction.
6. Avoid restricting the movement of the floor and allow space on all four walls for expansion and contraction of the flooring.

## II. Moisture Testing

1. Follow ASTM F 710 "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring." This includes determining Relative Humidity and pH Levels, as per the ASTM specifications listed below:
  - a. ASTM F 2170, Relative Humidity (RH) test using in situ probes. The maximum allowable reading is 85% RH;
  - b. ASTM F 710, pH levels (test procedure 5.3.1). The readings should be between 8 and 10.
2. The ASTM test frequency recommendation is 3 measures for the first 1,000 sq. ft. (92.9 sq. m) and one measure for each additional 1,000 sq. ft. (92.9 sq. m).
3. Ensure Relative Humidity and pH tests have all been conducted according to the latest ASTM version, and measures meet manufacturer's specifications.
4. For all installations on concrete (on, above or below grade), it is the flooring contractor's responsibility to ensure that there is not too much moisture in the concrete and that it will not increase at a future date above the recommended levels. Mohawk Group is not responsible for hydrostatic pressure that may occur in the future.

## III. Subfloor Preparation

1. Active Tec floating floors can mask minor imperfections such as cracks in concrete and joints up to 1/8" (3 mm) wide.
2. Level all other surface imperfections by grinding or filling with a high strength Portland- based patching compound.



3. All subfloor surfaces must be smooth, at, dry, clean and free from movement. Variations in the flatness of the subfloor should not exceed 1/16" (1.6 mm) in 1' (30 cm) or 3/16" (4.8 cm) in 10' (3 m). Do not install over ramps, sloped floors, and floors with drains or stairs.
4. Clean and fill all saw cuts. Do not install over expansion joints.
5. In the case of wood subfloors, plywood sheets should be double layered with a minimum of 18" (46 cm) of well-ventilated air space below the structural supports. The plywood should be rated suitable for resilient flooring. Sand joints flush and fill gaps wider than 1/8" (3 mm). Refer to ASTM F 1482 "Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel-Type Underlayments to Receive Resilient Flooring" for general guidelines.
6. The existing flooring conditions must be assessed on all remodeling applications. Existing flooring must be smooth, flat, fully adhered and in sound condition.
7. All old adhesive residues must be completely removed. Do not use chemical adhesive removal products (chemical abatement products); their use will void the Mohawk Group warranty.
8. For detailed instructions, refer to the Floor Preparation for Hard Surfaces document available on our website at [www.mohawkgroup.com](http://www.mohawkgroup.com).

#### IV. Layout and Installation

1. When two installers are working together, Active Tec can be installed starting in the center of the room and working out in both directions simultaneously for a much faster installation; however, it can also be installed starting along the wall.
2. Refer to the architectural specifications to determine the direction the planks will be installed. Normally the length of the plank is installed parallel to the length of the room or corridor.
3. Lay out flooring so it is centered in the room wherever possible. If necessary, adjust the layout to avoid using narrow planks (less than half plank width) along the walls.

#### Over Hard Surfaces:

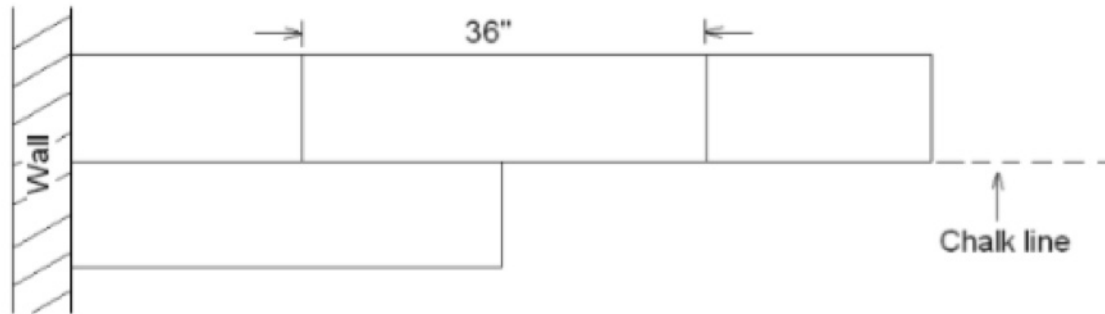
Over hard surfaces like concrete, ceramic, terrazzo tiles, etc., follow the recommendations hereunder.

