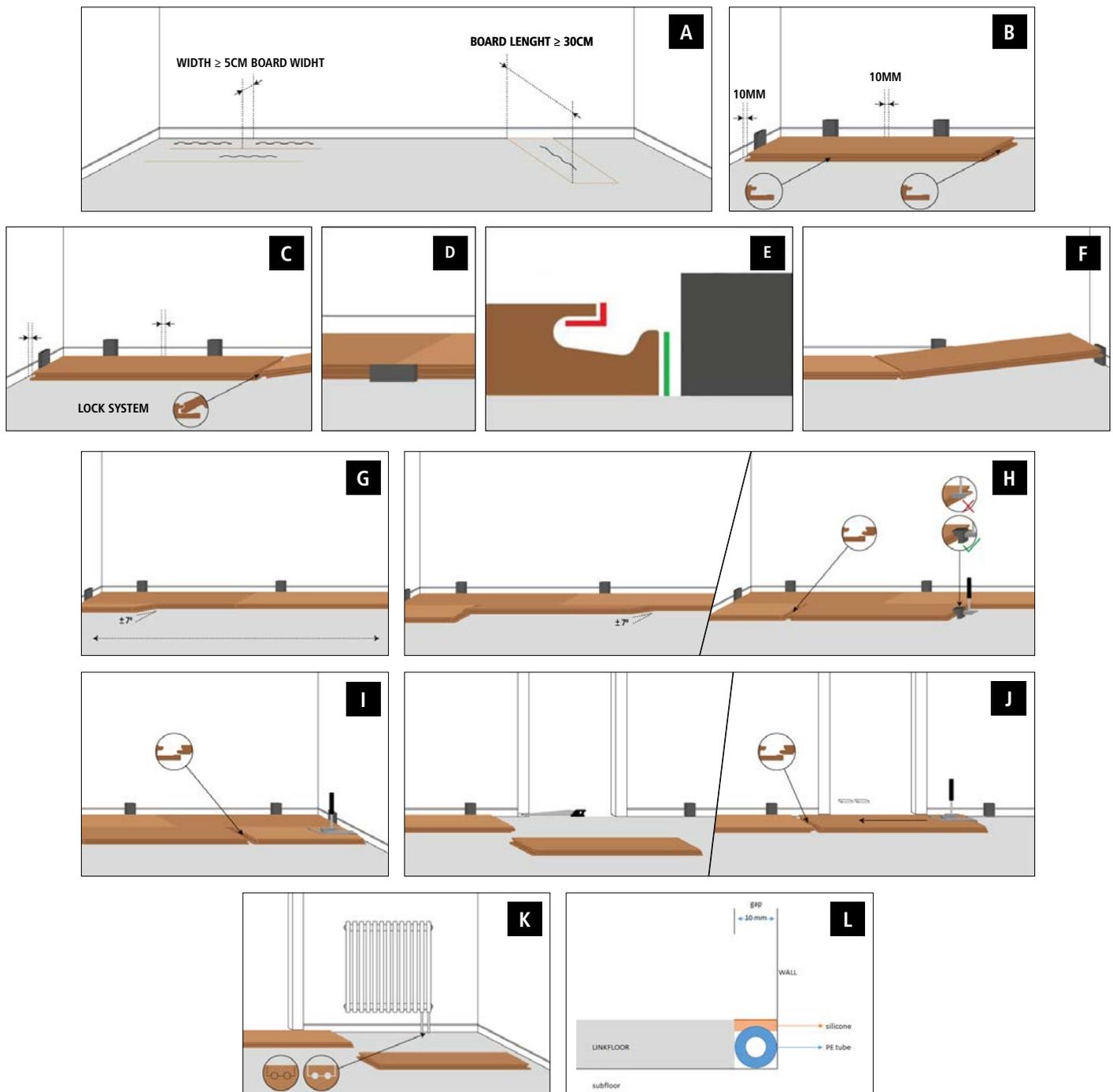


## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Linkfloor Eco Dynasty

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

It is very important that you properly read and understand the information described in these instructions before beginning installation, as improper installation, use or maintenance may result in voiding the warranty.

These installation instructions refer exclusively to Linkfloor ECO flooring. All advice is based on the latest technical information. The information given in these installation instructions follows general standards. All instructions and advice must be followed to ensure a correct and satisfactory installation of the floor.

