



INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

3 MM GLUE-DOWN VINYL FLOORING

Maintenance Instructions and Limited Warranty Included

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Buyers and owners are responsible for thoroughly reading all materials provided by the retailer at time of purchase prior to the installation of flooring, including the installation guidelines, maintenance instructions, and the product warranty information. The following instructions apply only to Golden Elite's 3 mm glue-down vinyl floors, included within the Ibiza Collection. This product is installed using FlorCraft® Universal Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive.

Golden Elite is not responsible for the installer's application of the product and requires the product to be inspected prior to installation. The installer should contact the supplier immediately for replacement if the product (whether an individual plank or more) appears defective, such as color, finish or quality. The supplier is responsible for replacing flooring planks if the product is determined to possess a manufacturer's defect. However, Golden Elite is *not* responsible for flooring that has been previously installed or damaged on the surface of the plank by the installer. For flooring that is determined to be defective pre and post-installation, Golden Elite will reimburse the buyer for the flooring planks only. Labor costs or any other related expenses will not be reimbursed.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- Laying the floor should be the last step of your project.
 - Glue-down vinyl floors can be installed at grade level, above grade level, or below grade level.
 - The glue-down vinyl flooring must be placed in the jobsite for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Be sure the room temperature is between 65-85° F (18-30° C) before, during, and after the installation. **IMPORTANT: Do not remove planks from the carton during the acclimation period.**
 - **The installation of Golden Elite glue-down vinyl flooring is not guaranteed for radiant heated floors.**
 - It is recommended to install flooring parallel to the longest wall in the room or parallel to the main window in the room.
 - To calculate the flooring material requirements, measure the length and width of the room where you will be installing the glue-down vinyl floor and multiply them together to determine its area. Add 5% to the room's area to determine square footage of glue down vinyl flooring that you will require. We recommend you purchase a few extra cartons of flooring to be used in case you have some damaged pieces, miscalculate the size of the room or miss cut some pieces.
 - *Document Each Test:* To ensure that the flooring product is being installed according to the outlined guidelines, Golden Elite requires for the buyer or installer to document each step of the preparation process prior to installing the flooring. This involves taking a photograph of the test reader that displays, the temperature of the jobsite, the subfloor, etc., along with the date and time that the photograph was taken. This can be completed quickly using a basic camera on your cell phone and helps protect the buyer or installer in the case that a claim needs to be filed.
 - **CAUTION:** Do not install glue-down vinyl flooring over carpet or any foam or underlayment. This product is not suitable for any outside use, sunrooms/solariums, saunas or rooms/homes that will not be kept at approximate average room temperature of 65-85°F (18-30°C) all year round. Exposure to long-term direct sunlight can cause damage to your floor.
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MATERIALS & TOOLS

Materials

- Glue-Down vinyl flooring
- Transitional moldings (if needed)
- Vinyl tile cutter (optional)
- FlorCraft® Universal Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive 1 Gallon (3.78L) Pail (Product # 71-3088-5121) or 4 Gallon (15.11L) Pail (Product #71-3088-5019)

Tools

- Utility knife
- Measuring Tape
- Shears for cutting around irregular shaped objects
- 1/8" Spacers
- Chalk-line or straightedge

- 100lb Floor Roller
- Trowel (as per adhesive manufacturer's recommendations)
- Fine felt pen

Depending on the required floor preparation, other materials required may include floor patching compound and trowel, embossing leveler, scraper, sander or grinder.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

A. General Subfloor Preparation & Precautions

- Subfloors must be clean and free of dirt and debris prior to installation.
- Subfloors must be structurally sound and flat prior to installation.
- Carpet is not a suitable underlayment for glue-down vinyl floors. All carpets, carpet pads and carpet tacks should be removed prior to installation.
- Variations in the subfloor flatness should not exceed 1/16" per 3 ft. (2 mm/m). Floors must be leveled to meet this specification prior to installation. Level by filling depressed areas with floor leveling compounds and sanding or grinding down any raised areas. Subfloor thickness must be a minimum of 5/8" (15mm).
- Glue-down vinyl flooring is waterproof. It is *not* a water-proofing agent. Any and all moisture problems need to be addressed and corrected prior to installation.

B. Concrete

- Concrete subfloors must be properly cured and allowed to dry for at least 60 days prior to installation. Test concrete subfloor for moisture prior to installation.
 - If condensation appears on the film after 24 hours or concrete appears dark, in color, moisture is likely present and a Calcium Chloride test must be performed.
 - The maximum allowable moisture emission is 5 lbs./1000 ft.² per 24 hours (2.26 kg/101.6 m² per 24 hours).

C. Wood

- Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and screwed or nailed to supporting beams.

D. Existing Floor Covering

- Glue-down vinyl flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided that the existing surface can be levelled and made smooth.
- When the removal of the existing flooring is not an option, the existing flooring should be covered with an embossing leveler. Existing sheet vinyl should not be overly cushioned and should only consist of one layer.
- Ceramic tile should be made smooth by applying a patching or leveling compound made specifically to smooth out ceramic joints.

