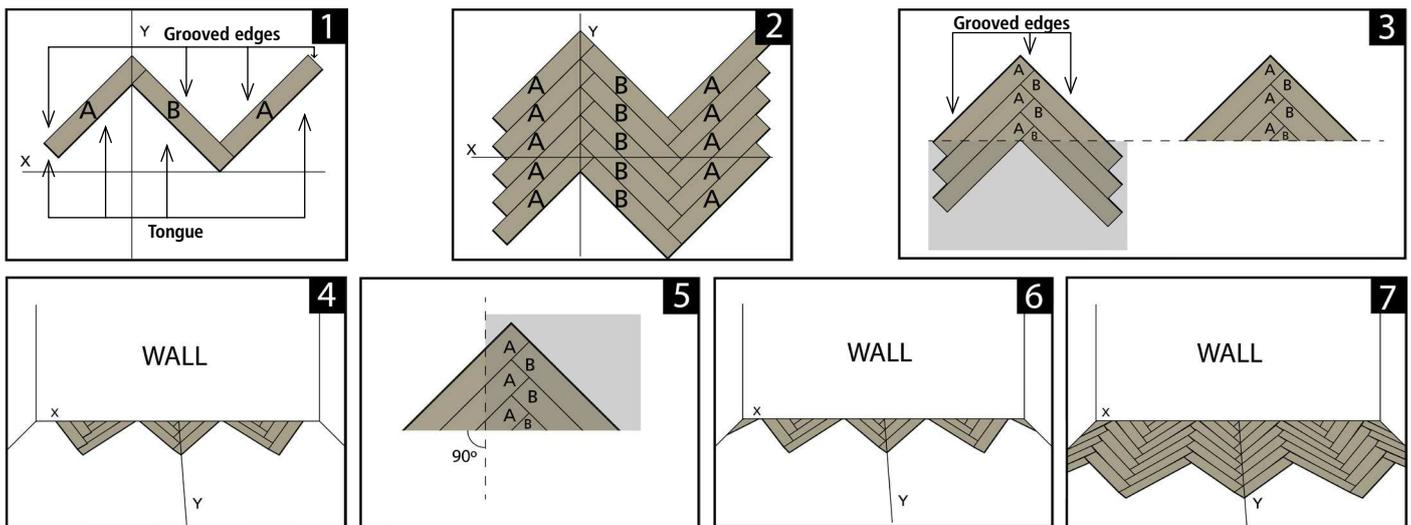


## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Linkfloor Realm

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

These installation instructions only refer to vinyl flooring. All of the advice is based on the latest technical information.

The information given in these installation instructions follows general standards. All instructions and advice should be followed to ensure the correct and satisfactory installation of the flooring.

Vinyl flooring may only be stored and installed in interior spaces with a stable climate in which an ambient temperature of at least 18°C and a maximum of 29°C must prevail. Temperature above or below the above mentioned levels may cause damage to the floor. Relative humidity should remain between 40 and 65% during installation. Before installing it, carefully check that the product has not been damaged during transportation and we recommend checking the color, design, quantity, dimensions and appearance against the ordered product and for any visible defects, prior to installation. Damaged material will never be replaced once installed. Some differences in the color and structure are due to the very nature of the material, so they cannot be the subject of any claim. The technical data sheet of the product, which can be checked 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 case of situations not described in the data sheet, it is recommended to consult our technical department.

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

**II. PREPARATION**

1. Store and transport your vinyl flooring in a way that prevents any deformation; always keep it on a flat surface. The vinyl 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 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. It is essential to let your flooring acclimate to the room in which it is going to be installed, for at least 48 hours prior to installation, at a temperature between 18°C and 29°C. Relative humidity cannot exceed 65% during installation to guarantee the best results of the adhesive. It is necessary to maintain the same temperature before, during and for at least 72 hours after completing the installation. Always start installing on an empty surface to prevent the vinyl boards from being damaged by tools, etc. before, during and after installation.

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. Please bear in mind that the uniformity of the color of the boards can only be guaranteed for boards from the same shipment. No claims can be made for boards that have already been cut or installed.

2. The type, quality and preparation of the subfloor largely determine the end result of the installation. Appropriate steps should be taken if the floor is not suitable for installing the vinyl flooring, as any unevenness in the subfloor may leave marks on the vinyl flooring. It is advisable only to install the floor covering when the building is free from any risk of water damage (i.e. when the exterior walls, doors, windows and roofs have been installed), when the necessary measurements have been taken of the support layers and any additional work has been completed.

Remove any existing floor covering; there should be no signs of mold or insect infestations; make sure that the subfloor is even.

Apply a level floor or leveling compound on top to achieve a smooth, even and fully prepared floor.

3. Make sure that the subfloor is completely even. You must correct any unevenness exceeding 1 mm that is greater than 20 cm long, and any unevenness exceeding 3 mm that is greater than 2 m long. Vertical surface unevenness exceeding 0,6 mm is not permitted. 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.