Linkfloor ECO flooring may only be stored and installed in constant climate indoor spaces where an ambient temperature of 15°C - 25°C / 59°F - 77°F must prevail. Temperature above or below the above mentioned levels may cause damage to the floor. Relative humidity should remain between 40 and 60% during installation. Before installation, carefully check that the product has not been damaged in transit, and we recommend that the material received be checked before installation for color, design, quantity, dimensions, appearance and visible defects, with respect to what was ordered. Damaged material will never be replaced once it has been installed or cut. Some differences in color and structure are

due to the nature of the material itself and therefore cannot be the subject of the claim.

Please note that the color uniformity of the boards can only be guaranteed for pieces from the same production batch. The technical data sheet of the product, which can be consulted on the website [www.anticcolonial.com](http://www.anticcolonial.com), cannot reflect all the applications and conditions involved in the use of a material, so in situations not described in the data sheet, it is recommended to consult our technical department.

Materials with different shades/production batches may not be mixed, unless expressly approved by L'Antic Colonial. Check that all the material comes from the same collection and that it is made in the same batch.

**2. PREPARATION****2.1 Receipt and storage**

The Linkfloor ECO flooring can only be stored and installed in indoor areas. Never store the boxes vertically or in a damp environment, in rooms with dust, places with extreme temperatures or exposed to drafts. Store and transport the material in a horizontal position, without resting it against walls, laying it flat on

strips or on the pallet, and 0.5 m away from any walls, distributing it around the rooms in which it is going to be installed.

**2.2 Environmental conditions**

It is essential to allow your floor to acclimatize to the room in which it will be installed for at least 48 hours prior to installation, with temperatures between 15°C and 25°C and relative humidity between 40 - 60%. It is necessary to maintain the same temperature before, during and at least 72 hours after completing the installation.

**2.3 Subfloors:**

For floating installed Linkfloor ECO floors, thorough subfloor preparation is part of a successful installation. Rough areas and unevenness in the subfloor can push through the newly installed Linkfloor ECO, put pressure on it and cause cracking, open joints, buckling, warping, walking noises and a completely unsightly appearance. Do not install over any floating floor.

Although it is possible to install linkfloor ECO on various types of floor slab, L'Antic Colonial recommends slabs made of cement mortar, marble, terrazzo or anhydrite provided that comply with the following:

Cement subfloors must be smooth, dry and free of dust, liquids, paint, wax, grease, oil, sealer compound and other foreign materials. The surface must be hard and watertight and must not have dusty or crumbling areas. New concrete floors must be completely dry (drying time of at least 6 weeks) and hardened.

The type of subfloor, its quality and its preparation largely determine the final result of the installation. Appropriate measures should be taken in case the subfloor is not suitable for the installation of Linkfloor ECO flooring, as any irregularities in the subfloor can leave traces on the Linkfloor ECO flooring, as well as deteriorate the bonding machining between pieces.

The final decision whether a cement floor is dry enough to lay Linkfloor ECO flooring on top of it remains in the hands of the installer. Although not prone to moisture damage, moisture in the subfloor is conducive to mold, rot and mildew.

It is recommended that the floor covering be installed when the building is free of water hazards (i.e. after exterior walls, doors, windows and roofs have been installed), after the necessary measurements have been taken on the supporting layers, and after any other ancillary work has been carried out.

Warranty does not count in cases of damage and/or discoloration caused by mold, flooding of Linkfloor ECO flooring, dripping faucets, or water that has seeped through unlight places.

Remove any existing floor covering, there should be no signs of mold or insect infestation, make sure the subfloor is level. Apply a level floor or leveling compound on top for a smooth, smooth, perfectly prepared floor.

Make sure the subfloor is completely dry, smooth, stable, clean and free of grease or chemical stains. All touch-up work on the subfloor must be done with a shrinkage-free, water-repellent cement mixture. Work according to UNE-CEN/TS 14472.

The joints of the building must be respected, placing a joint in the pavement that can be solved with a transition profile.

In the case of installation over already existing pavements, these must have the condition that these are smooth or can be smoothed. If the removal of the existing floor covering is not an option, it must be levelled with a levelling compound. Do not install over carpets, other flooring or substrates that are not homogeneous by removing any porous coverings (carpets, felts, etc...)

