

# Loose Lay Flooring Installation Guide

## Material Inspection

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

## Step 1: Subfloor Preparation

Loose Lay flooring can be installed in new construction (concrete, OSB, plywood) as well as over existing flooring that has been secured to the subfloor (vinyl, linoleum, ceramic tile, hardwood installed above grade).

Subfloor must be flat, solid, smooth, clean, dry, and free of dust. Any deficiencies such as cracks or gouges in the subfloor must be filled with a cement-patching compound before installation. It is not recommended to glue Loose Lay flooring to OSB or Particle board. The subfloor must be level to within 1/8" (3mm) over a 10ft (305cm) span.

**Moisture testing is a mandatory step of subfloor preparation.**

**Concrete Subfloors** (new or existing) must meet ASTM – F710 Preparing Concrete Floors for Resilient Flooring ([www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)). For concrete subfloors the maximum allowable moisture is 80% RH, using in-situ probe, and the calcium chloride test – 5lbs/1000 sf per 24hrs MVER (Moisture Vapor Emissions Rate). Concrete PH must be between 5 to 9. New concrete must be cured for a minimum of 28 days prior to installation. Lightweight concrete must have a minimum density of 90lbs/cubic ft. – cellular concrete with plastic (wet) densities over 100lbs/cubic ft. are acceptable.

**Wood Subfloors** – 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, equivalent poplar/birch plywood, flooring underlayment grade OSB/particle board, all of which has a fully sanded face and is recommended as flooring underlayment. All wood substrates including plywood, and existing hardwood must be moisture tested and read below 11%. Although this product is waterproof, that does not mean it can act as its own moisture barrier. Hydrostatic pressure being released from the subfloor can damage planks. Moisture levels that exceed the stated tolerances can also result in the growth of mold/mildew which can be extremely dangerous to your health.

**Failure to meet subfloor requirements will VOID all product warranties.**

Maintain a room temperature between 18°C (64.4°F) and 29°C (85°F) before, during, and after installation. Loose Lay flooring can be installed over radiant heat with a maximum allowable heat of 27°C (80°F). Heating system components must have a minimum ½” (13mm) separation from the flooring. The heating system must be in operation for at least 3 weeks prior to installation. Heat should be turned off 48 hours prior to installation, during installation, and 48 hours following installation. 48 hours after installation is complete, the heat can be gradually increased in 5°F increments until it reaches the desired temperature. Skim coat ceramic tile grout lines with a floor-leveling compound before installation. Latex floor primer can be used over concrete and wood subfloors. Primer can provide additional bonding for approved adhesives and double faced tape.

### **Do NOT Install Over**

- Multiple layers of previous flooring
- Cushion backed resilient flooring
- Subfloor that has been abated or contains alkali

The use of sound deadening underlayment is not recommended. We recommend you contact the underlayment manufacturer to determine if their product is suitable for this type of flooring. All flooring failures that occur when an underlayment is used are the responsibility of the underlayment manufacturer.

## **Step 2: Getting Ready for Installation**

Loose lay flooring must be acclimated to room temperature between 18°C (64.4°F) and 29°C (85°F) for 48 hours prior to installation. To ensure best results, remove the top of the carton allowing airflow into the carton, but do not remove product from box. Measure room to ensure the length and width of your first row of planks is within tolerance – keeping in mind that the starting/ending row planks must be at least 2” wide. If this cannot be achieved when starting with a full plank, the first row must be cut to accommodate the last row. Planks running perpendicular to perimeter walls must be a minimum of 6” long. It is recommended that cut planks are joined factory end to factory end with the cut side facing a perimeter wall.

## **Step 3: Choose Your Installation Method**

### **Perimeter Lock Method**

Suitable for residential applications (see installation guide below for more details). Double faced tape can be used in small rooms.

### **Full Spread Method**

Suitable for all installation types. Required for commercial applications.

