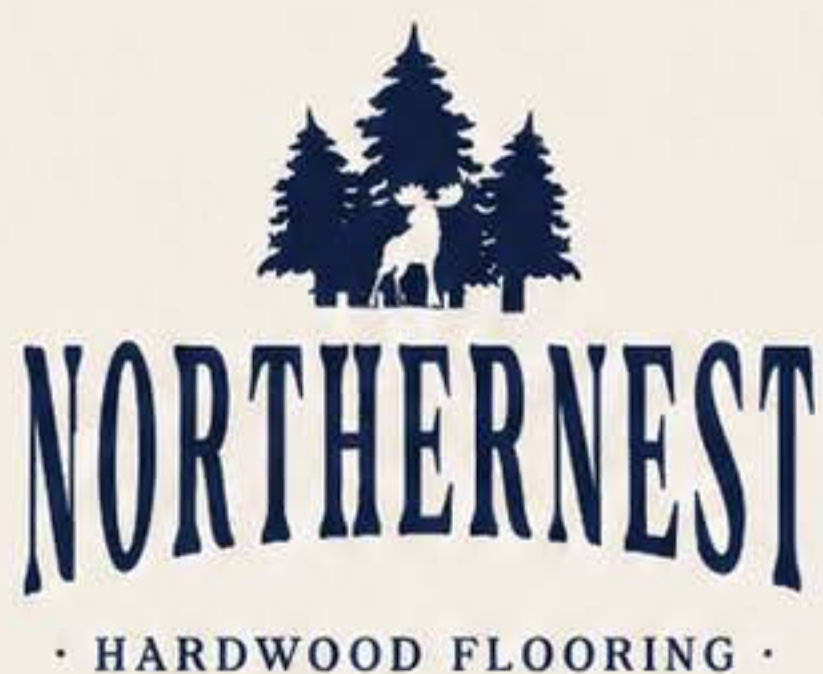


Luxe • Expert • Trust • Education



Vinyl Flooring Installation Guide

STEP-BY-STEP BOOKLET

For click-lock luxury vinyl plank
and tile, with glue-down notes.



Always follow the flooring manufacturer's instructions first.



NORTHERNEST

• HARDWOOD FLOORING •

Before You Get Started



IMPORTANT

Always follow the flooring manufacturer's instructions first. Product-specific requirements for acclimation, adhesive, underlayment, expansion gaps, moisture limits, and warranty conditions may vary.

1



Inspect the Material

- Open several boxes and inspect the flooring.
- Check for damaged planks, chipped edges, manufacturing defects, and correct product, colour, size, and quantity.
- Mix planks from several boxes.
- Do not install damaged material.

2



Prepare the Room

- Remove baseboards or shoe moulding if needed.
- Remove old transition strips, staples, nails, glue residue, and debris.
- Remove doors if extra clearance is required.
- Undercut door jambs and casings.

3



Check the Subfloor

- The subfloor must be clean, dry, flat, structurally sound, and free of movement.
- Remove paint, drywall compound, grease, wax, and adhesive lumps.
- Flatness guideline: no more than 3/16 inch over 10 feet, or 1/8 inch over 6 feet.
- Sand high spots and fill low spots.

4



Check Moisture

- Check concrete or wood subfloor moisture.
- Check basement humidity, leaks, water damage, and HVAC operation.
- Do not install over wet concrete, damp plywood, or active leaks.

5



Plan the Layout

- Measure the room carefully.
- Plan flooring direction, first and last row widths, joint stagger, doorways, transitions, and obstacles.
- Avoid a very narrow final row.

6



Maintain Expansion Gaps

- Leave space around walls, pipes, cabinets, columns, built-ins, and stair nosings.
- Do not fasten mouldings through a floating floor.
- Attach baseboards and trims to the wall, not the flooring.





Table of Contents

1.	Cover	1
2.	Before You Get Started	2
3.	Table of Contents	3
4.	Tools & Materials	4
5.	Installation Steps 1–4	5
6.	Installation Steps 5–8	6
7.	Installation Steps 9–12	7
8.	Installation Steps 13–14 & Glue-Down Notes	8
9.	Final Checklist & Important Reminders	9



VINYL FLOORING OVERVIEW

Vinyl flooring is durable, water-resistant, and suitable for many areas of the home, including kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, basements, and condos.