Linkfloor ECO boards must not be installed on wood-based floors that are laid directly on concrete or joist constructions. All wood or wood composite panels are suitable as underlay flooring for Linkfloor ECO boards on condition that they are smooth, flat, firm and have no curvature. Plywood, chipboard and OSB boards are suitable.

For the installation of wood panels as subflooring, construction standards must be followed in order to achieve an installation that is sufficiently stable and rigid to avoid problems of noise, movement, bending, breakage in the joint system, warping, opening between pieces, or other structural problems. Do not install over structures that have movement, present noises, water damage, delamination, or do not comply with the minimum requirements of the standards for wood subfloors. It is not recommended to use self-leveling or silicone to correct irregularities in the wood subfloor. Keep in mind that if the subfloor is hygroscopic, as in the case of wood or wood derivatives, the behavior of Linkfloor ECO flooring will depend on the stability of the subfloor, which can be affected by changes in humidity and temperature, these changes can cause swelling, shrinkage, lifting, cracks, etc, which can cause changes in the subfloor that will adversely affect the Linkfloor ECO flooring. Fiberboards such as MDF or HDF are not recommended for use in commercial areas. Ensure that the subfloor on which the Linkfloor ECO flooring is laid maintains stable conditions.

#### 2.4 Flatness

Make sure that the subfloor is completely even. You must correct any unevenness exceeding 2 mm that is greater than 1 m long, and any unevenness exceeding 3 mm that is greater than 2 m long.

Vertical surface unevenness exceeding 1.2 mm is not permitted. Any unevenness exceeding these parameters may cause problems in the flooring, e.g. breakages, the loosening of joints, buckling, warping, noise when walking on them, etc. which cannot be covered by the product's warranty.

Use a suitable leveling compound and check if a sealer or primer is required. It is essential to correct any imperfections and cracks on the surface.

#### 2.5 Screed moisture (mortar or anhydrite)

Before starting to install the LINKFLOOR ECO, measure the moisture content of the screed. We recommend taking at least one measurement every 100 m<sup>2</sup>. In buildings with several floors, we recommend taking these measurements on different floors and in the most unfavorable directions (generally to the north) or in the most poorly ventilated areas (corridors). Do this at a depth that is approximately half the thickness of the screed and always at a minimum depth of 2 cm.

The moisture content can be calculated using capacitive, microwave or carbide electronic hygrometers. You must follow the manufacturer's instructions for the equipment you are using in each case.

The measurements taken with carbide hygrometers are the most accurate and should be used for reference and comparison for all other methods. Regardless of the measurement or calculation method used, always bear in mind that the sample must be representative of the thickness of the floor slabs.

A written record should be made of the measurements taken. This record should be jointly signed by the person taking the measurements and the representative of the Site Management/ Client (for example, a clear photograph of the measurement can be considered a suitable record).

It is recommended that the moisture content of the screed be less than 2.5% (mortar) 1% (anhydrite). In case the installation is to be carried out on a water-heated floor, the moisture content should be less than 2% (mortar) 0.5% (anhydrite). The surface temperature of the substrate must be  $\geq 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

#### 2.6 Maintenance of room conditions

If it were necessary to use auxiliary means for the conditioning of the premises such as aerotherms, humidifiers or dehumidifiers, heat cannons etc., these shall be sufficient and shall be maintained for the time necessary to guarantee the installation conditions. The use of these materials is essential if the humidity is below 40% or above 60% as the LINKFLOOR ECO floor could be damaged. Any effect/damage to the LINKFLOOR ECO floor resulting from non-compliance with the above will not be reclaimable from the manufacturer.

#### 2.7 Testing of installations

Tests of installations for water supply and drainage, electricity, heating, air-conditioning, including the installation of sanitary fittings, must be carried out before commencing work on the installation of linkfloor ECO.

#### 2.8 Other specifications

The laying of other floor coverings such as ceramic tiles, marble, etc., in bathrooms, kitchens and floor entry areas must be completed before starting the laying of LINKFLOOR ECO. In any case, adequate drying of the mortars used for these coverings must be ensured in order to avoid the transmission of humidity to the parquet in the surrounding areas. The white plaster laying and plaster installation works must be finished.