## Step 4: Start Installing

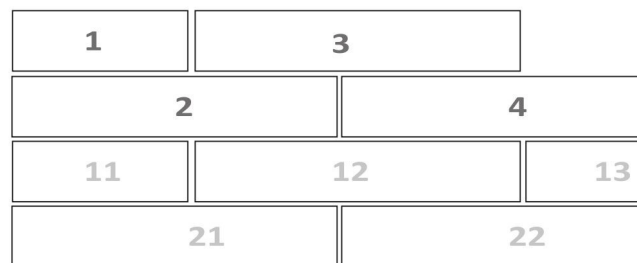
**Tools required: Pull-bar, Spacers, Soft-faced hammer, and tapping block**

### *Valinge 2G Click Lock System*



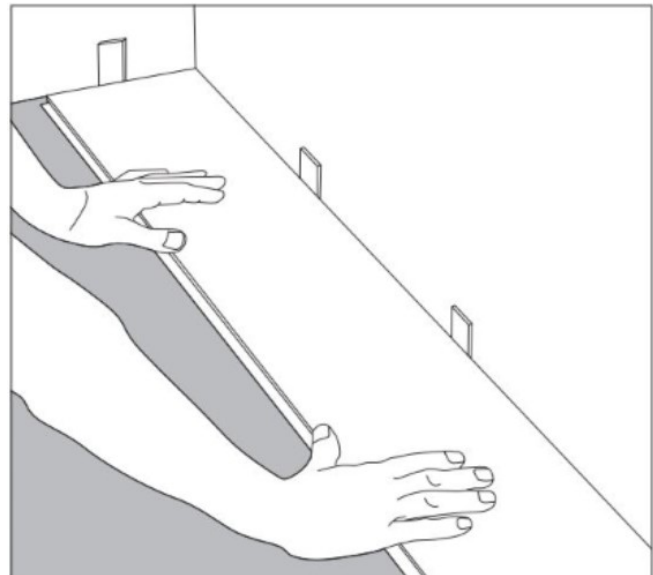
**Note:**

Products should be staggered in bricklaid pattern, stagger equal to half of a plank for the first four rows, and randomly from row 5 on. Tools needed: pull bar, spacers, soft-faced hammer, and tapping block.



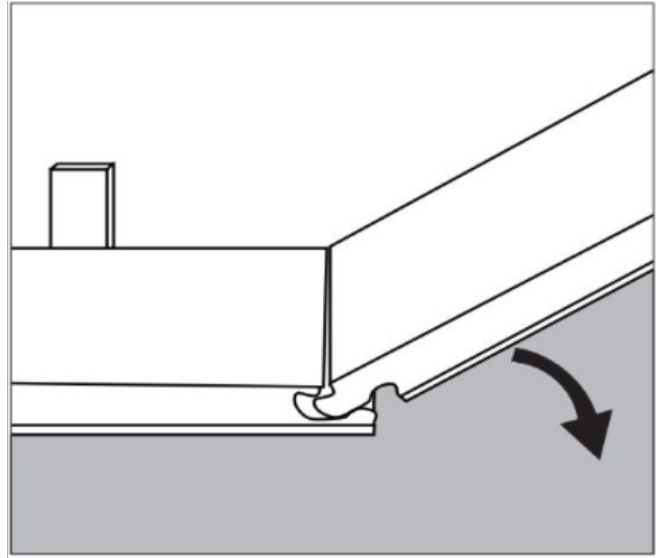
**FIG. 1**

Leave a minimum of 1/4" expansion gap for all installations under 20 linear feet and add 1/16" per additional 5' of length for installations exceeding 20 linear feet. For example: 25 linear feet would be 5/16" gap. Maximum continuance distance without t-mold transition is 40' width or length. Insert spacers to create proper expansion gaps at ends and edges where the planks will meet the walls and any vertical objects.



