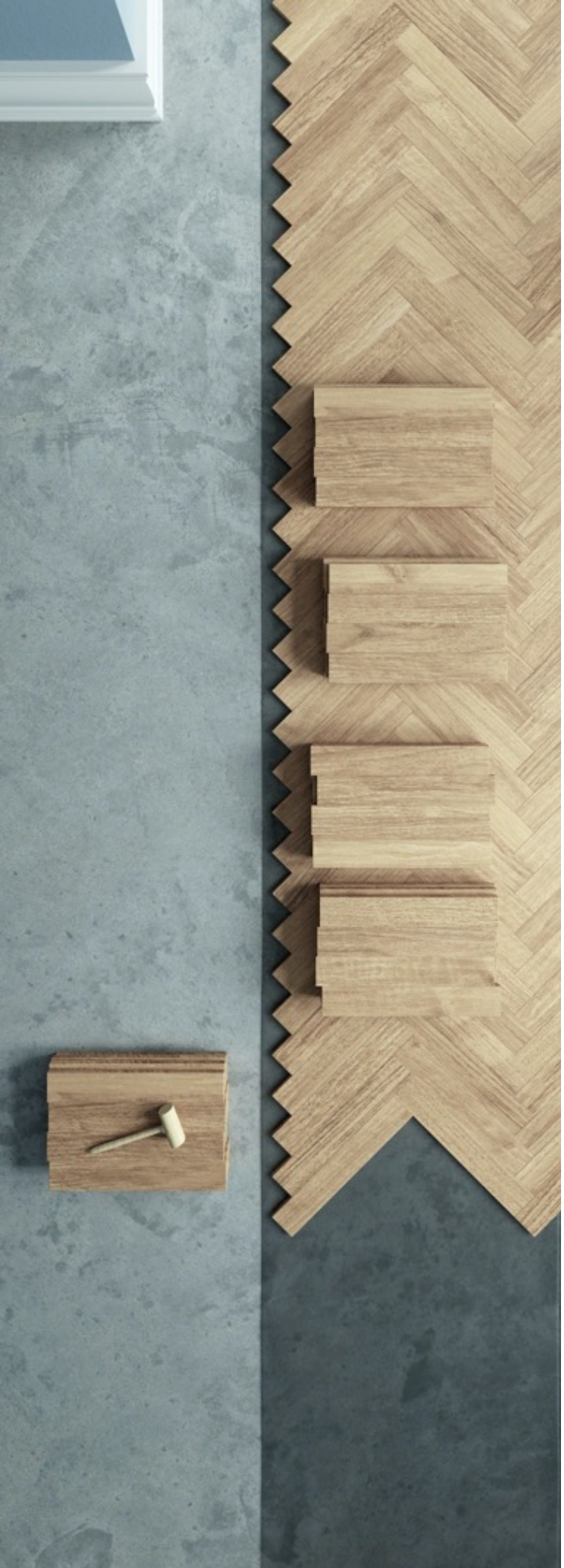

Waterproof Vinyl

Loose Lay Installation Guide

BY INNOVATION. BY DESIGN.

Every aspect of our floors are designed in pursuit of performance ready for the world.

We believe that everything we do is a movement towards an alluring combination of dynamic performance and modern craftsmanship. We do this by making every inch of our floors push the boundaries of innovation forward with beautiful designs, ease of installation and our obsession for the next best thing.

Together, we deliver the foundation that reflects your personality and create the ultimate statement in any space.

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Always refer to recommended instructions prior installation. Any method indifferent from this document may void your warranty.

DEAR CUSTOMER, Please take a moment to review these installation instructions and plan your installation carefully. Please note that IMPROPER INSTALLATION CAN VOID WARRANTIES. **LOOSELAY must be installed by a Professional certified installer , Installation of 100 square feet of flooring is enough to** verify quality and acceptance. *Loose Lay flooring is not suitable for use in SAUNAS or other abnormal use or conditions including, but not limited to, water damage from plumbing, storms, floods and water saturation on the surface or trapped between subfloor and floor. Loose Lay is waterproof, however moisture issues should be rectified at the jobsite before installation to prevent damage to the substrate and surrounding structure, and to discourage the growth of mold and mildew.