**Note:** Install Active Tec so that the joints in the planks offset the underlayment joints.

1. Snap a chalk line down the center of the floor parallel to the length of the plank. Adjust the center line if necessary to ensure a wide enough plank along the perimeter.
2. Lay the underlayment on each side of the chalk line and stagger the joints by at least 6" (15 cm) (diagram 1). Trim the underlayment along the walls leaving an 1/8" (3 mm) gap for expansion. A few pieces of tape can be used to temporarily hold the underlayment in place. Do not permanently tape or secure the floating underlayment pieces to each other or to the subfloor.

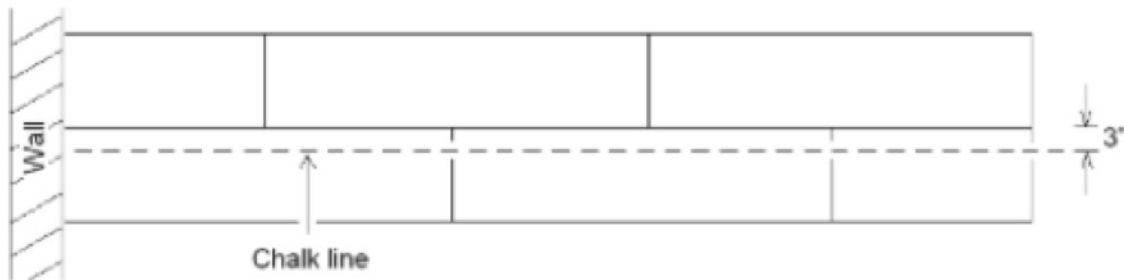


DIAGRAM 1 – STAGGER THE UNDERLAYMENT.



- Trace another chalk line 3" (7.6 cm) from the underlayment joint (diagram 2).

DIAGRAM 2 – SNAP A CHALK LINE 3" (7.6 CM) FROM THE UNDERLAYMENT JOINT.



- Lay the first row of planks accurately along the chalk line, centered over the seam of the underlayment. Start the row with a 2/3 plank (about 2' (60 cm) long) if the layout allows. Ensure that the last plank in the row on the opposite wall is 6" (15 cm) or longer.
- Allow a 1/8" (3 mm) space along the wall and all other vertical surfaces. Always place the cut end against the wall.
- Remove the release liner from the back of the plank when you are ready to install it.
 

**Caution:** The release liner is slippery. Do not stand or walk on the release liner or loose planks. Place the release liner in the trash immediately after removing it from the planks.
- Always install planks with end joints offset by at least 6" (15 cm) from the joints in the underlayment (diagram 3). Carefully lay the plank along the chalk line without sliding it. If the plank needs adjustment, carefully lift it while holding the underlayment in place. It may be necessary to heat the plank with a hot air blower if it was pressed into place.

