

Preparation & Planning for Vinyl Flooring

Ensure a Smooth and Successful Installation

Proper preparation is the key to unlocking the full beauty and durability of your new vinyl floor. Following these steps will save you time and ensure a flawless, long-lasting result.

Phase 1: Pre-Installation Essentials (Before the Vinyl Arrives)

1. Condition Your Space (The "Golden Rule")

- **What to do:** Bring the vinyl planks/tiles into the installation room at least 48 hours before installation. Keep the room temperature at a consistent 65°F - 80°F.
- **Why it matters:** This allows the material to acclimate to your home's normal temperature and humidity, preventing expansion or contraction issues after it's laid down.

2. Prepare the Subfloor: The Most Critical Step

- Your vinyl flooring is only as good as the surface beneath it. The subfloor must be:
 - **Perfectly Clean:** Free of all dust, wax, grease, and any debris. Vacuum and mop thoroughly.
 - **Thoroughly Dry:** Especially for concrete subfloors. Any residual moisture can damage the vinyl and void the warranty.
 - **Remarkably Flat/Level:** Variations must not exceed 3mm over a 1-meter span. Sand down high spots and fill low spots with a leveling compound.
 - **Structurally Sound:** Firm, rigid, and free of movement or squeaks. Any loose floorboards should be secured.

3. Remove Old Fixtures

- Plan to remove furniture, appliances, and old floor coverings (like carpet or old vinyl) from the room. Remember to detach and re-install baseboards and door jambs for a professional, floating floor installation.

Phase 2: Layout & Design Planning

1. Direction Matters

- For a visually expanding effect, run the planks parallel to the longest wall or the main source of natural light.

2. Dry Layout (Highly Recommended)

- Unbox several cartons and lay out planks/tiles without adhesive. This allows you to mix planks from different boxes for a natural color variation and to plan the best layout for seams and pattern matching.

3. Plan for Transitions

- Identify doorways where the vinyl will meet another floor type (e.g., tile, hardwood). You will need appropriate transition moldings for a clean, finished look.

Disclaimer: Always refer to the specific installation instructions provided by the manufacturer of your chosen vinyl flooring product. Requirements can vary between rigid core SPC/WPC, luxury vinyl plank (LVP), and luxury vinyl tile (LVT).