The door opening frames or preframes must be in place.

#### Installation on floors with water underfloor heating

LINKFLOOR ECO flooring can be installed on floors with water underfloor heating, provided that the temperature of the floor never exceeds 27°C, as damage may appear on the LINKFLOOR ECO flooring. It is important for the floor under which the underfloor heating is installed to be dry before the heating is turned on and before installing the vinyl floor covering. The concrete must be left to cure for at least 21 days and, in the case of anhydrite, at least 7 days. The heating is maintained at 25°C for 3 days, gradually being increased until the maximum design temperature is reached, which is maintained for 4 days. Examine the surface and repair any cracks. Heating is then resumed for 14 days and then turned off at least 2 days before the leveling compounds and floor covering are installed; it is only turned back on 2 days after installation is complete.

#### 3. INSTALLATION:

This material can only be installed as a floating floor.

Check all of the panels before and during installation in optimal lighting conditions.

##### 3.1 Recommended tools:

For a correct installation, it is necessary to have the following tools available: circular saw with wood cutting disc, chisel or crowbar, spacing wedges, tape measure, pencil, mallet or white rubber hammer, level, nylon block, line striper, and if necessary, tools for the preparation of the subfloor.

##### 3.2 Orientation:

It is important to carefully plan the layout and installation of the LINKFLOOR ECO floor, as this is the only way of ensuring that the boards at wall junctions and end boards are not too narrow or short.

It is advisable to install the boards in the direction of the room's main source of light. It is only advisable to install them lengthwise in long and narrow rooms.

##### 3.3 Planning the installation:

**3.3.1** Combining pieces from at least 3 different boxes during installation will help to ensure an even distribution of any minor variations in color or slight variations in texture and brightness levels.

**3.3.2** Plan the installation by measuring the dimensions of the rooms, so that you know whether the boards in the first row need to be trimmed. Ensure a minimum width of 5 cm and a minimum length of 30 cm. (The boards should be trimmed with a circular saw, to ensure a clean cut). (See drawing A).

**3.3.3** Place the first piece on the floor, using 10 mm spacers to leave the expansion joint between the board and the wall. Leave the edges of the female side (the edge with the largest machined

profile) free to proceed with the following steps. Trim the tongues on the male side (the edge with the smallest machined profile) between the spacers and the wall, to make that edge smooth. (See drawing B).

**3.3.4** At an angle, insert the following board's male tongue into the short female side on the first piece and press it down. (See drawing C).

**3.3.5** Align the first two pieces placed, you can help yourself with a nylon block tapping them lightly, try to hit the machining avoiding to hit the decorative with excessive force, avoiding to break it. (See drawing E). Follow the procedure in points 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 to install the entire first row. (See drawing D).

**3.3.6** When installing the final board in the first row, measure and trim it while maintaining a 10 mm expansion joint between the flooring and the wall. (See drawing F).

**3.3.7** Start installing the second row in the same direction as the first row.

At an angle, place the male tongue on the long side of the new piece onto the female side of the already-installed piece in the first row, pressing down on the long sides to lay the piece on the floor. Use the block if necessary (See drawing E) (See drawing G).

**3.3.8** Following the same procedure as in point 3.3.7, install the second piece, bringing both ends of the short side to within 3 mm and gently tapping the short side of the female profile until both sides fit firmly together. (See drawing H).

**3.3.9** When installing the final board on the second row, mark and cut the piece to size, leaving space for the 10 mm expansion gap between the piece and the wall. Use a chisel or hammer to properly install the short sides of both pieces. (See drawing I).

**3.3.10** The installation should be progressed in the same way as detailed in points 3.3.7, 3.3.8 and 3.3.9 to proceed with a correct installation. Check that all boards are completely joined. The installation should be progressed in such a way that the ends of each board are separated from the next board by at least 30 cm.

**3.3.11** The flexibility of the pieces and the small angle required for their installation will make it easier to place them below door frames and in difficult-to-reach areas, e.g. below door frames, etc. If necessary, use the chisel to install them, after cutting the frame to the appropriate height so that it is not resting on the flooring. (See drawing J).