Thermal shock - very rapid and extreme changes in temperature - may cause damage to the floor. The use of a continuous vapour barrier and proper insulation is mandatory in the crawl space. This product is not intended for 3-season applications. Closed-in porches, solariums, screened in gazebos - ALL of these can experience rapid and unbalanced changes in the interior environment that cannot be properly controlled. Installation under these conditions is NOT recommended. This product is intended for indoor use only and is warranted as a floor covering.

VISUAL INSPECTION

Please ensure the product is inspected and checked for damage, defect, or variation prior to installation in adequate light conditions. Check that the colors correspond to those ordered, the quantities are correct and there is no visible damage to the boxes. Check the Loose Lay planks during installation for any visible defects. Do not install any planks that display any imperfections. We recommend that you always use materials from a single production batch for each installation, as we cannot guarantee a shade match between different batches. Be aware that some designs have a natural variation within them.

For defects that are visible prior to installation, the manufacturer will never assume responsibility for the labour and freight costs. Installation implies acceptance.

ACCLIMATION OF MATERIAL

At least 48 hours prior to installation, Loose Lay must be removed from packaging (product may be stacked but must be rested flat) and allowed to acclimate in the room where the installation is to take place. Room temperature should be kept between 65-85°F (18-27°C).

Loose Lay floors should not be exposed to direct sunlight for extended periods of time. Suitable window coverings are recommended in areas with high levels of direct sunlight exposure. A full glue-down of adhesive is recommended in these areas of installation. Let the product acclimate as to allow flatness of every single board and adapt to indoor ambient temperature prior to installation.

To ensure you have sufficient material on hand, calculate the total area of the room and add 5% of material to allow for custom cutting. Forty-eight hours prior to installation, place the closed packages of flooring and the adhesive (if required), in the middle of the room, NEVER against a wall or in a corner, nor near hot or cold air-vents or in direct sunlight. Do not open the packages until you are ready to begin installation. Flooring is to be stored on a flat floor to prevent distortion.

Do not install Loose Lay flooring until it is acclimatized to the required room temperature of 60°F - 70°F (16°C - 21°C). The Relative Humidity (RH) in the air should be between 35% and 85%; if using adhesive, the RH in the air should be between 35% and 65%. Inspect each plank before installation. If you find any defects, do not use the plank. Contact your supplier immediately. Please Note: Warranty does not cover labour for installation of planks with visible defects

CONSTRUCTION, COMPOSITION, & QUALITY OF THE SUBFLOOR

Sub-floor preparation must comply with ASTM F710 or other applicable National Standards and Building Codes for the installation of resilient flooring and in strict accordance with these installation guidelines. The sub-floor must be smooth, level, free from undulating, clean and dust-free.

Note: Solvents and corrosive chemicals should not be used to clean or remove subfloor contaminants as they can damage the backing of Loose Lay and affect product performance. Solvent based construction adhesives and some types of nails, such as common steel nails, may cause discoloration or stain vinyl floor coverings. Discoloration problems caused by above mentioned products are not the responsibility of the manufacturer.

Before this product may be installed, the subfloor must be clean, swept free of all debris, structurally solid and sound, and smooth and flat. Any unevenness of the subfloor should not be greater than 2mm measured over 200cm and substrates must be smooth and flat to within 3mm in 3 meters. Cracks or holes must be filled with a fast-drying setting cement-based polymer modified patching compound or equivalent. Any unevenness over 3/16" (4.7mm) the high spots must be sanded down, low areas filled with patching compound to create a flat surface.