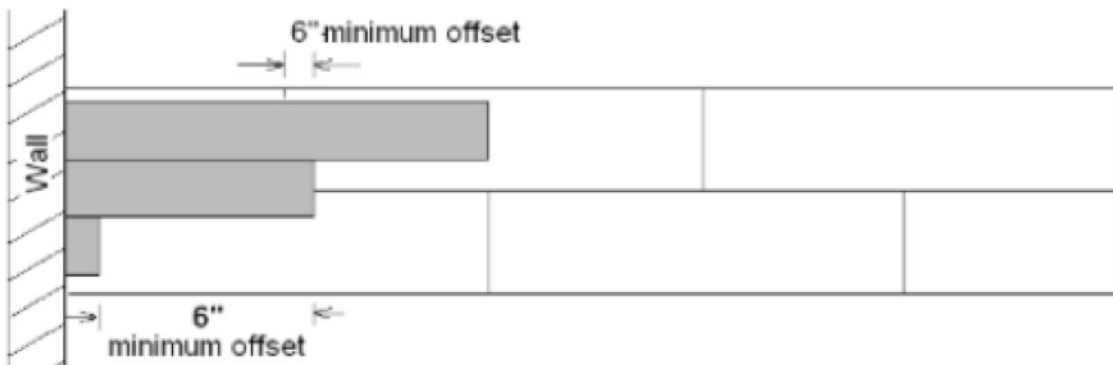


DIAGRAM 3 – OFFSET THE PLANK AND UNDERLAYMENT JOINTS BY AT LEAST 6" (15 CM).



8. Install the second row on each side of the first row. Start with a whole plank on one side and a 1/3 plank (about 1' (30 cm) long) on the other side (diagram 4). Place the cut end against the wall.

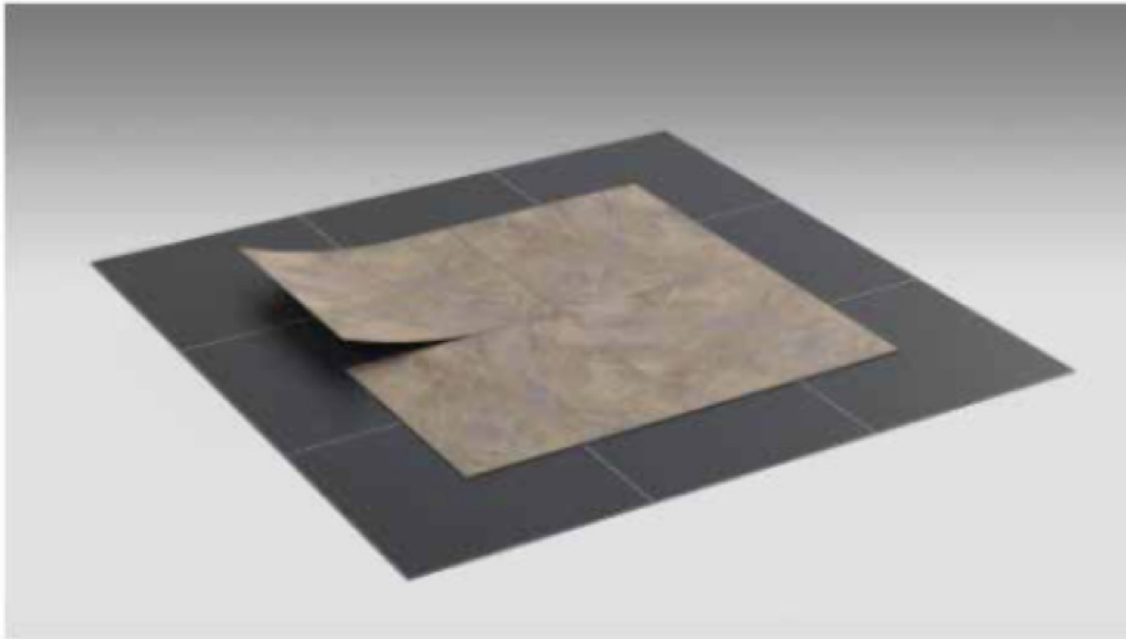
DIAGRAM 4 – STAGGER PLANK JOINTS BY AT LEAST 6" (15 CM).



9. After 3 or 4 rows of planks are installed, turn around and work from on top of the flooring. Continue to install one row of underlayment at a time and cover it with planks to avoid shifting. Always install planks randomly staggered with end joints offset by at least 6" (15 cm). Always install the long edge of the planks at least 3" (7.6 cm) from the long edge of the underlayment seam. Plan the layout to avoid small planks of less than 6" (15 cm) along the perimeter. Allow an 1/8" (3 mm) expansion space around the entire perimeter.
10. When the installation is completed, or at the end of the day, roll the flooring slowly in both directions with a 75-100 lb. (34-45 kg) three section roller. Use a steel hand roller to level the joints as needed.



