



INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

4 MM CLICK 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 4 mm click vinyl floors, included within the Ibiza Collection. This product is installed through a side click installation method.

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 doubtful in appearance, such as grade, color, finish, or quality. The supplier is responsible for replacing flooring materials in a timely fashion if the product is determined to be defective. However, Golden Elite is *not* responsible for flooring that has been previously installed or damaged on the surface (or tongue) of the plank by the installer. For flooring that is determined to be defective post-installation, Golden Elite will be responsible to reimburse the buyer for the materials only, labor costs or any other related expenses will not be reimbursed.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information.....	1
Materials & Tools.....	2
Subfloor Preparation.....	2
A. General Subfloor Preparation & Precautions.....	2
B. Concrete.....	2
C. Wood.....	2
D. Existing Floor Covering.....	3
E. Radiant Heat.....	3
Room Preparation.....	3
A. Wall Base Trim.....	3
B. Door Jambs.....	3
C. Wall Irregularities	3
Acclimation.....	4
Installation.....	4
A. Basic Procedures.....	4
B. Install the Floor.....	4
C. Precautions.....	5
Maintenance Instructions.....	6
Warranty.....	7

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Laying the floor should be the last step of your project.
- Click vinyl floors can be installed at grade level, above grade level, or below grade level.
- Maintain relative humidity of 40-50% before, during, and after the installation at the jobsite.
- Use a hygrometer [relative humidity indicator] to check moisture content in the air to ensure that relative humidity is within the recommended range.
- The click vinyl flooring must be placed in the jobsite for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Be sure the room temperature is between 18-26° C (65-80° F) before, during, and after the installation. *Do not remove planks from the carton during this acclimation period.*
- The floor floats and is installed without glue. It is safe to walk on the floor during and immediately after installation.
- **The installation of some Golden Elite click vinyl flooring is not guaranteed for radiant heated floors. For installation on radiant heated floors, contact Golden Elite to obtain written authorization from the manufacturer by calling 1-888-642-8844 or info2@gefflooring.com.**
- 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 click vinyl floor and multiply them together to determine its area. Add 10% to the room's area to determine square footage of click vinyl flooring, underlayment, and vapor barrier 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 humidity level, 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 click vinyl flooring over carpet or any foam or underlayment. This product is not suitable for any outside use, sunrooms/solariums and saunas. We also highly recommend you do not install in rooms or homes that are not temperature controlled. Exposure to long-term direct sunlight can cause damage to your floor.

MATERIALS & TOOLS

Materials

- Click vinyl flooring
- Transitional moldings (if needed)

Tools

- Utility knife
 - Measuring Tape
 - Shears for cutting around irregular shaped objects
 - 1/8" Spacers
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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.
- Subfloor moisture must be tested prior to installation and should not exceed 12% throughout the installation area.
- Carpet is not a suitable underlayment for click vinyl floors. All carpet, carpet pad and carpet tack 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 15 mm (5/8").
- Click vinyl flooring is waterproof. It is *not* a water-proofer, any moisture problems need to be addressed 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

- Click vinyl flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor covering provided that the existing surface can be 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 click vinyl flooring construction, it is not recommended to install over any **electrical radiant heating system**. Installation over electrical radiant heating systems will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Buyer must obtain written authorization from the manufacturer in order to install flooring over radiant, call 1-888-642-8844 or email info2@gefflooring.com.

Owner and installer are solely and jointly responsible for pre-installation subfloor moisture level check and must ensure that all 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 click vinyl flooring.

B. Doors/Door Jambs

Click vinyl floors should be installed under door jambs so your door jambs will need to be undercut accordingly. To do so:

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

C. Wall Irregularities

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

1. Install a complete, first row of the click vinyl floor and ensure that all long edges of the flooring are aligned flush with one other.
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 click vinyl flooring with a pencil or marker.
4. Once traced, uninstall the planks carefully so as to not damage the locking system 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 ready to begin installation.

Click vinyl floors must be acclimated to the conditions of your home before they are installed. To do so, 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) with a maximum relative humidity of 50%.