**3.3.12** They can simply be trimmed with a sharpened knife around obstacles and in areas with sharp angles, and then installed, with a 10 mm clearance always being left around the edge of heavy furniture, piping and vertical elements. It is often extremely helpful to make a cardboard template to trim the piece accurately. (See drawing K).

#### 3.4 Sub-layers

##### 3.4.1 Vapor barrier

Prior to installation it is necessary to install a 0.2 mm polyethylene (PE) film with an Sd value  $\geq 100$  m to create the vapor barrier overlapping 20 cm by taping the joints of the film. The perimeter should be raised to at least half the height of the baseboard. This film also facilitates the movement of the floating screed.

**3.5** Offset: progress in the installation so that the ends of each board are separated from the next by at least 30 cm and no more than 1/3 of the length of the piece. Lay the pieces in a random pattern, avoiding a H-shaped installation.

#### a. Installation of accessories:

##### a.1 Baseboards:

When installing the baseboards that are used to cover the expansion joint around the edge, follow the basic rule of never joining them to the flooring. Baseboards should only be fixed to the wall and never fixed to the flooring with silicone sealant or lost head nails.

##### a.2 Profiles:

In areas with doors, passages or areas larger than 400 m<sup>2</sup> and also in spaces longer than 20 meters and/or wider than 20 meters, it will be necessary to create expansion joints. The linkfloor ECO flooring should not be screwed or fastened to the floor in any way, nor should any element be screwed to the linkfloor ECO flooring, as both actions would impede the normal movement of the floating floor.

Regarding the expansion joints to be respected, it is recommended to install transition profiles to hide these joints, making sure that these profiles do not fix the flooring to the floor, no adhesives or mechanical forces should be used to prevent the free movement of the installation. These joints should have a minimum width of 15 mm in order to fulfil their function effectively.

Protect the boards before, during and after installation from direct sunlight to avoid discoloration of the floor and possible buckling or warping of the boards.

Do not place kitchen furniture, bathroom furniture or any other item of excessive weight on top of the flooring. If necessary, make an expansion joint around the furniture that can be aesthetically

solved with a profile.

The linkfloor ECO flooring should not be screwed or fastened to the floor in any way. Avoid placing heavy furniture on top of the flooring, which would impede the normal movement of the floating floor.

Some types of nails, such as normal steel nails, can change the color of the linkfloor ECO, therefore, it is recommended not to screw or glue the underlay panels. Solvent-based adhesives can also discolor linkfloor ECO floors. All discolorations of the floor caused by improper handling or use of the above mentioned substances do not fall in the range of responsibility of the producer but of the installer.

#### **b. Installation in kitchens and bathrooms:**

In areas such as kitchens and bathrooms, install them in the same way as above while bearing in mind that:

-Suitable for installation in bathrooms and kitchens, for residential use only.

-Do not install in saunas, commercial laundries or areas where the floor is usually very humid or subjected to extreme temperatures.

-To prevent water or other liquid agents from getting under the flooring, apply flexible silicone between the 10 mm gap in the flooring and the vertical facing. The space between the screed and the vertical parameter should also be filled with a PE bead, then sealed at the joint with flexible silicone (**see drawing L**).

-Install expansion joint in the bathroom and kitchen door.

-Do not install kitchen units on LINKFLOOR ECO flooring. Also, fill the expansion joints of stationary objects such as kitchen units, door frames, sinks and toilets with silicone sealant.

-Do not install LINKFLOOR ECO flooring in rooms with water drains in the subfloor.

## **4. INSPECTING THE INSTALLATION**

### **4.1 Temporary protection of the flooring:**

The installation should be planned to coincide with the final finishing phases and, whenever possible, after painting work is completed. During finishing work, the moisture and temperature conditions established for the rooms in the above sections of this manual must be maintained. For flooring used in the finishes of large projects, a number of weeks (or even months) may pass between installation (whatever the system) and the start of the finishing work. In this case, the LINKFLOOR ECO must be protected with a suitable material by the owner of the construction site at each successive stage of the construction work. It is recommended that a breathable material be used for this purpose.

### **4.2 Acceptance inspection:**

When the installation work is completed, the installed flooring must be inspected, observed in a standing position, with natural light behind the observer. No angled light sources should be used and there should be no backlit inspection of the floor to locate any unevenness on its surface. The final inspection of the installed flooring will be performed within seven days, with the supplying company being informed of any observations that are deemed appropriate.