When there is ambiguity or doubt about the quality or composition of your subfloor, check your local installation standards and/or seek advice from your floor preparation, leveling compound manufacturer/ supplier.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Moisture of the subfloor (e.g., concrete) must be measured according to the relevant local standard:

- Where the hydrometer test is specified, the moisture of the subfloor must be less than 95% RH
- Where the calcium carbide test is specified construction moisture must be no more than 3% for cementitious screeds and no more than 1.4% for calcium sulphate screeds.
- Where the calcium chloride test is specified, the moisture of the subfloor should be no more than 8 lbs. moisture/1000 sq. ft. per 24 hours. For any subfloor showing a moisture value above these limits, then a suitable damp-proof membrane/moisture suppression system must be used.
- It is recommended that you have a certain understanding of the subfloor moisture in your home or follow the advice of a professional installer.
- Max RH <75%, pH7 (for concrete floors)

REMOVE ADHESIVE RESIDUE

Remove all adhesive residue from the subfloor from any previous installations completely. Use physical and manual means only, not chemical.

Adhesive residues may cause chemical damage to the back layer of the Loose Lay or chemically react with the new glue; this could lead to ineffective adhesive bond.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR

Sub-floors/Screeds: any cracks and joints must be checked and repaired using a suitable repair system and the floor needs to be level in accordance with the applicable standard. All Gypsum (anhydrite) based floors must be sealed with a compatible sealing compound. If there are cracks in the concrete, there may be moisture escaping from it, especially in the basement. That will cause the glue to lose adhesive function if you use a glue-down installation method.

BASE OF MOSIAC, TERRAZZO, CERAMICS, QUARRY TILES

Make sure there are no loose tiles. Then level any grout lines with a suitable smoothing compound. Make sure the bottom tiles are as solid as possible, otherwise the adsorption capacity of Loose Lay will fail.

BASE OF TIMBER FLOOR OR PLYWOOD

Must be solid with minimal flexibility. All loose planks must be firmly fastened, gaps filled, and undulating bends removed. Where necessary, overlay floorboards with flooring grade plywood or similar. Best practice is to first overlay with a flooring grade plywood because the quality, moisture content and smoothness of OSB can vary.

BASE OF METAL AND PAINTED FLOORS

It is possible to install this product over floors incorporating underfloor heating, but these must be controlled to keep the temperature at the interface between the backing and subfloor surface at no more than 85°F (27°C).

BASE OF HEATING SYSTEM

Sub-floors/Screeds: any cracks and joints must be checked and repaired using a suitable repair system and the floor needs to be level in accordance with the applicable standard. All Gypsum (anhydrite) based floors must be sealed with a compatible sealing compound.

ELECTRIC RADIANT HEAT SYSTEM

Please consult manufacturers to ensure their system is compatible with this flooring. Mesh/Wire Systems must be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions: embedded into a basecoat of appropriately reinforced smoothing compound in a single coat to a minimum depth of 3/8" (10mm), OR in two separate 3/16" (5mm) coats, (primed in between coats). The room temperature must be between 65-85°F (18-27°C) prior to and during installation.

NOTE: The system must be switched off 48 hours before, during, and for 48 hours after the installation: then the temperature should be gradually increased - typically 4°F (2°C) - per day to the desired temperature.

IMPORTANT: Care must be taken to avoid damage to the floor caused by localized "hot spots/ thermal blocks. Consideration must be given to placing rugs, and items of furniture which do not allow hot air circulation. Responsibility for damage to the floor can be accepted under these circumstances.

**** INSTALLATION OVER RADIANT HEAT IMPORTANT: Must be installed as full spread glue-down When installing over an in-floor radiant heat system, maintain the subfloor temperature at 60 - 65°F (15 to 18°C) for 24 hours before, during and 48 hours after the installation. The surface temperature of the subfloor should never exceed 80°F (27°C).