DIAGRAM 5 – FOR THE TILE SYSTEM, LAY THE FLOOR LIKE THE PICTURE BELOW.



Note: the underlayment with the tiles does not need to be staggered

11. Never install more underlayment than can be covered with plank. When necessary to leave the job site unfinished, cover the exposed underlayment to avoid tracking dirt and dust on it.
12. **Bathrooms and frequently wet areas:** Bathrooms connected to hallways or adjacent rooms must have an 1/8" (3 mm) gap around the entire perimeter and all fixtures. When installing in a bathroom as a separate room, a 1/16" (1.6 mm) gap is required and the toilet can be set on the planks. Regardless of the method used, always fill the gap around the entire perimeter and around the fixtures with a high quality acrylic or silicone caulking to prevent water from seeping under the flooring. Caulking should be used even when the perimeter will be covered with wall base.
13. Each room must be independent from one another and a transition strip might be required to hide the joints between rooms or sections. The room stops at the doorframe and starts anew in the corridor or the next room.
14. **Transition moldings:** Transition moldings must cover the edge of the flooring by at least 3/8" (1 cm). Install the molding so that it will not pin the flooring or interfere with expansion or contraction of the floor and substrate. Never place fasteners through the floor to secure moldings.
15. **Corridors:** Because of wood subfloor expansion/contraction with temperature and humidity variations, it is essential that each room be independent from one another.



### Over Wood Surfaces:

1. You must have a minimum thickness of 3/4" plywood that is free from glue residues, dirt or contaminants (solid or liquid, oils or greases, etc.). These contaminants would interfere with the performance and appearance of your finished floor.
2. Make sure your floor is screwed or nailed every 6" (15 cm) in all directions.
3. Patch the screw or nail holes and anything bigger than 1/8" (3 mm).
4. If you are laying over joists, use a 3/4" (1.9 cm) board over which you will lay and glue a 1/4" (6mm) plywood. Make sure the seams from the plywood are offset from the seams of the board.
5. Patch the seams with cement-based patching compound, sand and vacuum once dried.
6. Follow the directions of the previous section, "Over Hard Surfaces," from Step 1 to Step 15.

## V. Flooring Protection and Initial Maintenance

1. Following installation and cleanup of the floor, protect it by laying sheets of brown kraft paper over the flooring and then a layer of plywood sheets. Leave until the work of all other trades has been completed.
2. Do not start any maintenance procedures for a minimum of 2 days after installation.
3. Do not, at any time during the initial maintenance or thereafter, flood the floor with water or maintenance solutions.
4. Refer to Maintenance Instructions for specific details.

## WARNING: REMOVAL OF OLD FLOORING

Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast, mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, felt lining, paint, asphaltic cutback adhesives or other adhesives. These products may contain asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust as inhalation increases the risk of cancer and respiratory diseases. Smokers exposed to asbestos fibers are at greater risk of serious bodily harm. Unless certain that the product is asbestos-free, assume that it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that material be tested to determine asbestos content. Consult the Resilient Floor Covering Institute's (RFCI's) recommendations for removal of existing resilient floor coverings.

We continuously make technological advancements that improve product performance or installation techniques and methods. All instructions and recommendations are based on the most recent information available. If you receive a paper copy of these instructions, please refer to [www.mohawkgroup.com](http://www.mohawkgroup.com) to ensure you have the most up to date version of our installation instructions, or contact the Technical Services department at 800-833-6954. **Please note that technical documents on website prevail** and should be followed for an ideal installation.

**Questions about product installation may be directed to the Technical Services department at 800-833-6954.**