Product	
Supplier	Flooring2
Product Type	Sheet Vinyl
Number	SS
Name	Strata

Sheet Vinyl Installation Guide (Glue-Down / Loose-Lay)

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Legal Disclaimers

> **IMPORTANT: READ BEFORE INSTALLATION**

Limitation of Liability
This guide provides general installation information only. We are not responsible for installation errors, product damage, personal injury, or property damage resulting from the use of this guide. Actual results depend on site conditions, installer skill, and adherence to all applicable codes and standards.

General Information Notice
This guide covers glue-down and loose-lay installation methods for sheet vinyl (resilient) flooring. Product specifications may vary between product lines.

Professional Consultation Recommended
Sheet vinyl installation requires specialized skills, especially for seaming and pattern matching. We recommend professional installation for rooms requiring seams or complex layouts.

Assumption of Risk
By proceeding with installation, you assume all risks associated with flooring installation, including but not limited to physical injury, property damage, and voiding of product warranties due to improper installation.

Safety Warnings

Regulatory Compliance

Before beginning any flooring installation, ensure compliance with:

- **OSHA Standards** - Follow workplace safety requirements (29 CFR 1926 for construction)
- **EPA Regulations** - Proper handling and disposal of materials
- **Building Codes** - Comply with International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC)
- **Lead Safety** - For structures built before 1978, follow EPA RRP Rule requirements
- **Asbestos Requirements** - For structures built before 1981, have existing flooring and adhesives tested before removal

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Equipment	When Required
Respiratory Protection	N95 mask when removing old flooring or working with adhesives
Eye Protection	Safety glasses during cutting and adhesive work
Hand Protection	Work gloves when handling materials, knives, and adhesives
Knee Protection	Knee pads for extended floor-level work

Health Hazards

> **Chemical Exposure:**
>
> - Work in well-ventilated areas when using adhesives and seam sealers
> - Review Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all chemical products
> - Store chemicals according to manufacturer guidelines
> - Wash hands thoroughly after handling adhesives
>
> **Physical Strain:**
>
> - Sheet vinyl rolls are heavy and awkward
> - Use proper lifting techniques
> - Work with a partner for large rolls
> - Take regular breaks during installation
>
> **Sharp Tools:**
>
> - Use extreme caution with hook blades and utility knives
> - Cut away from your body
> - Keep blades sharp to reduce required pressure

Emergency Procedures

Situation	Action
Adhesive Contact (Skin)	Wash immediately with soap and water for 15 minutes
Adhesive Contact (Eyes)	Flush with clean water for 15 minutes, seek medical attention
Cuts from Knife	Apply pressure, clean wound, seek medical attention for deep cuts
Back Strain	Stop work, apply ice, rest, seek medical attention if severe

Emergency Contacts:

- Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
- Local emergency services: 911

Pre-Installation Preparation

Tools and Materials Needed

Specialized Tools:

- □ Heavy-duty linoleum/vinyl knife with hook blades
- □ Straight edge (minimum 6 ft / 1.8 m)
- □ Seam roller
- □ Seam cutting tools (double-cut or recess scriber)
- □ Notched trowel (per adhesive specifications)
- □ 75-100 lb floor roller
- □ Heat gun (for working material in cold conditions)
- □ Scribing compass

Basic Tools:

- □ Tape measure (minimum 25 ft / 7.6 m)
- □ Chalk line
- □ Utility knife with extra blades
- □ Straight edge or T-square
- □ Pencil or marking tool
- □ Dividers or compass for pattern scribing

Materials:

- □ Sheet vinyl (include 10% extra for waste, pattern match, and seams)
- □ **Adhesive: Hold Fast HF99, MAPEI ECO 399 or MAPEI ECO 373** (for glue-down method)
- □ **Primer: Appropriate MAPEI primer for subfloor type**
- □ Seam sealer (per application requirements)
- □ Underlayment or patch/leveler (as required by subfloor)
- □ Double-sided tape (for perimeter loose-lay)

- □ Transition strips

Safety Equipment:

- □ Safety glasses
- □ Work gloves
- □ Knee pads
- □ Dust mask or respirator

Room Preparation

1. **Remove all furniture** - Clear the entire installation area
2. **Remove existing flooring** - Dispose of old materials properly
3. **Remove baseboards and transitions** - Label for reinstallation if reusing
4. **Remove toilet** - In bathrooms, for proper fitting
5. **Clean the subfloor** - Remove all debris, dust, old adhesive, and contaminants
6. **Undercut door frames** - Allow material to slide underneath
7. **Make template** - For complex rooms, create paper template first

Subfloor Requirements

IMPORTANT: CRITICAL RESTRICTION: Sheet vinyl is NOT approved for installation over particle board subfloors when using glue-down method. This restriction is absolute and cannot be waived.