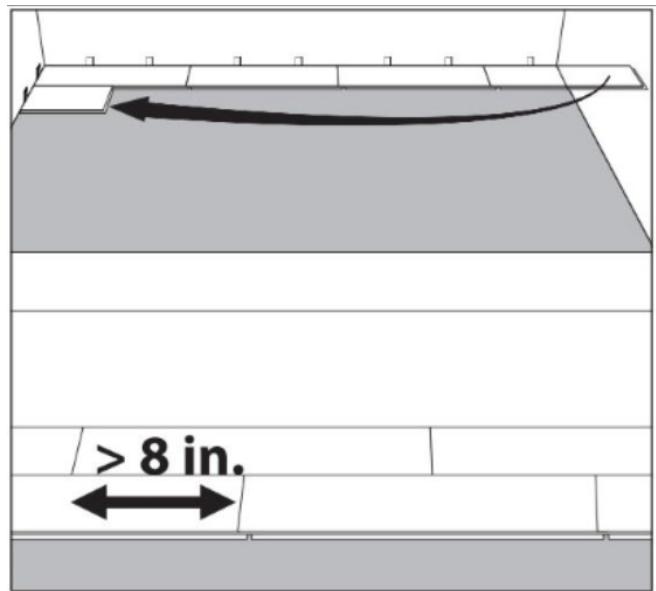
**FIG. 2**

Start the first row by inserting the short end of the plank (tongue first) into the groove at 20° to 30° angle, then rotating downward to lock it in place. Continue laying planks to establish the first row.



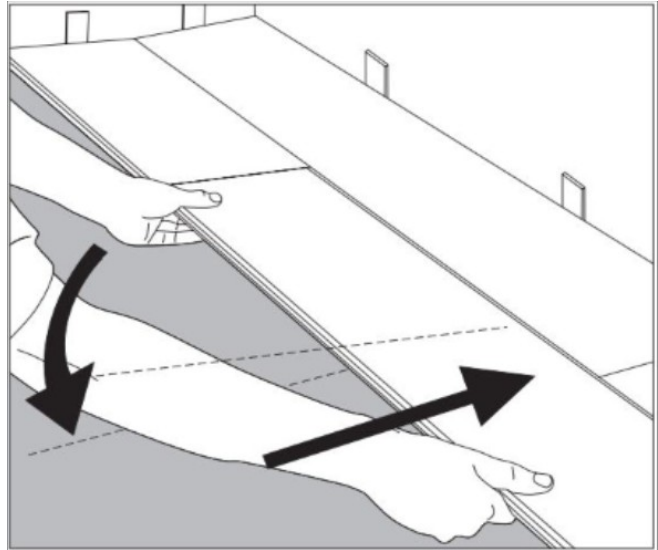
**FIG. 3**

Use a cut piece to start the second row. NOTE: End joint spacing must be at least 8" for all adjacent rows.

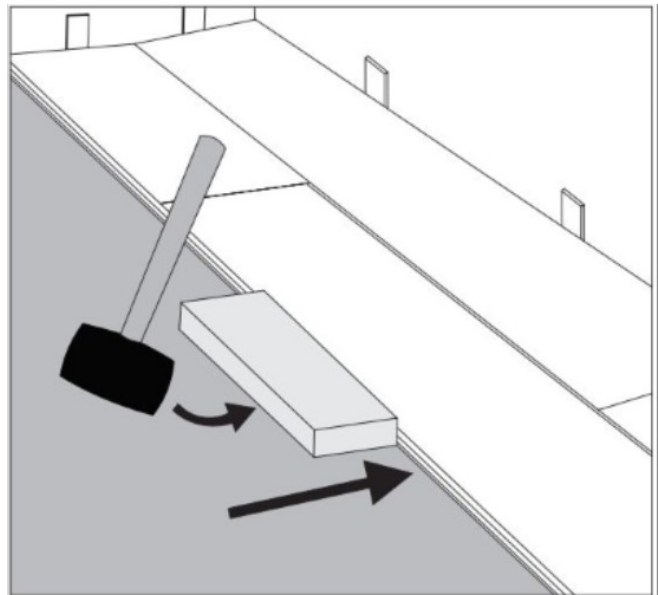


**FIG. 4**

For additional rows, engage the locking system on the short side of the last plank installed by inserting the tongue at an 20° to 30° angle, then rotating downward. Slide this plank toward the long side of the previously installed plank, then engage the long side of the plank. Lift the other side up slightly, and push or pull the plank together until it clicks together.