INSTALLATION

A. Basic Procedures

- Inspect every plank for damage before installing it.
- Click vinyl flooring is designed to be a floating floor, so do not secure the planks to the subfloor.
- 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 left to right.

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B. Install the Floor

- 1.) Accurately measure the room to determine the center line, adjust the established line to accommodate a balanced layout 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. If the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean solid edge is towards the wall.
- 2.) Position the first plank so that both the head and the side seam groove is exposed. This requires installing the product from left to right in the room. When laying the first row in a straight line, interlock the short ends by inserting the tongue into the grooves at an angle of about 15 – 20 degrees. Install per sequential plank on the short end and be sure to line them up evenly. Make sure to keep the seams between planks tight. You will feel and hear the click when locking the planks together to create a tight seam. There should be no gap visible between planks. If your seam appears not to be tight, pull the planks apart and retry.
- 3.) Install the second plank in the row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first plank. Be careful not to bend the corner of the plank. Maintain an expansion gap of approximately 5/16" from the wall. Then cut a plank to length to start the second row, stagger the end seam at least 6" from the first plank.

4.) Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. This is best done with a low angle of the plank.

5.) Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short end tongue into the previously installed plank groove. Align the plank so the long side into the previously installed plank groove. Align the plank so that the long side tongue tip is positioned just over the groove lip of the plank in the first row. Working from the end seam, at a low angle, insert the long tongue into the groove of the adjoining plank. Very little force is required to fit the tongue into the groove. You should feel the tongue lock into the groove.

6.) Work across the length of the room installing planks along the wall in the first row and then aligning the planks in the second row. It is important to keep these two rows straight and square, as they are the “foundation” for the rest of the installation. Check squareness and straightness often.

7.) Cut the last plank in the first row to fit approximately 5/16” short of the end wall. Planks may be cut with a utility knife using the “score and snap” method. The score and snap method includes scoring one side of the plank twice with a utility knife, then snap upward along score line. Other times the remainder of the plank may be used to start the third row.

8.) Continue installing planks, being certain to maintain a random appearance and offset end seams at least 6”. Maintain a 5/16” expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces. Check to be certain all planks are fully engaged. If slight gapping is noticed, the gap can be tapped closed using a scrap of flooring and a tapping block.

9.) When fitting under door casings, the flexibility and low angle of connection becomes evident. If necessary, a flat pull bar or “last board puller” may be used to assist in locking the planks.

10.) When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, Golden Elite 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.

11.) Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding or transition strips. Use caution to prevent the fasteners from securing the planks to the subfloor.

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C. Precautions

- Protect furniture and chair legs with proper felt or rubber caps.
- 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 click vinyl floor and/or use a suitable protective mat.
- Ensure that humidity in the room is always at least 40%. Use a humidifier if you need to.

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Golden Elite click vinyl floors are among the highest performing floors available, but they are not indestructible and minor cosmetic scuffing is normal wear for any click vinyl floors. 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 Golden Elite's Orb-3 Floor Cleaner to return your floor's original shine if it begins to dull over time.

DON'T

- Use detergents, 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. This assures proper curing, setting and bonding of products.

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 vinyl-backed mat or a woven rug that is colorfast. Most of these products are identified "colorfast" by the manufacturer.

25-YEAR RESIDENTIAL WARRANTY & 5 YEAR LIMITED COMMERCIAL

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Some jurisdiction does not allow exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages so that the above limitation and exclusion 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 needs 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 repair the defective area or replace the floor with similar color, pattern and quality at your option.

What Is Covered and How Long

- Will not contain manufacturing defects.
- Will not rip or tear through from normal household use.
- Cover materials cost only.
- The 25-year limited residential warranty and 5-year limited light commercial warranty starts from the date of purchase.

What Is Not Covered By These Warranties

- Damage caused by fire, flooding, or intentional abuse.
- Damaged caused by vacuum cleaner beater bar. Caster wheels, and cutting from sharp objects.
- Loss of gloss/scratching.
- Staining from latex 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.
- Damage caused by flooding, water leakage, or excessive moisture.

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