Flatness Specification:

- Maximum variance: 3/16" over 10 feet (4.7 mm over 3 m)
- Sheet vinyl telegraphs every imperfection - preparation is critical
- Sand down high spots
- Fill low spots with Portland cement-based leveling compound

Acceptable Subfloor Types:

- □ Concrete (fully cured, minimum 60 days)
- □ Plywood (minimum 1/4" / 6 mm exterior grade; APA underlayment grade recommended)
- □ Gypsum (gypcrete, Gyp-Crete, or gypsum-based self-leveling underlayments) with a minimum PSI rating of 3000. When fully dry and cured. Approved primers and adhesives required.
- □ Existing vinyl flooring (single layer, fully bonded, no cushion back)
- □ Existing ceramic tile (filled and leveled)

NOT Acceptable:

- **Particle board (absolutely prohibited for glue-down)**
- Cushion-backed vinyl
- Multiple layers of existing vinyl
- Hardwood flooring (surface irregularities will telegraph)
- OSB (unless covered with approved underlayment)

Underlayment Requirements:

- New construction: 1/4" (5.2-6 mm) APA underlayment-grade plywood recommended
- Fill and sand all joints and fastener heads
- Do not use lauan with dark streaks (resin bleed-through)

Moisture Testing Requirements:

Subfloor Type	Test Method	Maximum Reading
Concrete	Calcium Chloride (CaCl)	3 lbs per 1,000 sq ft / 24 hrs
Concrete	Relative Humidity (RH)	85% RH
Wood	Pin-type moisture meter	12% moisture content

Climate Requirements

Required Conditions:

- Temperature: 65F - 85F (18C - 29C)
- Relative Humidity: 35% - 55% RH
- Maintain conditions 48 hours before, during, and after installation

Material Conditioning:

- Unroll sheet vinyl and lay flat for 24-48 hours in installation area
- This allows material to relax and flatten
- Cold material is stiff and difficult to work
- Condition adhesive to room temperature as well

Adhesive Requirements (Glue-Down Method)

REQUIRED PRODUCTS - NO SUBSTITUTIONS

Required Products

Product	Specification
Adhesive	Hold Fast HF99, MAPEI ECO 399 or MAPEI ECO 373
Primer	Appropriate MAPEI primer for subfloor type
Application	Troweled only (rolling NOT permitted)

Application Method

1. **Apply primer first** - Allow to dry completely per MAPEI specifications
2. **Trowel adhesive** - Use recommended notch trowel size
3. **Do NOT roll adhesive** - Troweling is required
4. **Follow open time guidelines** - Per HoldFast/MAPEI technical data sheets
5. **Spread manageable sections** - Only what you can cover within working time

WARNING: Using non-approved adhesives or improper application methods will void the product warranty.

Installation Methods

Method 1: Full-Spread Glue-Down

Best For: High-traffic areas, commercial installations, and maximum stability

Requirements:

- Clean, properly prepared subfloor
- Hold Fast HF99, MAPEI ECO 399 or ECO 373 adhesive
- Appropriate MAPEI primer

Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Create Template (Complex Rooms)

- Use heavy paper or felt paper to create room template
- Trace around all obstacles, corners, and edges
- Transfer template to sheet vinyl for accurate cutting
- For simple rooms, measure and cut directly

Step 2: Rough Cut Material

- Add 3" (7.5 cm) extra to all edges
- Allow material to relax after cutting
- Verify pattern alignment if applicable

Step 3: Position and Fit

- Position sheet in room with excess running up walls
- Make relief cuts at corners for flat lay
- Trim excess to approximately 1" (2.5 cm) at walls
- Fit around obstacles (toilets, cabinets, etc.)