4. The vinyl flooring should not be screwed in or fixed to the floor in any way. Avoid placing heavy furniture on the flooring that would impede the normal movement of the floating floor.

5. You must take into account the building's joints; a transition profile can be used to place a joint in the flooring.

6. The subfloor's humidity should be no greater than 2.5% CM (cement) or 0.5% (anhydrite).

Make sure that the subfloor is completely dry, smooth, stable, clean and free of grease and chemical stains. All touch-up work on the subfloor should be performed using a mixture of non-shrink and waterproof cement. Work in accordance with UNE-CEN/TS 14472. Always install all of the boards parallel to the room's main light source. It should only be installed lengthwise in long and narrow rooms.

7. Necessary tools: a tape measure, chalk line, pencil, saw and rubber mallet, spirit level, block of nylon, spacers, pull bar or chisel, sliding bevel or cutting disc for wood.

**III. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION**

Although a floating vinyl floor is installed, careful preparation of the base floor helps to ensure a satisfactory installation. Rough or uneven areas in the subfloor can be transferred to the newly-installed vinyl flooring, put pressure on it and lead to an unsightly overall appearance, damaging the joint systems between pieces and causing annoying noise when walking on it. Do not install it on a floating floor.

**Wooden base floors:**

Vinyl boards should not be installed on wooden base floors that lie directly on cement or beam constructions.

All wooden or wood composite panels are suitable as base floors for vinyl boards, provided that they are smooth, flat, structurally sound and free of buckling.

Plywood panels, particle boards and oriented strand boards (OSB) are suitable. Make sure that they are properly secured to avoid any annoying noise when walking on them.

**Cement base floors:**

Cement base floors should be smooth, dry and free of dust, liquids, paint, wax, grease, oil, sealant and other foreign materials. The surface should be hard and sealed and free of dusty or flaking areas.

New cement floors should be completely dry (drying time at least 6 weeks) and hardened. The final decision on whether a cement floor is dry enough to install vinyl flooring on it lies with the installer. Although it is not susceptible to damage from moisture, moisture in the base floor can lead to the formation of mold, rot and mildew. The warranty does not cover cases where damage and/or discoloring is caused by mold, flooding of the vinyl flooring, dripping taps or water that has leaked into unsealed areas. Holes, gaps, expansion joints and channels should be sealed and smoothed using a latex base. It is important for the latex base and surrounding floor to be at the same height; there should be no differences in height.

Water underfloor heating:

Vinyl 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 vinyl 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.

**Existing flooring**

It can be installed on most existing flooring, provided that it is smooth or can be smoothed. Tiles should be smoothed by applying a cementitious overlay such as mortar.

If removing the existing floor covering is not an option, it should be leveled with a cementitious overlay or similar.

**IV. INSTALLATION**

A floating installation is normally used for this type of floor covering. The bottoms of the doorframes have to be trimmed. It is import to plan the installation before starting it.

Proper planning will prevent there from being very narrow pieces against walls and/or short pieces at the ends of the rows.

Every box of Linkfloor Realm contains the same number of left and right-handed machined pieces.

1. Before starting the installation, we recommend stacking the material in two columns - the A pieces and the B pieces.

2. The herringbone installation system should typically be started from a central axis, using a chalk line or marking straight lines from the center of the room.

Mark the "X" axis and then mark a second line that is perpendicular to the first one, creating a 90° intersection to create the "Y" axis. This process is essential and a good way of checking that all of the angles and measurements are correct at this point, before you start installing the first boards.

1- Start installing the first three boards, so that the corner of each piece coincides with the "Y" axis, as shown in the diagram. Continue installing by starting with the grooved edges towards you.

2- Use the "Y" line as a guide when installing.

3- When the installation is stable enough, cut out the triangle as shown in the image.

4- Place the first triangle in line with the "Y" axis that marks the center of the room. Repeat the same process with the other triangles until you reach the side walls. Remember to take into account the 10 mm perimeter joint between the pieces and the wall.

5- The sections on the sides where a full triangle cannot be placed should be cut down to the necessary size.

6- When the initial wall is covered, continue with the installation by following the lines that were marked earlier on the floor.

7- Continue installing from left to right, across the room until you have finished.

This product uses a LOCK installation system, following the "angle snap" method.

Use the pull bar or chisel to install the pieces at each end of the installation. When installing each piece, avoid hitting the machined profile so that you do not damage it.

You should leave a 10 mm expansion joint against the wall, stationary and/or immobile objects and heavy furniture and stoves. In entrance and passageway areas, we recommend cutting the

trims. To ensure a clean cut, place a board face down on the floor against the doorframe.

Place the hand saw on the board and simply cut it across the doorframe. Remove the cut-off part of the board and vacuum the dust.

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. With regard to the expansion joints, we recommend installing transition profiles to hide these joints. Ensure that these profiles do not fix the flooring to the floor; no adhesive or mechanical force should be used to join them together.

a) Installation in kitchens and bathrooms:

In areas such as kitchens and bathrooms, carry out the installation as described above bearing in mind that:

-Installation in bathrooms and kitchens is recommended for residential use only.

