



## **Installation Instructions for Dry Back**

### Material Inspection

Inspect all material for correct pattern and color. Each plank/tile should be carefully inspected for any defects or damage prior to installing. Any material installed with visible defect is not the responsibility of the manufacturer. Upon return of the material, with a visible defect, replacement material will be provided, but not labour.

### Prior To Installation

Flooring materials must be allowed to acclimate at room temperature for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. HVAC system must be in operation prior to installation. Temperature must be maintained between 13C to 29C in the area to be installed.

Avoid areas of direct sunlight through window/patio doors that could cause color fade or affect the bond to the subfloor.

Material can be installed above, on or below grade. Suspended wood subfloor must have a minimum 18" well ventilated crawl space below. Suitable moisture barriers must be in place between the ground and suspended floor.

The subfloor must be flat with a maximum 3mm (1/8") in 305cm (10') diameter. Level the subfloor where necessary with suitable underlayment or leveling compounds.

### Installation of Stix N Stones Dry Back

- Work from a minimum of 3 cartons when installing to ensure a blend of pattern and color. Measure and lay out chalk lines to square off the room.
- Install parallel to the light source or to the longest wall. Remember to be certain you do not have a piece narrower than 2" along an opposite wall.
- End joints must be a minimum of 6" apart. Allow for a minimum of 3/16" gap at all walls, cabinets, pipes, etc. This will allow for any movement. Ensure the plank/tile joints fall at least 6" from underlayment joints,
- Use suitable LVT adhesive (such as Armstrong S-288/S-310).
- In areas subjected to heavy rolling loads, epoxy adhesive (such as Armstrong S-240) should be used.
- Follow the adhesive and amount of adhesive manufacturer's instructions, paying close attention to correct trowel notching, open time of the adhesive and amount of adhesive area spread at one time before installing. Measure, score with a sharp utility knife and snap. Continue to install planks, fitting them tightly and precisely in place.
- Once complete, roll in both directions with a 100lb roller.
- Do not allow traffic on the flooring for 24 hours after installation.
- Avoid rolling load traffic for 72 hours after installation.

- Follow the maintenance recommendations for STIX N STONES to ensure proper care and performance.
- Fill all cracks/voids with a suitable Portland cement based floor patch. A rough surface may telegraph through the finished floor.
- Rough surfaced concrete can be smoothed with a cementitious underlayment (such as Armstrong S-184/S-194).
- Dusty concrete slabs may be primed with a latex floor primer (such as Armstrong S-185)

Note:

The responsibility for warranties and suitability of the concrete floor to receive resilient flooring lies solely with the manufacturer of the concrete/light weight concrete and not with the flooring manufacturer.

\*Bear in mind that moisture and PH tests only indicate the levels at the time of testing and cannot predict changes over the long term.

Subfloor and Underlayment

The suitability of a subfloor or underlayment lies with the flooring installer.

Wood Subfloor / Underlayment

A double layer subfloor/underlayment construction is required. Sturd-I-Floor panels also require an underlayment to adhere to. Total combined thickness should be a minimum of 1". This is for structural integrity and to prevent deflection in the subfloor, which in turn could cause patch/underlayment/leveler to fail. The wood underlayment must be a minimum of 1/4" thick – APA – approved plywood or equivalent or poplar/birch plywood all of which has a fully sanded face and is recommended as floor underlayment.

Suitable Substrates

APA Plywood – must be suitable for residential flooring (with a fully sanded face).

- Must be structurally sound
- Must be free of any material that could stain vinyl or cause the adhesive bond to fail (inks, paint, solvent, asphalt, etc.)

Install the underlayment panels in accordance with the underlayment manufacturer's recommendations and instructions. The responsibility for warranties and suitability of the underlayment lies solely with the underlayment manufacturer and not with the manufacturer of STIX N STONES. We strongly recommend you contact the underlayment manufacturer to confirm these recommendations/warranties.

CONCRETE

- Concrete subfloors (new or existing) must meet ASTM – F710 Preparing Concrete Floors for Resilient Flooring ([www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)).

- Concrete slab should have a minimum compress strength of 3500psi and must be protected from ground moisture with a vapor retarder as outlined in ASTM F710.
- The concrete must be clean, dry and smooth. Any foreign substance, which could stain or affect the adhesion bond, must be removed (paint, old adhesive, etc.).
- \* Moisture tests must be carried out using in situ probes (RH test) as outlined in ASTM F2170 – rest must not exceed 80%.
- The calcium chloride test indicates the moisture level in the surface of the concrete. It is only considered usable when combined with an RH test.
- The concrete surface must have a PH between 7-9 (ASTM F710). Bond tests must be carried out to ensure the adhesive used is compatible with the concrete slab.
- Lightweight concrete must have a minimum density of 90lbs/cubic ft. – cellular concrete with plastic (wet) densities over 100lbs/cubic ft. are acceptable.
- Curing, hardening and sealing compounds can interfere with the adhesive bond. Any curing compounds with soap, silicone, wax or oil must be removed prior to installing resilient flooring. The suitability of other curing agents with resilient flooring lies with the concrete applicator and is not warranted by the flooring manufacturer.

#### Existing Flooring

- Do not install over cushioned flooring.
- Do not install over a single layer of existing flooring.
- Heavy embossing and grout lines must have be leveled with a suitable cementitious leveling compound.
- All old adhesive, residue, wax or polish must be removed before installing new flooring.
- Existing floor must be fully bonded and in suitable condition to accept flooring adhesive.