Step 4: Scribe and Trim Edges

- Use compass/scribing tool set to 1" (2.5 cm)
- Trace wall contours onto vinyl surface
- Cut along scribed line
- Material should fit tight to walls with minimal gap

Step 5: Apply Adhesive

- Fold back half of the sheet
- Apply primer and allow to dry
- Trowel adhesive with proper notched trowel
- Allow adhesive to tack per Hold Fast/MAPEI guidelines

Step 6: Set Material Into Adhesive

- Carefully roll material onto adhesive
- Work from center outward to remove air
- Roll with 75-100 lb roller in both directions
- Repeat for second half
- Roll entire floor again after both halves set

Method 2: Perimeter-Bond (Modified Loose-Lay)

Best For: Residential applications, smaller rooms, easier DIY installation

Requirements:

- Clean, smooth subfloor
- Adhesive or double-sided tape for perimeter
- Material rated for perimeter-bond installation

Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Prepare and Fit Material

- Same as full-spread Steps 1-4
- Material must be perfectly flat and relaxed

Step 2: Final Fit

- Position sheet exactly as it will be installed
- Verify all edges fit properly
- Material should lay completely flat

Step 3: Apply Perimeter Adhesive

- Fold back edges 8-12" (20-30 cm)
- Apply adhesive or double-sided tape around perimeter
- Apply at all seams if applicable
- Apply around transitions and thresholds

Step 4: Set Perimeter

- Press material into adhesive around edges
- Use hand roller to ensure bond
- Allow adhesive to set per MAPEI guidelines

Step 5: Finish

- Install transitions and thresholds
- Reinstall baseboards (press firmly against vinyl)
- Silicone caulk at tubs, toilets, and wet areas

Method 3: Full Loose-Lay

Best For: Temporary installations, products specifically rated for loose-lay

Requirements:

- Material designed and rated for loose-lay
- Perfectly flat subfloor
- Minimal foot traffic

> **Note:** Full loose-lay is only suitable for certain products and applications. Verify product is rated for loose-lay before proceeding.

Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Prepare and Fit

- Same as other methods
- Critical that subfloor is perfectly flat

Step 2: Position

- Place material in final position

- No adhesive required
- Material weight holds it in place

Step 3: Secure at Transitions

- Install transition strips to hold edges
- Use baseboards to secure perimeter
- May use double-sided tape at doorways

Seaming Sheet Vinyl

> **Note:** Seaming requires specialized skills. Consider professional installation for seamed floors.

When Seams Are Required

- Room width exceeds material width (typically 6' or 12')
- Pattern matching requirements
- Complex room layouts

Seaming Methods

Double-Cut Seaming:

1. Overlap sheets 1-2" (2.5-5 cm)
2. Cut through both layers simultaneously
3. Remove waste strips
4. Butt edges together and seal

Recess Scribe Seaming:

1. Overlap sheets with pattern aligned
2. Scribe top sheet to match bottom
3. Cut along scribed line
4. Remove waste and butt edges

Seam Sealing

- Apply seam sealer to all seams
- Use appropriate seam sealer
- Sealer prevents moisture penetration and edge lifting
- Allow sealer to cure completely before traffic

Finishing Touches

Transition Installation

Transition Type	Use Case
Flat bar	Between vinyl and same-height flooring
Reducer	Transition to lower flooring
Metal edge	Exposed edges at doorways
Cove stick	Wall base in commercial applications

Final Steps

1. **Roll entire floor** - With 75-100 lb roller in both directions
2. **Clean floor** - Remove any adhesive residue immediately
3. **Inspect seams** - Verify all seams are sealed and flat
4. **Install transitions** - Secure to subfloor
5. **Reinstall baseboards** - Press firmly against floor
6. **Caulk wet areas** - Silicone around tubs, toilets, sinks
7. **Replace furniture** - Use felt pads or furniture cups

Traffic Restrictions

- **Light foot traffic:** 24 hours for glue-down, immediate for loose-lay
- **Normal use:** 48 hours for glue-down
- **Heavy furniture:** 48-72 hours (use furniture pads)
- **Rolling loads:** 72 hours minimum for glue-down

Room-Specific Considerations

Kitchens

- Sheet vinyl is excellent for kitchens
- Full-spread adhesive recommended for heavy appliance areas
- Leave expansion gap at dishwasher for removal
- Seal edges around sink base