When the installation and verification work has been completed, whoever is in possession of the installation at any given time is responsible for maintaining these conditions.

## **5. REPAIRS**

LINKFLOOR ECO floors are strong and durable. If one or more boards are damaged, they can be replaced. If the damaged board is in the middle of the room, the simplest thing is to take up all of the boards until you reach the damaged one. Remove and replace it and reinstall the other boards according to the installation instructions.

## **6. CARE AND CLEANING**

Maintain the temperature after installation between 20 / 68°F - 23 °C/73.4°F and the ambient humidity between 40-60%. Avoid stepping on the pavement with shoes coming from the street (especially if it is wet, contains traces of gravel, dirt or mud).

Place a doormat in front of each entrance from outside, to prevent any dirt, sand, gravel and other substances from dirtying the floor and possibly damaging it.

Only use colorfast carpets on your floor. Do not place rubber-backed or latex-based carpets or coconut fiber mats on the LINKFLOOR ECO flooring as they may stain the flooring or damage the surface. They may also cause a magnifying effect, affecting the dimensional stability of the pieces, resulting in deformation and buckling. Put up curtains or blinds to prevent the floor from being directly exposed to sunlight; a combination of heat and direct sunlight can discolor and/or deform the pieces.

When the sunlight is strong, close the curtains or blinds, especially when the sun is shining on the floor. A combination of heat and sunlight can cause discoloring and fading on a lot of furniture and flooring.

Protect furniture and chair legs. Do not drag heavy furniture across the floor. We recommend having wide chair and furniture legs (at least 2.5 cm per inch in diameter), made of unpigmented hard plastic, which rest flat on the floor. Place non-staining felt pads on them. Do not use soft rubber to avoid any build-up of dirt; continuous contact with rubber can cause permanent stains. Clean

or replace protectors periodically before they can cause abrasion and scratches. Use type W casters, suitable for ECO linkfloor, non-pigmented. Clean or replace casters periodically before abrasion and scratching can occur. Place protective mats under chairs with casters to prevent accelerated deterioration of vinyl flooring.

Avoid hitting the floor with hard objects.

Keep pet nails trimmed.

Hot objects in contact with the floor can also cause permanent damage.

In the event that you have to slide heavy furniture or appliances over linkfloor ECO. Do not drag heavy furniture directly on the flooring. Always use a support base such as a mat even when using a wheeled trolley or heavy objects on wheels.

Use a vacuum cleaner or sweep the floor regularly to remove dirt and sand that can scratch or wear vinyl flooring.

Damp mop your floor at least once a week with clear water. L'Antic Colonial recommends using Clean and Green Active for the most intensive cleaning of vinyl flooring. Follow the cleaning product manufacturer's instructions, as excessive amounts may leave a film on the floor, leaving a dull appearance.

### **6.1 Tips for removing stains:**

It is highly stain-resistant and most liquids can be easily and quickly removed with a clean, white cloth. However, some liquids are more difficult to remove. The way to remove them is described below. Carefully follow the tips that we provide to remove stains etc. Always work with a clean white cloth. Avoid spreading the stain. Wash the treated area in different stages if necessary and allow the floor to dry properly.

Do not use wax or polishing machines. Do not use abrasive detergents or bleach because they can affect the brightness of the parts.

L'Antic Colonial recommends using Clean and Green Active to clean vinyl flooring.

For stain removal, if the substance is gummy, scrape it off with a non-sharp utensil carefully to avoid damaging the flooring. For other localized stains, use an intensive cleaning product such as Clean and Green Active, a soft pad or a very soft brush to avoid damaging the floor. Place the cleaning product on the stain in its pure state and leave it to act for a maximum of 15 minutes, and with the help of a pad or a very soft brush, make circular movements. Then rinse the treated area with water and dry immediately to remove the remains of the cleaning product. You can repeat this process if the stain is not completely removed. Do not use steam cleaning machines

## **7. WARRANTY**

You can check the warranty conditions of the product on the website [www.anticcolonial.com](http://www.anticcolonial.com), in the catalog, or by contacting your distributor.