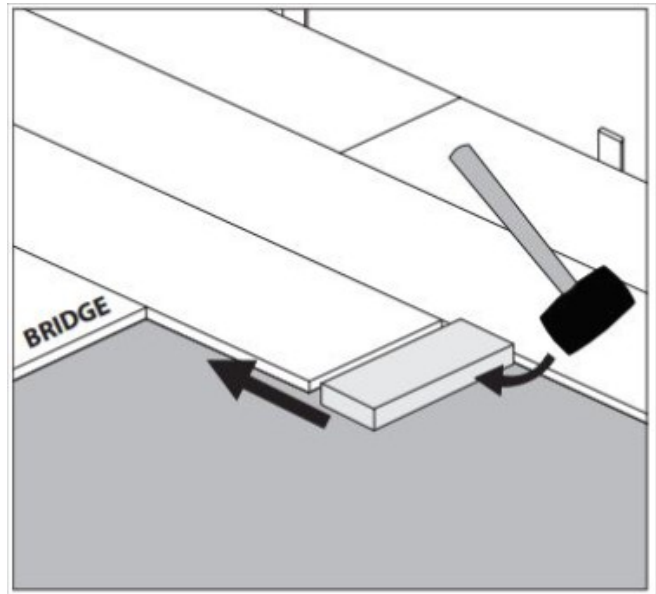
**FIG. 5**

Use a scrap piece of flooring as a tapping block and tap on the long edge of the plank to ensure that the locking system fully engages.

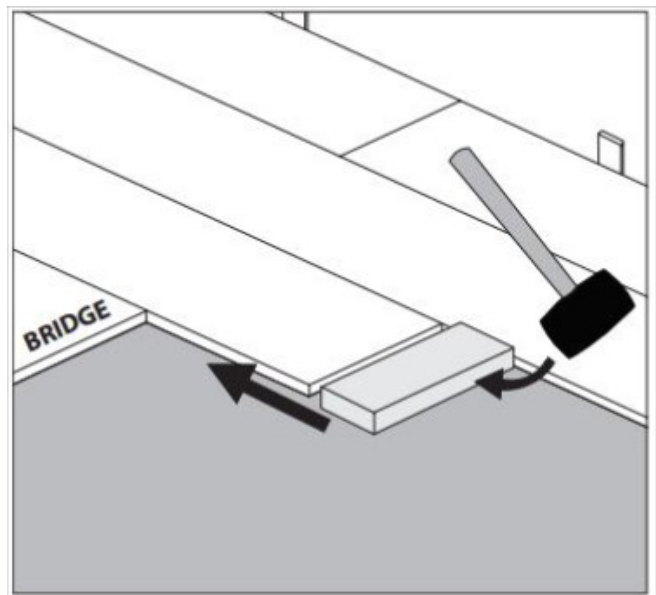


**FIG. 6**

Use a cut piece to start the second row. NOTE: End joint spacing must be at least 8" for all adjacent rows.

**FIG. 7**

Using a scrap piece (with a factory end joint) as a tapping block, tap the end of the plank to engage the locking system. Be cautious to not damage the locking profile when tapping. Continue installing until you reach the end of the row.



**FIG. 8**

At the end of the row, use a hammer and pull bar to engage the locking system of the final piece in the row. Install a spacer at the row end. Repeat this process until the final row of flooring. At the final row, use the hammer and pull bar to lock the long edges of the planks as well as the row ends. When completed, pull all spacers and double check to ensure there is the required expansion gap.

