CALI® vinyl laid back

Installation Guide: Glue Down

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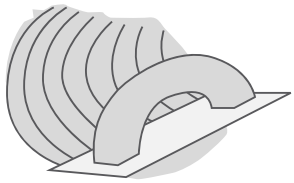
GLUE DOWN
INSTALL GUIDE

CALI Vinyl Laid Back Glue Down Pre-Installation

Before you begin installation, remember to P.A.C.E. yourself with the checklist below. Full installation instructions and maintenance guidelines can also be found online at **CALIFloors.com**

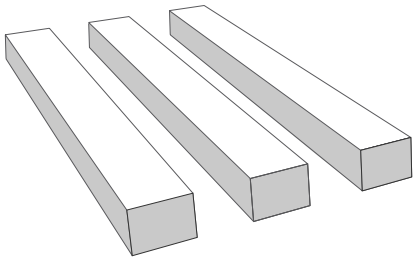
PACE PREPARE THE SUBFLOOR



The subfloor must be dry, fully cured and free of hydrostatic pressure. See instructions below regarding moisture testing your subfloor. A moisture barrier such as Titebond 531 over concrete may be necessary. Make sure the subfloor is flat, level, clean and free of debris. Test the subfloor for porosity and alkalinity, and complete a material bond evaluation.

Failure to properly prep subfloor may affect adhesive bond, result in telegraphing, and/or cause the floor to fail. CALI is not responsible for adhesive failures or floor failures due to improper subfloor prep.

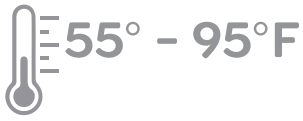
PACE ACCLIMATE FLOORING



Acclimate your flooring for 48 hours

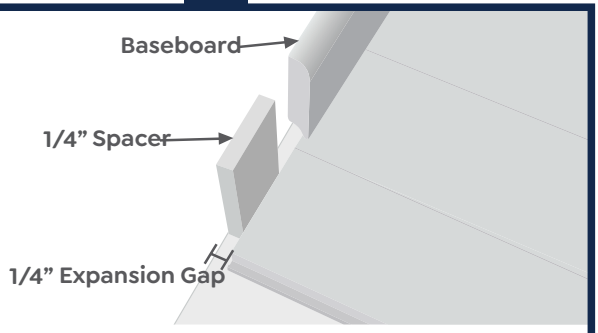
Lay boxes flat on the floor as shown above. Acclimate your flooring in a temperature range of 65° to 85° for 48 hours as close to the center of the installation area as possible. Do not acclimate in direct sunlight or near vents. Titebond 675 requires acclimation of 24 hours at room temperature.

PACE CONTROL ENVIRONMENT



Laid Back can be used in areas ranging from 55° to 95°.

PACE EXPANSION GAPS



Leave at least 1/4" expansion spaces between flooring and ALL vertical objects (walls, cabinets, pipes, etc.) Large flooring runs may require additional expansion space. Undercut door jams and casing to provide adequate expansion space!

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Prepare Job Site, Acclimation, Control Subfloor Moisture, Environmental Conditions.

Proper installation and maintenance are key elements in achieving best flooring results. It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to follow all guidelines provided by CALI for success. Please read through this document completely.

Note: Flooring not used for its intended purpose will not be covered under warranty.

- Upon ordering of Vinyl floor materials, consider adding an additional 5% to allow for cutting waste.
- CALI flooring is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit manufacturing defects not to exceed 5%. If more than 5% of the material is unusable, do not install the flooring. Immediately contact the distributor/retailer from which the flooring was purchased. No claim will be accepted for materials with visiwble defects once they are installed. Installation of any material serves as acceptance of the material delivered.
- Installer/Owner assumes all responsibility to inspect all flooring before installation. Planks deemed unacceptable in appearance can be placed in closets, near walls, or simply not used. Pieces with glaring defects that can be seen from a standing position should be cut off or not be used as use constitutes acceptance.
- It is the responsibility of the installer/homeowner to determine if the jobsite conditions, environment conditions, and sub-floor are acceptable for installation of CALI Vinyl Laid Back Plank flooring. Prior to installation, the installer/owner must determine that the jobsite meets or exceeds all applicable guidelines per ASTM F-2170 and ASTM F- 1482. CALI does NOT warranty against failure resulting from or connected with subfloor, job site damage, or environmental deficiencies after installation. CALI makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of the chosen installer's work or of a particular installation performed by them. CALI disclaims all liability for any errors or improprieties in the installation of its products by an installer.
- Floor noise is normal and will vary from one installation type to the next. Occasional noise is due to structural movement and may relate to sub-floor type, flatness, deflection, and/or related to the fasteners, changes in environment conditions, relative humidity and the amount of topside pressure applied to the flooring. For these reasons floor noise is not considered a product or manufacturer defect.
- During installation, it is the installers responsibility to document all jobsite conditions and measurements including the installation date, site relative humidity, temperature, and subfloor moisture content. For a complete list of points to address prior to installation refer to ASTM F1482-21.

