



WPC Vinyl Floor Installation Guide



Introduction

This guide will take you through the necessary steps to install your Bel-Air WPC Vinyl Flooring. Make sure to carefully read through this guide so that you may know the best way to prepare for the installation. Before reading this guide; please make sure to read the Bel-Air Flooring Pre-Installation Guide, Bel-Air WPC Vinyl Flooring Maintenance & Care Instructions and Bel-Air WPC Vinyl Flooring Warranty. Failure to follow the instructions given in these guides, as well as improper installation, will void the warranty given by Bel-Air Wood Flooring. If you have any questions regarding this guide, or have any questions not covered in these documents; please contact Bel-Air Wood Floors at: (888) 800-9206 Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm PST.

It is the homeowner/installer responsibility to ensure that the correct type, model, collection, and color were delivered to the jobsite prior to installation. The homeowner/installer can do so by comparing it with the “sample” that the floor was selected from, ensuring the floor is the correct flooring received and it is acceptable for installation. It is up to the homeowner/installer to inspect the product for any visible defects or damages prior to installation. If the floor does not meet the homeowners/installers expectations and/or is not acceptable for installation; please contact Bel-Air Wood Floor before beginning installation! The Bel-Air Wood Flooring Warranty does not cover any claims related to incorrect type, model, collection, color, visible defects or damages once installed. No replacement or refunds will be offered or issued once the floor is installed!

1. Job Site Conditions

It is the sole responsibility of the homeowner/installer to determine if the job site conditions, environment, and installation surface (Sub-Floor) are acceptable for Bel-Air WPC Vinyl flooring installation as well as meet or exceed the NWFA (National Wood Flooring Association) industry standards and regulations. Please make sure to evaluate the jobsite for potential problems before wood flooring is delivered and installation begins.

PLEASE NOTE: Bel-Air Wood Floors warranty does not cover any failures resulting, or related to, job-site environment/condition or subflooring deficiencies.

- Homeowner/Installer must ensure that the building is structurally complete and sound.
- Homeowner/Installer must ensure appropriate/consistent temperature and humidity conditions have been achieved. Appropriate temperature and humidity conditions are those that replicate conditions to be experienced in the building once occupied.
- Insure that moisture and humidity test have been performed prior to shipping flooring to the job site.



- Ensure proper drainage exists around the structure

2. Shipping, Handling & Storage

- Please refrain from shipping, loading or unloading WPC Vinyl flooring in rain, snow or other humid conditions. Make sure to store WPC Vinyl flooring in an enclosed building that is well ventilated. When storing the WPC Vinyl floor boxes make sure to leave adequate room around the stacked boxes to allow air circulation. Do not store WPC Vinyl-flooring cartons near heating/cooling ducts or direct sunlight.
- Do not deliver vinyl flooring to the jobsite or install vinyl flooring until appropriate temperature and humidity conditions have been achieved. Appropriate temperature and humidity conditions are defined as those conditions to be experienced in the building after occupancy. If a heating and/or air-conditioning system is in operating condition; it should be operating before, during and after installation, as this will ensure the floor acclimates under the same conditions after the building becomes occupied. If it is not feasible for the heating and/or air-conditioning system to be operating before, during and after installation, a temporary heating and/or dehumidification system that mimics the normal temperature and humidity conditions to be experienced indoors can enable the installation to proceed until the permanent heating and/or air-conditioning system is operating.

3. Acclimation

- Bel-Air WPC Vinyl Flooring is made to perform best when the environment is within a temperature ranging from 60° to 80° Fahrenheit. These conditions are usually the normal living conditions of any normal household.
- Therefore, it is recommended to acclimate Bel-Air WPC Vinyl flooring for at least 5 days in order to allow the planks to adjust to the new environment.
- If possible, locate material in the center of the job-site area, away from heating or cooling sources such as AC vents or direct sunlight. Storing cartons in direct sunlight may increase the plank temperature therefore causing the floor to expand or contract effecting the acclimation process.



4. Calculating & Ordering

When calculating square-footage; please consider adding at least 10%-15% for cutting & waste. WPC Vinyl flooring like any other vinyl flooring must be cut to fit around obstacles such as but not limited to: Stair-cases, wall contours, pipes, and other household items.

5. Installation Surface & Sub-Floors

Bel-Air Laminate Flooring is considered a “floating” floor and is installed using a click floor system. This allows Bel-Air Laminate floor to be installed over most hard surfaces such as:

- CD Exposure 1 plywood.
- OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels.
- Concrete slab.
- Existing wood or laminate floor.
- Ceramic tile.
- Resilient tile & sheet vinyl.
- Cork Ceramic.
- Terrazzo.
- Slate.
- Marble.

Sub-Floor Requirements: The homeowner and/or installer must make sure

- **Safe & Sound** - That the sub-floor is properly fastened, structurally supported, and meets or exceeds all applicable local building codes & regulations as well as the NWFA (National Wood Flooring Association) guidelines.
- **Clean & Dry** - The homeowner and/or installer must make sure that the installation surface (sub-Floor) is clean, dry and free of any debris such as nails, wax, oil or any adhesive residue.
- **Flatness** - Installation Surface / Sub-Floor Must be flat to a tolerance of 3/16” per 10’ radius (4.76mm, In a 3.05m.) and the surface slope must not exceed 1” in 6’ (2.54 cm in 1.83 m). If installation surface (Sub-Floor) does not meet the requirements stated below necessary steps must be taken to correct the problem.
- **Soft Installation Surfaces / Sub-Floors** - Soft Sub-Floors such as carpet or padding must be removed prior to installation
- **Nail Or Glue** - Do not nail or glue flooring to to the subfloor at any point, unless a glue-down and or nail-down application is desired.