E. Radiant heat

IMPORTANT: Due to the speed of sudden temperature changes, which has the potential to negatively affect glue-down vinyl flooring construction, it is not recommended to install over any **radiant heating system**. Installation over radiant heating systems will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

Owner and installer are solely and jointly responsible for checking that pre-installation conditions and/or specifications listed in this guide have been thoroughly met prior to installation of the floor.

ROOM PREPARATION

A. Wall Base/Trim

- Removal of existing wall base/trim is optional.
- Wall base or trim will need to be installed once the flooring installation is complete to cover the expansion space around the perimeter of the room.
- Always nail/adhere wall base and trim to the wall. Never nail/adhere it to the glue-down vinyl flooring.

B. Doors/Door Jambs

Glue-down vinyl floors should be installed under door jambs so your door jambs may need to be undercut accordingly. To do so:

- Use a glue-down vinyl flooring off-cut to support your saw blade at the correct height for undercutting.
- Check door clearances and make any necessary height adjustments before installing glue-down vinyl floors.
- Make sure to leave the correct expansion spacing.

C. Wall Irregularities

Walls are not always perfectly straight. Golden Elite glue-down vinyl floors will need to be cut so as to fit within irregularities of your walls. To do so:

1. Create a complete, first row of the glue-down vinyl floor (do not glue down yet) and ensure that all long edges of the flooring are aligned flush with one another.
2. Slide the whole row against the wall; you will now notice any of these irregularities (i.e. areas where the wall is not straight.)
3. Trace the contour of the wall onto the row of glue-down vinyl flooring with a pencil or marker.
4. Once traced, uninstall the planks carefully and cut along the traced line.
5. Re-install the planks leaving the necessary 3/8" (10 mm) expansion space.

ACCLIMATION

IMPORTANT: Do not open boxes until you are ready to begin installation.

Glue-down vinyl floors must be acclimated to the conditions of your home before they are installed. To do so, raise and cross-stack unopened cartons in the area where they will be installed and away from outside walls, heat and air conditioning vents. Allow 48 hours for your floors to acclimate to the conditions of the installation area before opening the cartons. Installation temperature should be at a minimum of 65° F (18° C).

INSTALLATION

A. Basic Procedures

- Inspect every plank for damage and visible defects before installing it. Do not install damaged planks. Golden Elite is not responsible for claims on flooring installed with obvious visible defects or damage.
- Golden Elite glue-down vinyl flooring is dye lot sensitive. Please make sure the installation is completed with one lot number only. Golden Elite cannot guarantee that any future replacement glue-down flooring of the same finish will completely match the originally installed product. It is always a good idea to keep at least one (1) box of the original lot, in the case that reparations need to be made at a future date (*see general instructions, Page 2*).
- The first and last row of the installation should be wider than 3.5" (9 cm). To ensure this will be the case, prior to installation:
 1. Measure the width of the room and divide it by the width of the planks you are installing.
 2. If the remainder is less than 3.5" (9 cm) cut 3.5" (9 cm) from the width of the first row. If this is not possible, simply ensure that both edge planks are as even in width as possible.
- Prepare the subfloor and room as per the corresponding instructions found in this guideline.
- Use spacers to maintain the 3/8" (10 mm) expansion space between the first row and the wall.
- Select a starting corner of the room and work from right to left. Planks should generally be installed parallel to the main line of sight in the room (this wall is usually located opposite the room's main entrance).

B. Install the Floor

- 1.) Accurately measure the room to determine the center line, adjust the established line to ensure a balanced layout throughout the room, and then transpose this line to a comfortable width away from the starting wall (approximately 2' to 3' wide). Determine if the starter row will need to be cut.
- 2.) Spread adhesive with the proper trowel (please ensure you consult the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for trowel specifications). Use only **FlorCraft® Universal Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive**, and ensure the usage instructions are followed. Waiting for the adhesive to set may be required before installing the first row, so please ensure that you thoroughly consult the manufacturer's usage and instruction guidelines. **Golden Elite is not responsible for installation problems arising from not properly following the adhesive manufacturer's usage instructions.**
- 3.) Beginning at the centerline, begin installing your first row. Make sure your first plank is installed completely straight, as every plank will key off the first. Ensure that each plank is tightly fitted together with no visible gaps between planks. If you see gapping between your planks, carefully uninstall the planks and re-install properly. Be careful not to bend the corner of the plank. Maintain an expansion gap of approximately 5/16" (7.9 mm) from the wall on all sides.
- 4.) To begin your second row, use a vinyl tile cutter or utility knife and straightedge to cut one vinyl plank in half. The cut must be made at 90 degrees from its length. Staggering your vinyl planks creates an appearance that is more authentic. Remember to repeat this step when starting all subsequent rows by method of random alternation. Pieces should be a minimum of 8" (20cm) in length, as should the stagger from row to row.
- 5.) Continue installation of second row and work across the length of the room, ensuring all planks are properly aligned against each other. It is important for the first two rows to be straight and square, as they are your floor's "*foundation*" for the rest of the installation. Be sure to frequently check. Ensure to continue random staggering pattern when starting each row.
- 6.) Continue installing planks, being certain to maintain a random appearance and offset end seams at least 6" (15 cm). Maintain a 5/16" (7.9 mm) expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces.