Transport, Storage, Acclimation

- Transport and store cartons in lay down, flat position.
- Stack boxes no more than 13 cartons high. Keep away from direct sunlight, vents etc., preferably in the center of the installation area.
- If not installing right away, flooring must be stored in a dry location on the pallet it was received on. We recommend covering with a tarp.
- Room temperature and relative humidity must be consistent with year-round living conditions for at least 5 days prior to installation.
- Allow flooring to acclimate unopened, in original packaging on a flat surface as close to the installation area as possible for at least 48 hours prior to installation. Temperature range must be 65° to 85°

Pre-Installation Preparation

Prior to installation, inspect planks in daylight for visible faults/damage. Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied do not install, and contact your supplier. CALI is not responsible for flooring that is installed with visible defects.

Recommended Tools

- Tape measure
- Chalk line
- Utility knife
- Pencil
- Safety Glasses
- Dust Mask
- 100lb three-section roller
- Trowel
- 10-ft metal straight edge or laser level
- Adhesive trowel
- Optional; fine-toothed jigsaw or a guillotine style cutter

We recommend using the score and snap method for your cuts.

Subfloor Requirements

General

- General soft subfloors/coverings (e.g.) carpets must be removed
- The subfloor must be level - Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius
- The subfloor must be clean, thoroughly swept, and free of all debris, dust, oil, wax, old adhesive, paint, tape, etc. Failure to properly prep subfloor may result in adhesive failure or telegraphing
- The subfloor must be dry. See instructions below regarding moisture testing your subfloor. Subfloors that are not dry may affect adhesive bond and cause the floor to fail
- The subfloor must be structurally sound

Even though CALI vinyl plank flooring is waterproof, it is NOT considered a moisture barrier. Test the subfloor for moisture and apply a moisture barrier if necessary.

Acceptable Subfloor Types

- 1" CD exposure 1 plywood (grade stamped US PS 195)
- Panel type underlayments per ASTM F148
- Existing wood (must be sanded to its raw state)
- Concrete
- Primed light-weight concrete

Wood subfloors

• Must be securely fastened. A best practice is to nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If leveling is needed, sand down high spots and fill in low spots with a Portland based leveling compound.

• The subfloor must consist of double layer construction with a minimum total thickness of 1-inch.

• The subfloor must be rigid, free from movement, and have at least 18-inches of well-ventilated air space below.

• Sleeper systems must not be in direct contact with concrete or exposed earth.

• The ground beneath the subfloor must be covered by a suitable vapor barrier

• Test your plywood subfloor with a moisture meter set to the appropriate species. **If your plywood subfloor is reading higher than 13% moisture it is advised to find and correct the source of moisture intrusion before continuing installation.**

Important CALI is not responsible for any damage caused by moisture intrusion. Wood subfloors that are over 13% may result in the growth mold/mildew, prevent adhesive bond, and/or cause the floor to fail.

Concrete Subfloors

• Concrete subfloors must be fully cured and at least 60 days old, preferably 90 days old

• If leveling is needed, grind down high spots and level low spots with a Portland based leveling compound.

• Thoroughly clean and ensure there is no paint, tape, old adhesive, etc. Do not use a chemical adhesive remover to remove substances from the floor as this may affect the adhesive bond.

• Concrete alkaline levels must be between 5.0 and 9.0 PH. The subfloor must not have Alkali Silicate Reaction. Prepare the subfloor according to "ASTM F710 Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring.

• The subfloor must be free of hydrostatic pressure.

• All on and below grade slabs must have a confirmed & effective vapor retarder installed directly underneath the slab that meets the requirements of "ASTM 31745 Standard Specification for Water Vapor Retarders Used in Contact with Soil or Granular Fill under Concrete Slabs".

Concrete Subfloors contiuned

Test the concrete for moisture

- Moisture content must under 5lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours using an anhydrous calcium chloride test according to ASTM F1869
- If using ASTM F2170 in-situ probes, the RH must be less than 90% RH (relative humidity)
- Three tests should be conducted for areas up to 1,000 sq. ft. Perform one additional test for each additional 1,000 sq. ft. Always measure, record and keep your testing results
- Titebond 531 can be used to seal a concrete subfloor if the moisture content exceeds the limits noted above.

Important

CALI Vinyl Plank flooring is waterproof, however moisture intrusions from concrete hydrostatic pressure, flooding, or plumbing leaks, along with high levels of alkalinity can affect the floor over time. Moisture can also be trapped below the flooring and create mold or mildew, prevent adhesive bond, and/or cause the floor to fail. The installer, not CALI, is responsible for making sure the concrete moisture and alkalinity are suitable prior to installing this floor. For proper working practices please refer to ASTM F2170

Crawlspaces

must have a minimum of a 6-mil polyethylene sheeting covering any exposed earth. Crawl spaces must have adequate ventilation and a minimum of 18” air space between the ground and the floor joist.

