



ALOFT™ FREE SPAN™ TECHNOLOGY INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

- Carefully check flooring material for any defects. Contact your supplier immediately if any defect is found.
- Room temperature shall be no less than 65°F (18°C) for 24 hours before, during and after installation.
- Exposure to direct sunlight can result in product fading and creates excessive heat directly on the finished flooring and surrounding structure which may result in movement. During peak sunlight exposure, the use of drapes or other window treatments are recommended.
- Remove quarter round, baseboard molding or cove base.
- Undercut doorway moldings the thickness of the flooring.
- Cartons must be stored horizontally at all times.
- Protect carton corners from damage.
- Do not use foam padding under Aloft™.

WOOD SUBSTRATES

Aloft™ may be installed over single floor wood construction in residential applications only, a ½" expansion gap is required. Subfloor must meet the following requirements:

- Wood joist or truss systems spacing must be a maximum of 16" on center.
- Subfloor panels must be dry, sturdy, smooth and dimensionally stable.
- Subfloor panels must be ¾" minimum thickness tongue and groove plywood or oriented strand board (OSB).
- Subfloor panels must be good one side, fully sanded face with a solid core (no voids).
- Subfloor panels must be exterior grade or classified as Exposure I.
- All suspended wood subfloors must have at least 18" of well-ventilated air space clearance above the ground. The ground under the crawl space shall be covered with 10mil or thicker polyethylene sheeting to reduce moisture vapor transmission.
- Offset subfloor panel joints by at least 16" so that four corners do not meet.
- Subfloor panels must be securely fastened to the joists and free from spring or deflection. Deflection shall not exceed 3/64" (1.1mm) per APA PS 2-10. If glue-nail procedures are required, use a solvent-free construction adhesive.
- Subfloor must be level within 1/8" in 8 ft. (3.1mm in 2.4m). Any unevenness must be sanded down or filled with a cementitious patching compound. Any unevenness may prevent Aloft™ from locking properly.

Wood subfloors not meeting the above requirements must be covered with 1/4" minimum thickness underlayment grade plywood. ProSheet Plus 3 may be used as a substitute, follow the detailed installation instructions, www.tarkett.com Tarkett recommended underlayments include;

- APA Underlayment Grade Plywood A-C, B-C or C-C Plugged
- ACCU-PLY
- SurePly
- TECPLY
- ULAY
- C.S.A. (CanPly) and Proboard.

CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

Aloft™ may be installed over on grade, above grade or below grade concrete subfloors. Concrete floors shall be constructed in accordance with the American Concrete Institute (ACI) 302.1 Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction. Concrete shall be finished and cured according to ACI and have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi. Installation of moisture vapor barrier is recommended prior to pouring of on or below grade slabs. Moisture vapor transmission shall not exceed 5 lbs./1000 sq.ft./24 hours per ASTM F-1869 (Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test). Moisture may also be tested according to ASTM F 2170 (Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes). When tested according to this method, the internal relative humidity shall not exceed 80%. Aloft™ may be installed over properly prepared gypsum based underlayments.

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EXISTING FLOORS

Aloft™ may be installed over most hard surface existing flooring installed in residential applications. Existing floor must be smooth, solid, non-foamed, single layer and fully adhered. Check flooring for any curled areas around the perimeter or at seams and repair if necessary. Remove any wax or polish. Use a good quality cementitious based embossing leveler to smooth and level the existing floor.

WARNING: Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, beadblast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt or asphaltic “cutback” adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

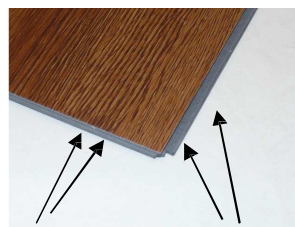
- All substrates must be dry, clean, smooth, level, free from all existing adhesive residues, and free from movement or deflection.
- The substrate must be level within 1/8" in 8 ft. (3.17mm in 2.4m).
- Fill and level all plywood seams, concrete cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves and other irregularities. Use a latex fortified, cementitious patching compound.
- Sweep and vacuum substrate to remove all dust and debris.

GETTING STARTED

1. Aloft™ are floating floors and should not be glued or nailed to the substrate.
2. Aloft™ are intended for indoor use only.
3. Determine in which direction the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger or if installing in very small rooms or hallways, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension. Install a universal transition if the dimension over 35 feet.
4. **Do not install cabinets on planks.**
5. Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and to determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row of planks is less than 2" (50mm), excluding the tongue, the width of first row of planks will have to be cut accordingly.
6. A minimum 1/4" (6.3mm) expansion space is required around the perimeter of the room and all vertical objects. 1/2" expansion gap is required for “single layer floor construction”
7. Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Do not install damaged planks. Tarkett will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects. During installation, inspect the groove area and remove any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks.
8. Do not use a hammer and tapping block to install planks.