Common installation methods include click-lock floating, glue-down, and loose lay, depending on the product.





Tools & Materials

Gather all tools and materials before starting the installation. Always follow product-specific manufacturer requirements.

Essential Tools



Tape measure



Utility knife



Straight edge



Spacers



Rubber mallet



Tapping block



Pull bar



Pencil



Chalk line



Level or straight edge



Vacuum or broom



Floor patch or levelling compound



Underlayment
(only if approved by the manufacturer)



Transition strips



Safety glasses



Knee pads

For Glue-Down Vinyl



Approved vinyl adhesive



Correct trowel



100 lb roller or flooring roller



Damp cloth for adhesive cleanup



Installation Steps 1-4

1

Acclimate the Vinyl

Place unopened boxes in the installation area. Most vinyl products should sit in the room for 24 to 48 hours, unless the manufacturer says otherwise.

Keep the room at normal living conditions before, during, and after installation. Avoid installing in extremely cold, hot, or humid conditions.



2

Prepare the Subfloor

The subfloor must be smooth and flat. Remove staples, nail heads, glue ridges, loose flooring, dust, and debris. Fill low areas and sand or grind high areas.



INSTALLER NOTE:

Vinyl click flooring does not fix a bad subfloor.



3

Check Door Clearance

Place a piece of vinyl beside the door jamb and check the height. Undercut the jamb so the plank can slide underneath for a professional finish.



4

Decide the Direction

Vinyl planks are usually installed parallel to the longest wall or in the direction of the main light source. In hallways, install planks lengthwise when possible.



Installation Steps 5-8

5 Measure the First and Last Rows

Measure the room width and divide by the plank width. Make sure the final row will not be too narrow. If the last row will be less than half a plank wide, trim the first row to balance the layout.



