



## **Installation Instructions**

### **Step 1: Sub Floor Preparation**

Creative Options can be installed in new construction (concrete, OSB, Plywood) as well as over existing flooring that has been secured to the subfloor (vinyl, linoleum, ceramic tile, hardwood installed above grade).

Subfloor must be flat, solid, smooth, clean, dry and free of dust. Any deficiencies such as cracks or gouges in the subfloor must be filled with a cement-patching compound before installation. Subfloor must be level to within 1/8" every 10ft. Moisture testing is a mandatory step of subfloor preparation. For concrete subfloors the maximum allowable moisture is 80% RH, using in situ probe, and the calcium chloride test – 5lbs/1000 sf per 24hrs MVER (Moisture Vapor Emissions Rate). Concrete PH must be between 5 to 9. New concrete must be cured for a minimum of 28 days prior to installation. All wood substrates including plywood, OSB and existing hardwood must be moisture tested and read below 11%.

Maintain a room temperature between 18C (64.4F) and 29C (85F) during and after installation. Creative Options can be installed over radiant heated flooring with a maximum allowable heat of 27C (80F). The heating system must be in operation for at least 3 weeks prior to installation. Once installation is complete the heat system must be in operation for at least 3 weeks prior to installation. Once installation is complete the heat can be gradually increased until it reaches the desired temperature. Skim coat ceramic tile grout lines with a floor-leveling compound before installation.

Latex floor primer can be used over concrete and wood subfloors. Primer can provide additional bonding for approved adhesives and double faced tape.

### **Do NOT Install Over**

- Multiple layer of previous flooring
- Cushion backed resilient flooring
- Subfloor that has been adapted or contains alkali

### **Step 2: Getting Ready For Installation**

Creative Options must be acclimated to room temperature between 18C (64.4F) and 29C (85F) for 48 hours prior to installation. To ensure best results, remove the top of the carton allowing airflow into the carton, but do not remove product from box.

Measure room to ensure the length and width of your first row of planks is within tolerance – keeping in mind the starting/ending row planks must be a least 2" wide. If this cannot be achieved when starting with a full plank, the first row must be cut to accommodate the last row.

Planks running perpendicular to perimeter walls must be a minimum of 6" long. It is recommended that cut planks are joined factory end to factory end with the cut side facing a perimeter wall.

### **Step 3: Choose Your Installation Method**

#### Perimeter Lock Method

Suitable for residential applications (see installation guide below for more details). Recommended adhesives are Armstrong S-288 or Armstrong S-310. Double faced tape can be used in small rooms.

#### Full Spread Method

Suitable for all installation types. Required for commercial applications. Recommended adhesive are Armstrong S-288 or Armstrong S-310.

### **Step 4: Time for Start Installing**

Tools required: Utility Knife / Straight Edge / Measuring Tape

#### 1. Perimeter Lock Method (P.L.M.) Installation

Following the adhesive manufacturer's application requirements, apply a 6-10" strip of adhesive around the perimeter of the room. Place your first row on top of the adhesive ensuring the planks are tight to corner and adjoining walls.

It is highly recommended that planks be glued down when transitioning to other rooms (i.e. Doorways, Hallways). Additional adhesive should also be used in areas that are susceptible to movement, such as – near large appliances. Areas that are exposed to large amounts of direct sunlight should also be glued down.

Be creative with the preceding rows. Cut your first plank (minimum 6") so that subsequent full planks are loose laid in a staggered formation. End joints should also be a minimum of 6" apart. Planks can be cut by scoring the top layer or with the use of a vinyl floor cutter.

To navigate around irregular objects, trace and cut a pattern around them using heavy paper, trace the same pattern onto the plank and cut along traced lines with a utility knife.

Finish by dropping in final row of planks ensuring a tight fit has been achieved against all surrounding walls. To ensure a proper bond, the entire installation should be rolled in both directions with a 100lb roller.

#### 2. Full Spread Method (F.S.M.) Installing

Follow the adhesive manufacturer's installation instructions. Planks must be installed tight to perimeter walls. Planks should be staggered to achieve the best visual effect. When installing in heavy commercial traffic areas, or application with heavy rolling loads, the entire floor must be adhered with a suitable adhesive such as Armstrong S-288 or S-310.