

Prep and Install Vinyl Plank Flooring

DIY Step-by-Step

Select Vinyl

- Vinyl has many different options that mimic the appearance of wood, stone, marble and patterns.
 - > Use the Lowe's Flooring Visualizer to view with room settings & colors.
- Some vinyl floors are waterproof, scratch-resistant or textured.
- Types include luxury vinyl plank (LVP), luxury vinyl tile and sheet vinyl.
- Installation methods are interlocking, peel & stick and glue or adhesive.

Prep

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Determine how much flooring is needed. Use the Vinyl Flooring Calculator on Lowes.com.
 - > Subfloor Surfaces: concrete, wood (at least 1-in thick) or existing smooth vinyl.
 - > If existing vinyl is pre-1986, it may contain asbestos. Contact a professional.
- Subfloor Requirements
 - > Clean and Dry
 - > Flatness $\leq 1/8$ -in difference over 6-ft. Two stacked US quarters should not be able to slide under a level.
- Allow vinyl to acclimate to room climate, following product instructions.

Prep Moulding

- Baseboards can be removed or use shoe moulding to cover the expansion gap.
- Undercut door jambs and mouldings back to the studs, leaving a 1/64-in gap underneath.

Underlayment

- Wood subfloors typically don't need underlayment unless in wet areas, such as bathrooms.
- Concrete subfloors on or below grade should be covered with polyethylene underlayment.

Plan

- Choose a starting wall. Outside walls are typically the straightest. However, it might be easier to fit the first row under door trim rather than the last row.
- Mark a starting chalk line.
- Divide the length of room by the width of a plank to determine the number of rows to be installed. The fraction of that number is the width of the last row. Adjust the width of the first row to match the last row, if possible. If needed, "dry lay" the flooring to check.
- Scribe the first row as needed for bowed walls.

Installation

- **Row 1**
 - > Use spacers to maintain a 5/16-in expansion gap and keep planks along the starting line.
 - > With the tongue side of the plank toward the wall, lay the first plank in the left corner.
 - > Install the first row by sliding/locking the short ends of the planks together.
 - > You'll likely need to cut the final end plank to fit. Account for expansion gap.

- **Row 2**

- > Use the excess piece cut from Row 1 to begin Row 2, if it is at least 9-in long.
- > Insert the long side into Row 1 and fold down to lock in place.
- > For the next piece, attach the long side then slide the plank toward the first piece. Press short ends together or use a rubber mallet to lock the joint.

- **Install the rest of the floor.**

- > Adding planks, tap short ends with a rubber mallet at least 1-in away from end joints.
- > Stagger joints at least 6-in between rows.
- > Avoid H-joints and stair-stepping patterns.
- > Check progress throughout installation to ensure joints are locked and flooring is square to room.
- > Mix planks from different boxes as you install.
- > Use the excess piece from the previous row as the starting piece for the next row.

- **Last Row**

- > Cut the last row to fit.
 - > Measure from wall to previously installed row, allowing for 5/16-in expansion gap. Using a straight edge and tape measure, mark planks and make appropriate cuts, repeating down the line for each plank piece.
 - > Another method is to scribe. Align planks on top of the previously installed row. Use a small scrap piece of flooring against the wall to scribe onto the planks.
- > Install the last row.

- Remove all spacers and replace any previously removed moulding.
- Add flooring transitions, as needed. Follow manufacturer instructions.



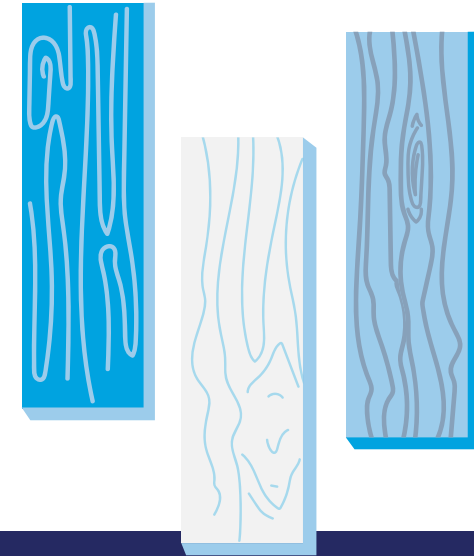


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Tools & Materials List

- Pry bar
- Oscillating Saw
- Utility Knife
- Chalk Line
- Painter's Tape
- Electrical Cord
- Drill with Bits
- Gloves
- Hammer
- Vinyl Flooring
- Tape Measure
- Framing Square
- White Rubber Mallet
- Pull Bar
- Screws
- Knee Pads
- Shims
- PE 6-mil Flooring Underlayment
- Pencil
- Flooring Spacers
- Jigsaw with Vinyl or Laminate Blade
- Transition Moulding Kit
- Safety Glasses

Notes



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