Check to be certain all planks are fully engaged. **N.B:** It is important to constantly check for gaps when installing glue-down vinyl flooring. Once the adhesive sets and dries, closing these gaps is not possible.

7.) When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, vinyl planks can be cut easily and cleanly using a utility knife with a sharp blade. It is often beneficial to make a cardboard template of the area and transfer the pattern to the plank.

8.) Once the floor is completely installed, use a floor roller to ensure the planks are firmly bonded to the subfloor. Allow adhesive to completely set before installing moldings, or install moldings as per adhesive manufacturer's usage guidelines.

9.) Protect all exposed edges on the flooring by installing wall moldings or transition strips. **When installing moldings, make sure they are securely fastened to all walls or vertical structures, not your newly installed glue-down vinyl floor.**

10.) Should any adhesive residue be left on the surface of your floor after installation, it must be removed immediately. For wet adhesive residue, a clean water-dampened cloth will remove adhesive effectively. For dry residue, you may use acetone or mineral salts. **N.B: If using acetone or mineral salts, remember that excessive amounts of these products can damage your new installation. Please use caution when applying, and thoroughly clean up any existing residue when done.**

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C. Precautions

- Protect furniture and chair legs with proper felt or rubber caps.
- Covering the floor's surface with plywood is recommended when moving heavy furniture or appliances onto your newly installed floor.
- Avoid bringing dirt, water and sand indoors by providing a suitable solid backed floor mat at the door.
- Furniture on casters/wheels must use soft, rubber wheels that are suitable for a glue-down vinyl floor and/or use a suitable protective mat.
- Golden Elite Glue-down Vinyl flooring is intended for indoor use only.
- Post installation temperature should be maintained between 65-85°F (18.3-29.4°C).
- It is recommended to protect the installation from direct sunlight exposure, as relative heat and UV may cause discoloration of installation over time.

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Golden Elite glue-down vinyl floors are among the highest performing floors available, but they are not indestructible and minor cosmetic scuffing is normal wear for any glue-down vinyl floor. To ensure your floors perform as well in the future as they do the day after you install them:

DO

- Wipe up spills as soon as possible.
- Wash your floor occasionally.
- Use cleaner approved for vinyl floors to return your floor's original shine if it begins to dull over time.

DON'T

- Use detergents, vinegar, abrasive cleaners or "mop and shine" products - they may leave a dull film on your floor.
- Use paste wax or solvent-based polishes.
- Use a beater bar when vacuuming because it can visibly damage the floor surface.
- Use highly abrasive scrubbing tools.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER INSTALLATION

- Maintain room temperature at 65 degrees Fahrenheit for 48 hours after installation is completed.

PROACTIVE PROTECTION FOR YOUR FLOOR

- When moving appliances or heavy furniture, lay a plywood panel on your floor and "walk" the item across it. This protects your floor from scuffing and tears.
 - Be careful with rolling casters. They can damage the floor. Therefore, we do not recommend them. If you choose to use them, the double wheel type are the best option.
 - Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. We do not recommend the use of rubber- or latex-backed mats because the chemical (antioxidant) used to keep the backing from becoming brittle can permanently stain your floor. We suggest a non-staining natural fiber mat or a woven rug that is colorfast. Most of these products are identified "colorfast" by the manufacturer.
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LIMITED LIFETIME RESIDENTIAL WARRANTY & 10 YEAR LIMITED LIGHT COMMERCIAL WARRANTY

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Some jurisdictions do not allow exclusions or limitations of incidental or consequential damages so the above limitations and exclusions may not apply. Your warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights, which vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

This warranty only applies to the original end user and is not transferable. Golden Elite requires the flooring receipts to verify date and proof of purchase to resolve any problem that may occur. If a defect is found, Golden Elite will, depending on availability, either supply floor planks of a similar color, pattern and quality or reimburse the value of those defective planks.

What Is Covered and How Long

- Will not contain manufacturing defects.
- Will not rip or tear through from normal household use.
- Cost of flooring planks only.
- The Limited Lifetime Residential Warranty / 10-year Limited Light Commercial Warranty starts from the date of purchase.

What Is Not Covered By These Warranties

- Damage caused by fire, flooding, intentional abuse, water leakage, and excessive moisture.
- Damage caused by a vacuum cleaner beater bar, caster wheels or cuts from sharp objects.
- Loss of gloss/scratching.
- Staining from latex, vinyl or rubber based mats.
- Minor color, shade or texture variations between sample or web pictures and delivered products.
- Installation related errors or damage including improper conditioning of jobsite and flooring material.
- Loss due to inconvenience, loss of time, incidental expenses or consequential damage.

For more information on this product, please call Golden Elite, 1-888-642-8844 or email info2@gefflooring.com.