- **Radiant Heat Sub-floors** - Radiant heated subfloors should not exceed 85°F (29°C).
 - Before installing Vinyl flooring products over newly constructed radiant heated systems, make sure the radiant system has been on and operating at maximum temperature to reduce residual moisture within the concrete for at least 5 days.
 - Three days prior to installation lower the temperature to 65°F.
 - 24 hours after installation, gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5°F to avoid overheating.
 - You may use an in-floor temperature sensor is to avoid overheating

6. Prerequisites

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|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| • Pull Bar | • Hammer | • Safety Glasses |
| • Tapping Block | • Drill | • NIOSH-Designated Dust Mask |
| • Spacers | • Saw | • Touch-Up Kit/Filler Kit |
| • Carpenter's Square | • Utility Knife | |
| • Tape Measure | • Painters Tape | |

Suggested Underlayment

- Bel-Air LVT High Density Pad 1.5 MM w/ 0.08 MM PE film (200sf/roll)

Suggested Transition Pieces

- Wall-Base (Skirting)
- T-Molding
- End-Cap
- Reducer
- Quarter-Round
- Stair-Nose
- Flush Stair Nose (Availability Varies Per Collection!)

7. Preparing For Installation

Trim Pieces & Door Casings - Prep the installation by removing any existing baseboards trims and transitions moldings. Undercut all door casings at the height of the new floor so it will fit underneath (Remember to allow a gap for expansion).

Plank Direction - Lay down planks to determine in which direction the panels will be laid. As a general rule, the floor should be laid parallel to the longest wall. This will create an aesthetically pleasing look.



Inspect Planks - Inspect each plank for imperfections and damage as well as remove any manufacturing residues from the tongue and groove before installing or cutting.

Expansion Gap - An expansion gap of 1/2" to 5/16" must be provided at all walls and fixed vertical surfaces to allow for expansion.

Layout - Measure the area of the room to get an idea for a "balanced" layout. The width of the first row of planks at the starting wall should be approximately the same width as the last row on the finishing wall. This can be adjusted by rip cutting the panels. The starting or finishing rows should not be less than 2" in width. Or half the plank (whichever is greater).

8. Installation Process

A. Underlayment - Lay out your underlayment in the area you plan to lay down floor panels. Unroll only one sheet at a time during panel installation to prevent damaging the underlayment. Once the first sheet of underlayment is covered with laminate floor planks, repeat the process. Butt the two edges of the sheet together and seal with sealing tape. Do not overlap sheets.

B. Getting Started With The First Row - Begin the installation in the top left hand corner against the wall and work right. Remove the tongue on the long side of the planks in first row to provide a straight, solid edge along the wall. Place the plank a minimum 1/4" – 1/2" from wall on the left. Use the installation spacers throughout all edge areas to insure the correct expansion space is maintained. Continue this down the entire length of the wall. Insert the next plank to the right of the first one by slightly angling the short side of the plank's tongue into groove until plank locks into position. Press the plank forward and fold down into place. Continue working right until the first row is assembled.

C. Last Plank In The Row - Continue installing planks until you reach an obstacle that requires cutting. Measure the distance between the wall and the edge of the last plank in the row and subtract 1/4" – 1/2" and cut the board accordingly (Ensuring a 1/4" – 1/2" gap between the edge of the plank and the wall)

Wall Irregularities - *If any part of the wall is uneven, the planks must be adapted to its contours. You can scribe the contour of the wall onto adjacent planks using a 2" square block and pencil following along the contour of the wall. This will make a more accurate cut line. Do not forget to allow for the minimum 1/4" – 1/2" expansion space from the wall. You will still use spacers to maintain the expansion space along this wall.*



Partial Plank -Whenever practical use a piece of the plank that was cut from the end of the previous row to start the next row. The plank must be at least 12" (No shorter than 8") long. If the piece is too short, start with a new plank. Cut the new plank so as to maintain the random stagger from one row to the next. Always ensure that the end joints are staggered at least 12 to 16 inches from one row to the next.

D. Installing The Remaining Rows - Assemble the first panel in the second row to the adjacent panel in the first row by slightly angling tongue into groove until plank locks into position. Press the plank forward and fold down into place. (Use painter's tape to secure the panel across the assembled joint to hold it in place.)

Continue in the same trend, laying down additional rolls of underlayment as required until you reach the end wall. Be sure to maintain a 5/16" expansion gap at all fixed vertical. Work from several different cartons to minimize "clustering" of patterns. Maintain a random stagger of end seams.

E. When you get to the end wall; measure and cut the planks in the last row to fit. Be sure to use full width planks. Remember to allow for a minimum of 1/4" – 1/2" expansion space from the wall. You can use the plank and 1/4" – 1/2" spacer to mark your cutting line on the last row.

9. Moldings & Trims

Once all planks are installed, and any adhesive is cured, remove spacers and install appropriate trims and moldings in applicable places.

When installing baseboards or wall-base make sure that the transition piece doesn't press against the floor therefore allowing it to move freely.

Repairs

Always inspect panels before installation; however, if damage occurs during installation, the following repair procedures may be used: If a panel is slightly damaged or chipped, fill the void with a color matched filler. Bel Air carries an array of colors to match your floor.

If a panel is severely damaged and must be replaced the flooring will need to be disassembled back to the damaged planks. Determine the shortest distance from a sidewall and remove the molding. Lift the planks a few inches and tap along the joint. Remove the entire row back to the damaged area. Replace the damaged plank and reassemble the flooring.



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