BEFORE INSTALLATION

LAYOUT Check Run Numbers / Manufacture Date

For installations in large open areas, and to avoid noticeable shade variations, do not install material from different runs. Locate the run number/manufacture date on the short ends of the box and verify that all of the material for your job is from the same run. Minor shade variations within the same run contribute to the natural look of Loose Lay. The floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time, shuffling planks to ensure colour and shade mix. The ideal environment is a temperature of 60°F - 70°F (16°C - 21°C). If using adhesive, the RH in the air should be between 35% and 65% - these conditions should be kept constant while the adhesive cures (5 days). The floor will be stronger and more stable if the joints are staggered at least 12" (30cm) in each row. Staggered or irregular joints result in less waste and enhance the overall appearance of the floor

RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION TOOLS

- Pencil
- Utility Knife
- Speed Square
- Rags
- Tape Measure
- Tackifier or Double-Sided Adhesive Tape
- Paint Roller for Tackifier
- Adhesive
- Trowel for Adhesive
- Metal roller minimum of 50KG to 75KG or a hand-roller for small areas (Only required when installed on adhesive)
- Chalk line or laser line to ensure the start of the installation remains straight

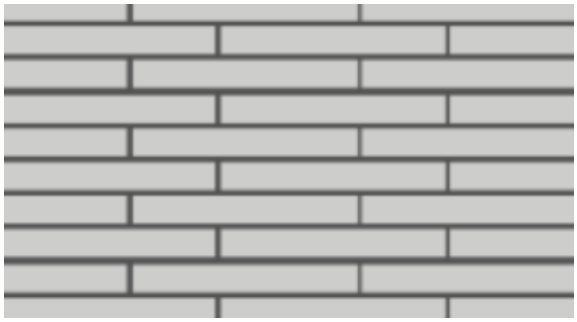
Perimeter expansion gap and at all vertical obstructions must be ¼" to ½". Cover the expansion gap with suitable moldings.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose your installation layout and cutting

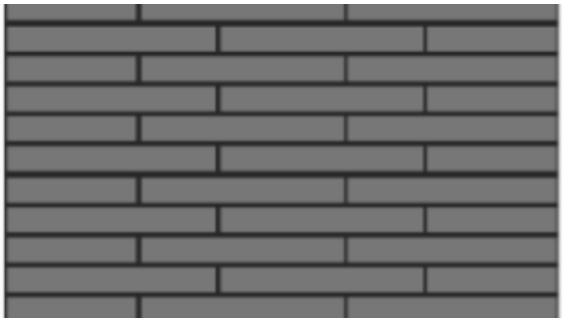
2. Remove all debris and/or dust, ensuring that the floor is clean before beginning installation, determine the installation direction. Calculate how the partition of the planks or tiles will be across the width of the room/area and mark a 100% straight line on the floor with help of a chalk line/laser line, normally in parallel with the longest straight wall.
3. Highlight a second line creating a section (for example, 5 rows wide) to be glued with the correct type of adhesive (unless when using tackifier, where a full room can be applied in an operation). Prior to using the adhesive read the manufacturer's instructions.
4. For the second/next row, take a new panel and decide how big the first piece must be (or use one of the leftovers from previous rows).
5. Ensure full contact with adhesive/tackifier, immediately press every plank or tile with a rubbing block or hand roller. immediately after the installation utilizing a 100 pound three-section roller; use a hand roller in areas not reached with the 100-lb roller.
6. Wipe excess adhesive with a damp rag.
7. Repeat steps 2 to 8 until the entire installation has been completed.
8. After the floor adhesive has set (minimum 24 hours), you can install baseboards and/or quarter rounds. Never attach the baseboard/quarter round to the floor itself. Finish around pipes with pipe collars or flexible silicone. Where no mouldings or baseboards can be installed, or where undercutting is not an option, the cut edges can be covered with flexible silicone seal. Post Glue down Installation: Prevent all traffic for a minimum of 24 hours. Restrict heavy traffic and rolling loads for a minimum of 72 hours after installation. Do not wash or begin wet maintenance procedures on the floor for a minimum of 5 days after installation to allow the adhesive to properly cure.

LAYOUT OPTIONS FOR TACKIFIER



Rooms shorter than 18ft in length, and with an area around 390/sqft2:
We require the use of tackifier with a width of 20cm around the perimeter of room.