INSTALLATION

1. Begin laying planks from the left side of the starting wall and work to the right side. The tongue side of the plank shall face the starting wall.



Tongue

Groove

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2. Place 1/4" (6.3mm) spacers between the short and long side of the planks and the wall. Always position one spacer between the wall and where the planks join.



3. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side of the previous plank at a low angle. Gradually lower the plank down flat until the end joint closes, insuring that the planks are perfectly aligned. Install remaining full planks in the first row.



4. The last plank in the first row will need to be cut. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank. Subtract 1/4" (6.3mm) from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 12" (20.3cm), the length of first plank in the row must be cut. This will allow for a longer plank at the end of the row. The first and last plank in each row must be at least 12" (30.4cm) in length. Planks are cut using a sharp utility knife and straight edge/carpenter's square. Score the surface of the plank with a utility knife, and then snap the plank at the score line.



5. The remaining piece cut from the last plank in the first row may serve as the first plank in the second row provided it is at least 12" (30.4cm) long. Always stagger end joints from row to row a minimum of 12" (30.4cm).
6. Install the long side of the first plank of the second row. Remember to place a 1/4" (6.3mm) spacer between the wall and the short side of the plank. Insert the tongue side into the groove side of the previous row at a low angle and rotate downward until plank is flat with the substrate.

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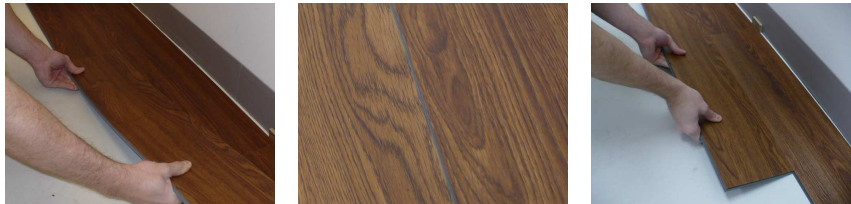
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- To install the second plank in the second row. Insert the tongue side end joint into the groove side end joint of the previous plank at a low angle. Position the long side of the plank with the tongue side slightly overlapping the groove area of the planks in the previous row. Lift the plank upward and working from the left side of the plank to the right, gently push forward until the entire plank engages into the previous row. **Use caution when installing the long side of the planks. Do not push on the planks too hard as this may distort or deform the groove.** Rotate plank downward until plank is flat with the substrate. Continue installing remaining planks in the row. It is important to make sure that the first two rows are straight and square as they can affect the entire installation.



- Continue working from left to right maintaining a random appearance. Planks may be installed row by row or by working multiple rows using the stair step method. Be sure to maintain a 1/4" (6.3mm) space around all walls and vertical objects. Offset end joints a minimum of 12" (30.4cm).
- In most cases the flexibility of Aloft™ will allow for easy positioning of the planks under door moldings and casings. In the event this cannot be done, it is necessary to remove the lip on the groove edge of the planks you are fitting to using a sharp utility knife and straight edge. This will allow you to install the plank laying flat. After the lip has been trimmed off on the planks you are fitting to, lay the plank flat on the floor. Apply a thin bead of PVA glue on top of the tongue and push the plank into position. **Immediately wipe off any excess glue with a damp cloth.**

FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

- After all planks have been installed, remove spacers from perimeter of room.
- Install transition moldings. Do not fasten any moldings through the flooring.
- Predrill and install quarter round or baseboard molding. Molding must be sufficient size to cover the 1/4" (6.3mm) space. Do not fasten moldings through the flooring. Fasten into the wall.
- Use plywood to cover the top of the flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
- Use proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture.
- Post installation temperature must be maintained between 65° F and 85° F. Relative humidity must be maintained between 40% and 70%.

PLANK REPLACEMENT

- Using a straight edge and sharp utility knife cut the center of the damaged plank approximately one inch from the edge of the adjoining planks. Remove the center of the damaged plank.
- Make a cut from each corner back to the inside edge.
- Carefully remove the edges of the cut plank. Do not damage adjoining planks.
- Prepare the replacement plank by removing the tongue and groove on each short side and by removing the groove on the long side.
- Using Tarkett S875 Floating Seam Tape, place a piece, so it is centered under each adjoining plank.
- Remove the release liner on the tape on all sides.
- Position the replacement plank by inserting the tongue of the long side into the groove of the adjoining plank.
- Rotate the plank downward into position. Roll seam edges with a hand roller to ensure proper contact with floating seam tape.

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