

# Installation Guide for Earthstone

## LVT Floating Floor

**Please Read All Instructions, Carefully, Before You Begin Installation. Improper Installation Will Void Warranty.**

Always check flooring panels for defects such as chips and color variations under good light conditions. Also check that grooves are free of debris.

Use panels from multiple boxes during installation. Only use boxes from the same production lot.

### Acclimation

LVT flooring MUST be allowed to acclimate to the temperature and humidity of the room.

Leave the closed package in a horizontal position for at least 24 hours prior to installation.

Preferred temperature should be 62-85° F (17-29°C). If flooring is exposed to temperatures less than 40° F (5°C ) for more than one hour, an additional 4 hours of acclimation is required at the preferred temperature.

Underfloor heating is possible with warm water heating systems. For other underfloor heating systems/mats, check with the underfloor heating manufacturer. Before fitting, please confirm suitability and their guarantee. The temperature of the floor surface must not exceed 85°F (29.44°C) at any point.

Spread the cartons out during acclimation trying not to stack the cartons. If stacking is necessary, stack the cartons in a crisscross manner. Never stack the cartons more than 3 high.

### Tools and Supplies Required are:

Utility Knife	Straight Edge	Ruler
Spacers	Pencil	Tape Measure

Cutting shears may be required for special rounded cuts.

### Installation Area

If existing baseboard molding is difficult to remove, Quarter Round molding will be required to cover the expansion space need between flooring and baseboard.

This Next Floor product may not be installed in spans longer than 40 feet (12 metres) in any direction, unless expansion joints (created with T-molding) are inserted at 40 foot intervals. Installation of spans longer than 40 feet will void the locking mechanism warranty.

### Sub floors & Floor Preparation

The sub floor must be even, dry and clean. Carpet staples or glue residue must be removed and floor must be removed and floor must be clean to ensure proper installation.

To check for evenness, hammer a nail into the center of the floor. Tie a string to the nail and push the knot against the floor. Pull the string tight to the farthest corner of the room and examine the floor for any high/lows relative to the string. Gaps cannot exceed 1/8" (3mm) per 3' (.92 meter). Any unevenness in excess, must be sanded down or filled with appropriate leveler.

LVT can be installed over most existing floors including wood, vinyl and linoleum. It can be installed of ceramic / porcelain tiles. However, the grout lines must be filled with a skim coat of floor leveler.

*Note: LVT should not be installed over carpet or underlayment.*

*This will void the warranty.*

*Warning: The flooring should not be installed in sunrooms or rooms with direct sunlight.*

During peak hours of sunlight, blinds/shades or drapes should be closed.

## Moisture

LVT is a waterproof product and can withstand topical water and water penetration for up to 16 hours without damage to the floor. However, water leaking over or around the outer edges of the flooring can damage a wood subfloor. This is not considered a defect in the flooring.

Also, moisture arising from New or Old concrete can create high levels of Moisture Vapor Emissions, Hydrostatic Pressure, and High levels of alkalinity. This combination is highly corrosive and will damage the floor over time. To avoid this problem, a Calcium Chloride test and PH level test must be performed prior to installation. If the level of Vapor Emissions / Hydrostatic pressure exceeds 8lbs and /or the alkalinity level is 9 or higher, a moisture barrier must be present.

New concrete needs to cure for at least 60 days before installation.

## Installation

- Remove the tongue (on the long side) from the first row of planks. This will ensure that the decorative surface of the flooring is under the finished trim when installed. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off.  
*Note: The first plank may need to be trimmed for a better fit at the end of the installation.*  
Measure the room and divide by the width of the plank. If there is a remainder of less than 2", the first row will need to be cut down by that amount.
- Starting in the left hand corner, place the first plank with its trimmed side towards the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion gap of 1/4" (7-8mm) between the wall and the flooring.
- Attach the ends of the 1st plank and the second plank by lifting the 2nd plank and inserting the tongue on the short side into the groove of the first plank and rotating into place. Line up edges and corners carefully.

- Continue along the wall until you reach the last full plank, connecting them in manner described in the earlier step. To fit the last plank, turn plank over (face down). Place the plank in the corner so the tongue, on the short end, touches the adjacent wall. Measure using the installed plank (on the bottom on the upside down plank) as a guide. Mark this length. This should leave the required distance from the wall.
- Using a sharp utility knife and a straight edge, score a line on the top surface of the plank. The plank should split on the score line with little effort. If the plank is not splitting on the score line perfectly, the utility knife blade may need to be replaced or the score line need to be a little deeper.

*Note: the end piece must be longer than 8". This may require a cut to start the row, depending on the size of the room(s).*

## Tip Practice scoring on a plank prior to beginning installation

- Begin next row with the cut off piece from the previous row to stagger pattern. This piece should be a minimum of 8" (20cm) long and the joint offset from the previous row should be at least 10" (26cm) apart. To attach, tilt the plank you are installing slightly upwards (about 15-25°) and rotate downwards into place. The plank will click into place with light pressure.
- Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short end tongue 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 be able to feel the tongue lock into the groove. Continue locking each piece into place short side first and then long side.

- To fit the last row, lay a panel on top of the previous row. With the plank against the wall, mark a line down each of the planks. Be sure to keep the loose plank against the wall. Disengage the row and cut the pieces along the marked line. This will become the last row. Continue the installation. Remember to use a different length on the first and last piece. After the row is installed, the cut row will fit into place with the appropriate space being left for expansion.
- Door Frames and heating vents also require expansion room. Cut the panel to the correct length. Place the cut panel next to its actual position and use a ruler to measure the areas to be cut out and mark them. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion distance on each side.
- You can trim door frames by turning a panel upside down and using a handsaw, cut away the necessary height so that panels slide easily under the frames.
- To finish the perimeter of the room, install quarter round molding using finishing nails. Nail quarter round directly into the baseboard not the flooring.

## Warranty

This floor is warranted to be free of defects in material and workmanship. All products **MUST** be examined thoroughly **PRIOR** to installation and any questionable planks shall not be installed.

It is important that the product be installed correctly and maintained properly. The warranty covers finish, wear, and stain, under normal conditions in a residential installation. In the event of a claim, Seller reserves the right to either repair or replace product. The warranty covers the cost of the product only. All claims must be submitted in writing to place of purchase.

Failure to follow these procedures may result in voiding some or all of the warranty.

Refer to [nextfloor.net](http://nextfloor.net) for full warranty text information.