

# 7 STEPS to flawless LVT installations

Denver Coleman, Chairman of Polyflor SA, lists the seven crucial steps to flawless LVT installations.

## 1

### Acclimatising of products

There can be large variations in temperatures from day to night and in different regions across South Africa. It is for this reason that we recommend that LVTs be acclimatised on site for at least 24-hours prior to installation. The stability of the product can be severely compromised if the product has been transported in a hot vehicle, and immediately installed in a cooler environment.

## 2

### Dry and level screed

The parameters of a Class 1 screed apply: It is critical that the screed is dry, smooth, level, sound and hard. Ensure you have conducted a probe moisture test to determine if you need a moisture barrier. Don't think twice about calling in the experts at this stage to help you assess your screed and advise on steps to mitigate any risks you may foresee.

## 3

### Pre-cutting the LVT tiles

Before the adhesive is applied, the tiles should be pre- or "dry cut" and fitted. The tile should be placed with the factory edge against the factory edge of the field and not the cut edge. When installing plank designs, the set out should allow for the cuts at each end to be at least 150mm in order to prevent cuts that are tough to adhere.

## 4

### Prevent repeat designs

Repeat designs can be prevented by mixing tiles from different boxes. This ensures that there is an adequate pattern variation among the tiles. The planks should also be laid in a random bond pattern to create a natural-looking effect, unless you are planning a herringbone or basket pattern.

## 5

### Check for arrows on the back of the tile

If there are arrows on the back of your LVT tiles, it is advisable to lay every alternate tile with the arrow facing to 12 o'clock and the other tile with the arrow facing to 3 o'clock. This pattern should be maintained throughout the installation to avoid creating light and dark patches.

## 6

### Use a roller after the installation

A heavy (68kg) roller should be used to roll over the LVTs in both directions after the LVTs have been laid. Trims or cuts should be hand rolled with a suitable hand roller after installation in order to achieve the same adhesive transfer.

## 7

### Use a recommended adhesive

Be sure to use an adhesive recommended by the LVT manufacturer. Apply the adhesive in small areas so that the LVTs can easily be applied before the adhesive grab has worn off.



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