



HOW TO FIT YOUR NEW FLOOR

LUXURY VINYL TILES



Tools you'll need

To install these floors yourself you'll need some tools to help with the job.



HAVE THESE TO HAND:

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Pencil
- Workbench or sawhorse
- Underlay and underlay tape (if needed)
- Planks or tiles of flooring
- Spacers
- Tapping block
- Rubber mallet
- Stanley knife
- Handsaw or chop saw
- Chisel (for fitting around architrave)
- Drill (for covering pipework)
- Moisture meter – the correct type for your subfloor
- Combination square
- Beading or skirting boards (to finish the look)
- Adhesive and trowel (for gluing installation)
- Safety precautions i.e. knee pads, safety goggles, dust masks, ear defenders.

[Some of these tools are available through our website](#)

Installation

This guide is based on single plank luxury vinyl flooring, so if you're fitting parquet, please take a look at our parquet-specific installation guide.

1. FLOATING FLOOR

In a floating floor, the tiles are joined to each other, instead of to the subfloor. All of our SPC luxury vinyl tiles use this method due to their handy click-fit system. For this method, we'd advise you to have underlay installed and prepped. All of our SPC-luxury vinyl tiles have an underlay already attached which is 100% waterproof and protects against mildew, mould, rot and bacteria. Just be sure to check your subfloor is clean and smooth before fitting your floor to make sure you get the best results.



Good to know

SPC LUXURY VINYL TILES

This type of vinyl tile has a rigid core made from limestone that's extremely tough and strong. They all have a click-joining system designed to be floated and include a 1mm IXPE underlay backing.



Before you jump in

1. CHECK THE PACKS

Once the flooring arrives you should check one box to make sure you're happy with the product.

Some of our wood-effect vinyl flooring is designed to look just like real wood which means there may be some colour variation between the planks and batches. When you get to laying the floor you can make the most of these colour contrasts by mixing and matching planks with different shades to get a lovely natural look.



2. LEAVE TO ACCLIMATISE

We know it's tempting to get stuck into installing your new flooring as soon as it arrives but it's important to leave it for at least 24 - 48 hours in the room it's going to be fitted in.

This allows the floor to acclimatise and makes the vinyl less brittle. To do this, lay the packs on the floor or in stacks, ensuring they stay horizontal and equal weight is distributed across them all. Leave the planks in their packaging. Try to keep the room at the same temperature you'd usually have it (around 20 - 21°C should be alright) and don't allow the flooring to be exposed to the elements. If you're using underfloor heating, you'll need to gradually increase the temperature so that the planks acclimatise to the heat. Your heating supplier will be able to advise you on this.



3. PREPARE THE SUBFLOOR

Before you lay your new floor, you'll need to remove the existing flooring, prepare the subfloor and ensure it is clean, dry and level.

We recommend a concrete or wooden subfloor for the best result. Use a moisture meter to check the subfloor is dry enough before you start.

If you do have a concrete subfloor, make sure it's completely dry before installation. A damp-proof membrane should be installed on top of the subfloor to reduce the risk of moisture reaching the boards. You'll need to do this to prevent the floors from expanding and buckling (many underlays now come with built-in damp-proof membranes).

Any screws or nails in your subfloor should be fixed below the surface. This is so you can be sure they won't puncture through the underlay. Remove any old adhesive from previous floors and vacuum the floor to pick up any excess dust or debris.

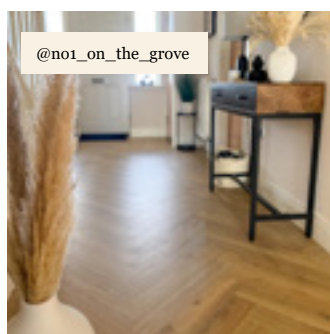
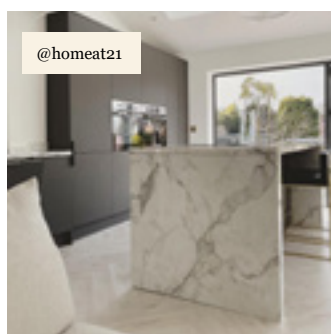
4. PLAN THE LOOK

Think about the direction you'd like your planks to lie.

As a general rule of thumb, lay the boards against the longest wall for the best effect. It might also be helpful to consider the shape of the room you're going to refloor. For example, if it's a square-shaped room, following the room's light flow could create a beautiful effect.

Need inspiration?

Head to our social media channels to see how our customers have laid their floors to see if it gives you any ideas. Or you could try out our [Room Visualiser tool](#) to test out how your floor would look laid in different directions.