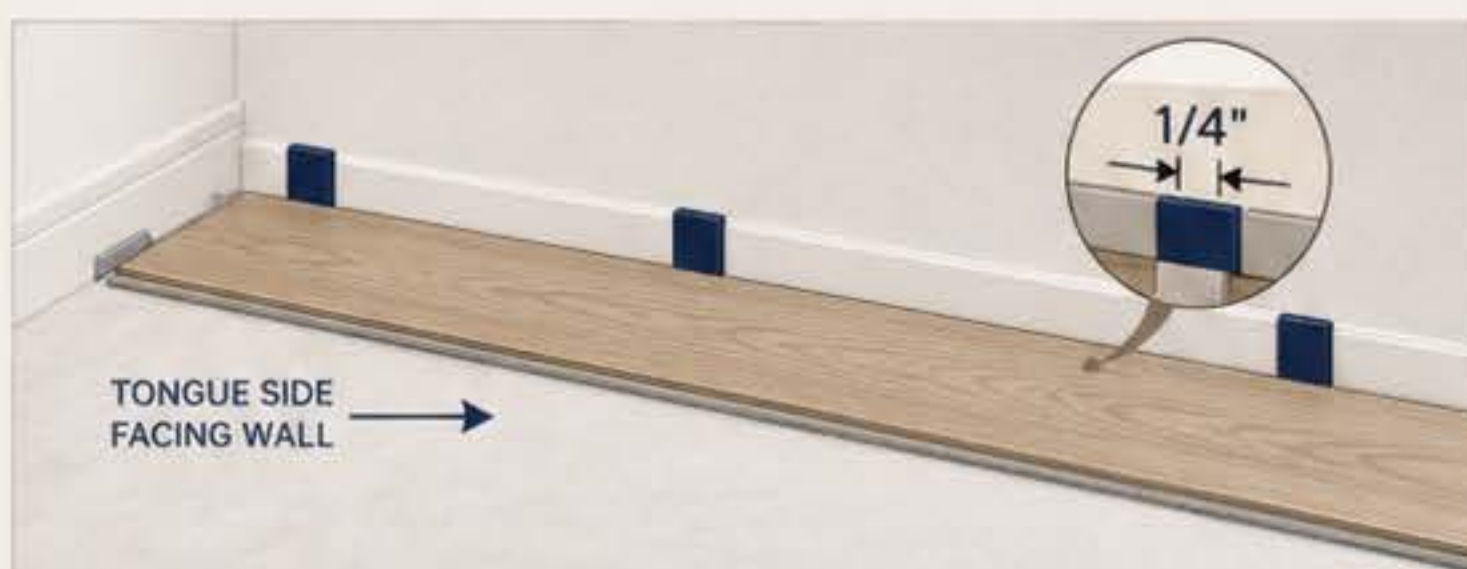
6 Install Underlayment Only If Approved

Some vinyl flooring has attached underpad. Some products require a specific underlayment, and some should not have extra underlayment at all. Installing the wrong underlayment can cause movement, joint failure, or warranty issues.



7 Start the First Row

Place spacers along the starting wall. Maintain the required expansion gap, commonly around 1/4 inch unless otherwise specified. Start in a corner with the tongue side facing the wall, depending on the locking system. Keep the first row perfectly straight.



8 Cut the Last Plank in the Row

Measure the remaining space and subtract the expansion gap. Score the plank with a utility knife, bend it back, snap it along the score line, and cut the backing if needed. Use the offcut to start the next row when possible.



TIP: Use the offcut to start the next row when possible to reduce waste and improve plank end alignment.





Installation Steps 9–12

9

Stagger the Joints

Stagger end joints by at least 6 to 8 inches, or according to manufacturer instructions. Avoid stair-step patterns and repeating H-joints. A random stagger looks more natural and strengthens the floor.



10

Install the Remaining Rows

Angle the long side of the plank into the previous row and lower it into place. Tap gently with a tapping block if required. Lock the short end joint. Do not force the locking system; if a plank will not lock, check for debris, damage, or misalignment.



11

Cut Around Vents, Pipes, and Obstacles

Measure carefully and mark the plank. For vents, use a utility knife, jigsaw, or oscillating tool. For pipes, drill a hole slightly larger than the pipe diameter to allow expansion, then use pipe covers for a clean finish.



12

Install the Final Row

Measure the gap between the last installed row and the wall and subtract the expansion gap. Rip the final row to width and use a pull bar to lock it into place carefully.



Installation

Steps 13–14 & Glue-Down Notes

13

Install Transitions and Trim



Install T-mouldings, reducers, end caps, stair nosings, baseboards, and shoe moulding as needed.

Fasten trims to the wall or subfloor, not through the floating vinyl floor.

14

Clean the Floor



Vacuum or sweep the floor. Wipe with a damp cloth or approved vinyl cleaner.

Do not flood the floor with water.



Glue-Down Vinyl Notes

1. Snap layout lines before spreading adhesive.
2. Use the manufacturer-approved adhesive.
3. Use the correct trowel notch size.
4. Spread only as much adhesive as can be covered within the working time.
5. Lay planks into the adhesive without excessive sliding.
6. Keep joints tight.
7. Clean adhesive residue immediately.
8. Roll the floor after installation.
9. Avoid heavy traffic until the adhesive has cured.





Final Checklist & Important Reminders

BEFORE HANDING OVER THE PROJECT, CONFIRM:

- ☐ Flooring is fully installed and locked properly.
- ☐ No visible damaged planks.
- ☐ Expansion gaps are covered but not restricted.
- ☐ Transitions are secure.
- ☐ Door clearance is correct.
- ☐ Vents and trims are reinstalled.
- ☐ Floor is clean.
- ☐ Adhesive residue is removed.
- ☐ Baseboards and shoe mouldings are finished.
- ☐ The customer understands maintenance requirements.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Always follow the flooring manufacturer's instructions first. Manufacturer requirements for acclimation, adhesive, underlayment, moisture limits, and warranty conditions may vary.

Maintain normal indoor living conditions before, during, and after installation.

Northernnest Flooring —
Premium guidance for beautiful installations.