-Do not install in saunas, commercial laundries or areas where the floor is often very damp or subject to extreme temperatures.

-To prevent water or other liquid agents from getting under the flooring, apply flexible silicone between the 10 mm gap of the flooring and the vertical face.

-We recommend installing an expansion joint in the bathroom and kitchen door.

-Do not install kitchen units on LINKFLOOR flooring. Also fill the expansion joints of all fixed obstacles such as kitchen units, pipes, door frames, sinks and toilets with silicone sealant.

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

In areas larger than 81 m<sup>2</sup> and for distances greater than 9 meters long and/or 9 meters wide, you must use 10 mm expansion joints. When you have finished installing the flooring, install the baseboards and profiles to cover the expansion joints.

Make sure that none of the boards are attached to the floor.

Protect the installation from direct sunlight, to prevent any buckling or warping of the boards.

We recommend using UV protection on windows or curtains.

#### V. AFTER INSTALLATION.

1. Examine the final surface of the floor by installing. Install the skirting boards against the wall. In very humid rooms, a transparent waterproof silicone should be used around the perimeter.

2. A row is interrupted by a pipe. Perform a hole with a diameter 10 mm greater than the diameter of the pipe.

3. The use of vacuum cleaners is allowed; the use of steam cleaners is forbidden.

4. L'ac recommends using Clean & Green Active intensive cleaner for regular cleaning, to restore the original appearance of your vinyl floor. It is not recommended to use products that contain glycerin. It is not recommended to use bleach.

5. Protect the furniture and the legs of the chairs. Use soft W-type wheelchairs appropriate for vinyl flooring or a protective mat.

6. Never drag heavy furniture on the floor. The legs of the furniture are recommended to be wide and have floor protectors that do not stain, place mats without rubber base to prevent dirt accumulation, permanent contact with rubber can cause permanent stains.

7. Make sure that the interior temperature is between 18°C and 29°C degrees.

#### VI. INSTALLATION ON RADIANT FLOOR

Underfloor heating must be switched off 48 hours before installation. Underfloor heating systems integrated in the cement layer can be used with vinyl floors in cases where a constant temperature in the floor and room of 18°C is guaranteed during acclimatization, installation and 48 hours after installation. A maximum floor surface temperature of 27°C must be maintained.

#### VII. REPAIRS

It is tough and durable; however, if a plank becomes damaged, it can be replaced. The following procedure should be followed:

-Using a straight edge and a sharp utility knife, cut out and remove the centre of the damaged plank, leaving approximately a 2,5cm strip attached to the surrounding planks on all sides.

-Carefully cut back from the corners of the plank to the inside edge.

-Remove the plank edges by wiggling the cut plank out from the tongue.

-Prepare the replacement plank into position.

-Use a hand roller to assist in aligning the plank edges into position.

CAUTION: Some types of nails, such as common steel nails, may cause a discoloration of the vinyl floor covering.

#### VIII. MAINTENANCE

Keep the temperature after installation between 5°C-35°C and the relative humidity between 40% and 65%.

Place a doormat outside each front door to prevent dirt, sand, gravel and other substances such as oil, asphalt, etc. 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 vinyl 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. We recommend protecting windows with UV protection sheets or curtains.

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. Stick plastic protectors below all furniture. Ideally they should measure 2 cm in diameter and rest flat on the floor. Felt protectors or castors (type W) are also acceptable. Chairs with castors should be protected by plastic to prevent any wear due to friction. Make sure that any metal protectors below the furniture are rust-free.

If you have to slide heavy furniture or appliances over the vinyl floor, please always use a mat as a support base to protect the floor. Always use a support base, even when using a trolley with castors or when the heavy objects have castors. Clean your floor at least once a week using clear water.

Wash the floor with a cleaning product that is suitable for normal flooring if you are unable to remove the stains by washing it with nothing but clear water. Follow the instructions of the manufacturer of the cleaning product, as if you use too much it may leave a film on the floor.

Do not use soap or chemical cleaning products as they may give the floor a dull appearance.

Also avoid using abrasive detergents, which may affect the brightness of the pieces. L'Antic Colonial recommends using Clean and Green Active to clean vinyl flooring.

STAIN/PROBLEM	REMOVE
Food, Beverages	If the substance is gummy, scrape it off with an unsharpened utensil. If you are unable to completely remove the substance, use the intensive cleaning product Clean & Green Active, a remover with a soft nylon pad or a very soft brush. Soak a white cloth in the intensive cleaning product, place it on the stain and leave it to act for no more than one hour. It should then be possible to remove the stain.
Rust	Clean the affected area and use an intensive cleaning product, a soft nylon pad or a very soft brush. Soak a white cloth in the intensive cleaning product, place it on the stain and leave it to act for no more than one hour. It should then be possible to remove the rust.
chalk, ink, hair dye, permanent marker	Clean the affected area and use an intensive cleaning product such as Clean and Green Active, a soft nylon pad or a very soft brush.

#### IX. 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.