Expansion Joints & Cracks

Do not install over any expansion or moving joints, as any subfloor movement may cause installation failure. Use a suitable industry standard expansion joint assembly system, as needed. Dormant cracks and saw cuts must be cleaned out, removing all dirt and debris, then filled using a Portland based patching compound.

Porosity

Determine if the subfloor is absorbent (porous) or not as this will alter the required open time of the adhesive. Test according to “ASTM F3191 Standard Practice for Field Determination of Subfloor Water Absorption (Porosity) for Subfloors to Receive Resilient Flooring”. The water droplet(s) placed on the surface of the subfloor must be absorbed within 5 minutes for it to be considered absorbent

Material Bond Evaluation

When unsure about a flooring material's compatibility with your subfloor, a material bond evaluation is needed. This may include a partial or extensive combination of subfloor material, preparation and application or installation methods of the products being considered such as moisture mitigation systems, leveling or patching compounds. This involves creating a sample by following the manufacturer's preparation instructions for the subfloor and then attaching the flooring material. After a 72-hour cure, check for adhesion issues. If any concerns arise, contact CALI for any further guidance.

CALI recommends the use of Titebond 675 when installing CALI Vinyl Laid Back. Instructions provided below are only applicable to Titebond 675, use of adhesives outside our recommendations are the sole responsibility of the installer in consultation with the respective adhesive distributer or manufacturer. Although CALI fully warranties CALI Vinyl Laid Back for product defects, installation failures due to adhesive are not covered under this warranty

Layout

Before starting the installation process, it's essential to ensure proper alignment and balance in your flooring layout.

- Establish the center. Begin by locating the center point of the room and mark it with your chalk line to create a reference axis
- Use a square to ensure a true 90-degree angle, and then draw a second line perpendicular to the first dividing the room into four equal parts.
- It's crucial to maintain balance in your layout, ensuring that each side of your chalk line features equal dimensions. This prevents your border planks from being narrower than half the width of a standard board.
- If the final row of planks against the wall measures less than half the width of your flooring material, make adjustments by shifting your starter line accordingly, offsetting it by half the width of the flooring

Plank Installation

Wet Lay Method

This installation method is for porous substrates and involves applying the adhesive while it is still wet or uncured.

Trowel: 1/16" X 1/16" X 1/16" Square-notch

1. Start by spreading adhesive at the intersection of the chalk lines using the notched trowel held at a 45-degree angle onto the subfloor. Make sure you spread evenly across and avoid spreading too much at one time. CALI does not recommend spreading more than an arm's length (6 to 8 feet) worth of adhesive at a time. This will help to ensure the glue does not flash over before you can adhere the planks.

> Quick Tip!
> Ensure complete coverage with the ridges of the trowel.

2. Immediately begin laying planks on the spread adhesive along the designated starting line. Firmly tap the surface of a plank with a rubber mallet to ensure good contact with the adhesive.

> Quick Tip!
> Stagger your starting plank length and be sure to pull from multiple boxes to create a visually pleasing design

3. Start your next row with a cut plank. Maintain a minimum distance of 6 inches between end seams of the previous row for optimal aesthetics and structural integrity.
4. Continue to lay the planks making sure each plank is flush against the adjoining plank working your way out to the wall.
5. Continue this process until installation is complete.
6. Within an hour of laying the planks, use the 100lb roller to firmly press down and roll over the installed area in both directions. This helps ensure even adhesive coverage, eliminates air pockets & creates a strong bond.

> Quick Tip!
>
> Work in sections to avoid the adhesive drying out before you can lay the planks and leave the adhesive in its closed container when not in use.

Pressure Sensitive Method

This installation method is for non-porous substrates and requires a dry time of 35 - 90 minutes depending on the temperature and humidity of the installation area. Drying time can be accelerated to 15 minutes with good air circulation from a fan.

Trowel: 1/16" X 1/32" X 5/64" U-notch

OR

Roller: 3/8" Nap adhesive rolle

1. Start by spreading the adhesive at the intersection of the chalk lines using the notched trowel held at a 45-degree angle to the subfloor.

    - If using a trowel, ensure complete coverage with the ridges of the trowel.

    - If using a roller, pour or spread the adhesive directly onto the subfloor in a manageable working area.

2. Once adhesive has dried to a tacky state, place planks onto the drying adhesive along the designated start line, tapping the surface of each plank firmly with a rubber mallet to ensure good contact with the adhesive.

Quick Tip! Stagger your starting plank length and pull from multiple boxes to create a visually pleasing design

3. Start your next row with a cut plank. Maintain a minimum distance of 6” between end seams of the previous row for optimal aesthetics and structural integrity.
4. Continue to lay the planks making sure each plank is flush against the adjoining plank working your way out to the wall.
5. Continue this process until installation is complete.
6. Within an hour of laying the planks, use the 100lb roller to firmly press down and roll over the installed area in both directions. This helps ensure even adhesive coverage, eliminates air pockets & creates a strong bond.

Quick Tip! Keep the adhesive free from dust & dirt during long open times as it can affect the bonding strength. Titebond 675 can be kept open no longer than 3 hours.