Rooms 18ft and above in length:
We require an additional X grid of tackifier 9ft x 9ft



Rooms that experience heavy foot and wheel traffic will require full spread tackifier

All floor coverings require some care to look their best; many problems can be prevented before they occur. The type and frequency of traffic on your floor covering will determine the frequency of maintenance needed. The type of flooring and even the colour will also have some bearing on how much care may be necessary. For example, solid colour floorings will show scuffs, scratches, dirt, and general wear to a greater degree than multi-colour chips or patterns. Of course, white, or light colours will show staining to a greater degree than darker colours. For this reason, solid colour and white flooring should receive special attention concerning preventative maintenance and the amount of care provided. Proper selection when choosing the type and style of flooring will help prevent maintenance related problems after installation.

First time for optimal maintenance. Best within 24 hours of installation but can only take place if the Loose Lay floor is correctly installed and there are no visible imperfections.

- Regular cleaning is a proven way to help keep your flooring in top shape.
- Establishing a regular maintenance regime will keep your floors looking beautiful for years to come.
- Sweep/Vacuuming: Sweep at least once a week to remove any dusty loose dirt, small pebbles. Before vacuuming, be sure to check the condition of the beater bars.
- Mop: Never use abrasive cleaners. Only use recommended/approved vinyl floor cleaners along with a microfiber cloth.
- Harsh Chemicals: Do not use vinegar or one step cleaners/polishing agents or oil soaps. These products can leave a film or residue, change the sheen level, and affect the wear layer over time.
- Never use a steam cleaner. The hot steam is doing more harm than good to your flooring. The excessive heat together with the moisture that seeps in the joining edges can weaken the adhesive bonds and layers of the floors structure. It will also cause irreversible damage like warping edge cupping, bending, and bubbling of the plank or tile.
- Spills: Clean up any spillage instantly by simply wiping it off with a damp cloth. The click system does not prevent liquids from seeping under. Wipe away any liquids spilled as soon as possible. Be sure to wipe the area dry once you are done. (The longer the spills are left unattended the more likely they are to permanently stain the flooring). However, some stubborn stains are more difficult to remove. Common stains like juices, red wine, food and grease, marker pens, paint, or lipstick. Apply mineral spirits to a clean cloth to slowly release the stain. Once the stain has been lifted use another damp cloth with water to clean up the stain, this also helps dilute the mineral spirits off the surface. Dry off when complete.
- Minimize dirt: Invest in a good quality rug, non- stain or non- rubber backed doormat in front of all entrances to prevent any sand, loose soil, grit, dust, and other dirt being carried into the house. It is best to place a doormat at every entry point.
- No Shoes: One of the most effective ways to reduce dirt: simply adopt the ‘no shoes’ policy. This can further eliminate possible dirt from outdoors and maintain floor hygiene at the same time. Adopting the no shoe policy will cut down the chances of scratches caused by stones and sand that are carried along when you have your shoes on. Stiletto shoes should not be worn on the flooring as they can cause permanent damage.
- Heavy Protection: Protect your flooring with quarter–inch plywood, or cardboard when moving furniture or changing out appliances. This will help prevent scratches and scuff marks.
- Damage from Dryer/Washing Machine on top of a floating floor is not warranted.
- Any colour changes from chemical reactions from rubber area rugs or surface contaminates are not warranted.
- Pets: If you are a pet lover, do watch out as animals’ nails will also leave scuff marks on your floor. Trimming the nails and claws of your pet regularly will help minimize potential scratches.
- Future Protection: Another way to avoid unwanted scratches and scuff marks is to install felt pad protectors underneath tables, chairs, desks, couches etc. As most furniture items in the home are constantly moving and sliding on the flooring, felt pad protectors will help eliminate and protect the flooring from surface scratching. They should be checked and replaced when required. Check the condition of all casters or rollers on the furniture before placing the furniture on the floor.
- Sunlight and Excessive Heat: Prolonged exposure of direct / extreme sunlight may cause your flooring to fade, become dull or discolour. Floors must be protected from direct sunlight. We recommend the use of blinds or curtains on all windows that allow direct or extreme sun exposure. This will also help limit uncontrollable heat. Flooring exposed to excessive heat can be affected by thermal expansion, which can cause the floor to bend or undulate.
- The manufacturer is not responsible for any damage or defects caused by the effects of the sun.

HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITY

To maintain the manufacturer warranty, the homeowner is responsible for the following tasks:

- Please ensure the colour and appearance of materials are accurate prior to installation.
- Please read the installation and warranty document prior to the installation of the flooring.
- Loose Lay should be stored and transported on a flat surface in neat stacks. Always store the cartons flat and never put them upright. Do not store the boxes in damp, or very cold (less than 2°C), or very warm (more than 27C) environments.
- Almost all flooring coverings will vary in colour over time when exposed to UV light. Avoid this by using curtains or blinds when the sun is very bright. Loose Lay also has a tendency to yellow in the dark. The combed effect can cause covered areas (under furniture, under permanently closed doors, etc.) to be different in colour compared to non-covered areas. This is a characteristic of all PVC floor coverings and is not covered by warranty.
- Avoid rubber or latex backed mats as they may leave stains. Rubber and latex castors or protection caps under furniture must not be used. The use of castors Type “W” in accordance with EN 12529 is recommended. In case of loose lay installation, damage of the vinyl flooring caused by heavy loads, rolling loads, or sliding activities are not covered by warranty.
- Do not allow cigarettes, matches, or other hot items to contact the floor as this causes permanent damage.
- Follow our cleaning and maintenance guidelines to properly maintain your investment.
- In the case of any repairs required to the flooring in the future, we recommend homeowners have 1 extra carton of material stored in a cool dry area.
- Final inspection of the installation rests with the homeowner or the installer
- The manufacturer is not responsible for any damaged or scratched pieces of flooring that have been installed.
- It is the installers responsibility to set aside any material in question during the installation process.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

To ensure the full benefit of your Loose Lay floor and to extend its beauty for years to come, we recommend the following preventative maintenance suggestions:

- Keep several planks of Loose Lay post installation for repair or evaluation purposes. Also keep a list of maintenance products used on the floor.
- Install floor protectors on furniture legs to protect against scratches and dents. These furniture pads should have no wrinkles and be made of soft, nonstaining material (e.g. felt pads); the felt pads should be of adequate size to support the weight of the furniture and a minimum of 1” (2.5 cm) in diameter. The floor protectors should sit flat on the floor and be inspected periodically for cleanliness and wear. For heavy pieces of furniture (e.g. couches) the use of coaster-cups is recommended. Castor chairs should have castors and/or a chair pad designed for hardsurface floors.
- Do not drag furniture or other heavy objects on the floor. Avoid high heels or shoes that need repair. Some types of high heel shoes can severely damage the surface of any floor covering.
- Close your curtains or blinds where continuous or extreme sunlight will shine on your floor. Also, UV protection in windows will help with the performance of your furnishings. A combination of heat and sunlight can cause most furnishings and flooring to fade or change colour. Extreme direct sunlight may cause Loose Lay flooring to buckle, shift, fade or discolor.
- Sweep and vacuum floor regularly. Use correct hard surface vacuum tools. DO NOT use rotating beater bars, buffers, or similar products.
- Wipe up spills immediately.
- Avoid sand and grit build up. At doorways and areas of heavy wear, use protective mats or rugs that are marked “non-staining”.
- For dry maintenance, use a dust mop, vacuum cleaner or dry cloth. For damp maintenance, use the Bona Vinyl Cleaning Kit, available from your Authorized Dealer, and follow the maintenance instructions on the container. Never wax or use oil-based products on your looselay flooring. Basic cleaning is with a damp cloth. Excess water can cause a slip and fall hazard.