5. AND ONE LAST THING...

It's best to fit your floor as the last thing you do in a renovation project.

Work your way from the top of the room to the bottom so that once you're ready for the floor to go in, there's much less chance of damaging it. If you're installing furniture that is extremely heavy then you might wish to glue the floor down with adhesive for extra stability.





Floating method

TIME TO LAY YOUR FLOOR...



1. Before laying the planks, measure the width of the final row. You can do this by dividing the total width of the room by the width of an individual plank. This will allow you to cut down the first row of planks to ensure the final row is at least 60mm wide.
2. Place spacers between the first row and the walls to make an expansion gap of at least 2mm. If you're using under floor heating, we recommend a minimum of 5mm.
3. Lay the floor from left to right starting at the longest wall with the tongue part of the plank facing the wall.
4. Stagger each plank by at least 30cm to create a natural look and a strong foundation. To do this, you'll need to cut a plank at the end of each row. Ensure these planks are laid so that the cut side is facing the outside wall. Use the remainder of the previous plank to continue to stagger the joints from row to row.
5. To fully connect the planks, cover the outer end with an offcut or a piece of card and use a rubber mallet to gently knock it until the planks sit flush against each other.
6. After the first row, connect each plank to the previous row as well as the plank next to it. You can do this by clicking each joint into the gap of the plank in front, starting at a high angle and applying light pressure. After you hear a click, lower it flat on the floor. Repeat the previous step to make sure all planks are connected as closely as possible with no gaps.
7. The last row might be tricky, but a pull bar and rubber mallet can help to create a tight fit.

Finishing touches

- To fit your luxury vinyl tiles around any pipes, first mark the position of the pipe in the board you're using. Drill a hole in this position and make two angled cuts with a saw. These cuts should form a wedge from the edge of the board to the hole which can then be removed. Fit the board around the hole and then reattach this wedge with glue behind the pipe so the plank appears intact.
- For fitting around door frames, start by removing the door from the frame. Line up an offcut of flooring along with a threshold bar stacked on top to make sure it will fit underneath the architrave. If needed, use a handsaw and chisel to trim the bottom of the architrave to the correct height. You may also need to trim the bottom of the door before refitting.
- You can then use matching beading and thresholds to cover expansion gaps and blend the new floors in with your existing walls, making it look professional and seamless. Make sure not to attach any trims to the flooring itself or it may affect the expansion gaps.
- Any spare planks or cuttings can be kept in case any repairs need to be made.
- If the expansion gap has been left too large and the skirting or moulding doesn't cover it, you can use spare floorboards to cut strips using a hand saw and glue these strips into place.

Your flooring is fitted!

- After putting in the finishing touches (like our range of beautiful radiator pipe covers, skirting boards, stair nosing, and door profiles), you can introduce your furniture, stand back and take it all in. You just fitted your very own Luxury Floor!
- We'd love to see your accomplishments! So make sure you take plenty of pictures and post them online [@luxuryflooringfurnishings](#) on Instagram. Tag us **#MyLuxuryFloor**

We hope you're happy with your new luxury vinyl tile flooring but if you have any questions or issues, don't hesitate to check out our advice centre or get in touch with our Luxury Flooring customer service team at **0333 577 0025**

We've put together some helpful hints and tips on how to care for your new Luxury Floor, so you can enjoy that new floor feeling for as long as possible.

Some general tips

- Luxury vinyl tiles are water-resistant but it's still best to clean up any spillages straight away.
- If you have any furry friends, keep their nails nice and trimmed so the floor doesn't get scratched. Luxury vinyl tiles are scratch-resistant but prevention is always better than the cure.
- Be careful not to drag furniture across the floor and always use felt pads.
- Keep the floor's exposure to direct sunlight to a minimum.
- You might want to swap shoes for slippers to avoid any dents, especially with high heels.

Keep it clean

- Sweep up at least once a week to get rid of any dust and dirt that could scratch the floor. Choose a broom with soft bristles that will be nice and gentle.
- If you're using a vacuum cleaner, make sure to use a suitable attachment that won't scratch the floor.
- Microfibre mops are great as they use static electricity to pick up dirt rather than just pushing it around the floor.
- Mop the floor every couple of weeks with a slightly damp mop that's been well wrung out so that no water soaks into the floor.
- Only use cleaning products that are suitable for luxury vinyl tiles. If you're ever unsure, test the product out on a small hidden area before you apply it to the whole floor.
- Try to avoid vinegar and soap-based cleaning products as these can be too harsh on the surface of the floor.
- Stay away from steam cleaners as the floor won't do well with the water and heat.

If you have any questions...

Get in touch with our Luxury Flooring customer service team on **0333 577 0025**.