Bathrooms

- Full-spread adhesive is best for moisture resistance
- Remove toilet and reinstall over finished floor
- Caulk around toilet base, tub, and shower
- Ensure proper ventilation to prevent moisture damage

Basements

- Conduct thorough moisture testing
- Moisture mitigation may be required
- Full-spread adhesive with moisture barrier primer
- Products must be rated for below-grade

Laundry Rooms

- Similar to bathroom considerations
- Full-spread adhesive recommended
- Provide access to water supply valves
- Consider floor drain requirements

Commercial Areas

- Full-spread adhesive required
- Seal all seams properly
- Consider maintenance and cleaning protocols
- May require commercial-grade products

Radiant Heat Systems

Pre-Installation Requirements:

- Hydronic radiant heat systems only
- Maximum surface temperature: 85F (29C)
- System operating for 2 weeks prior to installation
- Reduce temperature to 65F (18C) 5 days before installation

Post-Installation:

- Gradually increase temperature (5F / 2.8C per day max)
- Monitor for bubbling or edge lifting

Quality Control Checklist

Pre-Installation

- □ Subfloor is NOT particle board (glue-down method)
- □ Subfloor flatness verified (3/16" over 10 ft maximum)
- □ All imperfections filled and sanded smooth
- □ Moisture testing completed and documented
- □ Material conditioned in room (24-48 hours)
- □ Environmental conditions verified (65-85F, 35-55% RH)
- □ Pattern direction planned
- □ Seam locations determined
- □ All materials and tools on site

During Installation

- □ Primer applied and dried (glue-down)
- □ Adhesive troweled properly (NOT rolled)
- □ Proper open/tack time observed
- □ Material fit verified before final adhesive
- □ Air bubbles worked out
- □ Floor rolled with 75-100 lb roller
- □ Seams cut accurately and sealed
- □ Edges fit tight to walls

Final Inspection

- □ No bubbles or blisters
- □ No wrinkles or lifted edges
- □ Seams flat and properly sealed
- □ No adhesive residue on surface
- □ Transitions installed
- □ Baseboards reinstalled
- □ Wet area caulking complete
- □ Floor clean and ready for use

Troubleshooting

Bubbles or Blisters

Cause: Air trapped during installation or outgassing from subfloor

Solution:

- While adhesive is wet: roll firmly toward nearest edge
- After adhesive sets: puncture bubble with pin, inject adhesive, roll flat

Prevention:

- Roll immediately after placing material
- Work from center outward
- Use proper roller weight

Edge Lifting

Cause: Insufficient adhesive at edges, moisture exposure, or poor seam sealing

Solution:

- Re-adhere lifted edges with appropriate adhesive
- Seal all seams and edges in moisture-prone areas

Prevention:

- Ensure full adhesive coverage at edges
- Seal all seams and wet-area perimeters

Telegraphing (Subfloor Shows Through)

Cause: Subfloor imperfections not addressed

Solution:

- Material must be removed
- Repair subfloor and reinstall

Prevention:

- Sheet vinyl shows EVERY subfloor defect
- Fill, sand, and verify flatness before installation
- Use proper underlayment

Shrinkage or Gaps

Cause: Material installed cold, excessive tension, or temperature changes

Solution:

- May require removal and replacement
- Fill minor gaps with seam sealer (temporary)

Prevention:

- Acclimate material properly
- Do not stretch during installation
- Maintain consistent room temperature

Yellowing Under Rubber-Backed Mats

Cause: Chemical reaction between rubber and vinyl

Solution:

- Yellowing is usually permanent
- May fade with time and UV exposure

Prevention:

- Use only colorfast, non-staining rugs and mats
- Avoid rubber-backed mats entirely

Professional vs DIY

DIY May Be Suitable For

- Single-piece installations (no seams)
- Small rooms under 150 sq ft
- Simple rectangular layouts
- Loose-lay or perimeter-bond methods
- DIYers with renovation experience

Professional Installation Required For

- Rooms requiring seams
- Pattern-matched materials
- Complex room layouts
- Commercial installations
- Large areas (300+ sq ft)
- When warranty requires professional installation
- Glue-down installations without prior experience

Care and Maintenance

Daily Care

- Sweep or dust mop to remove loose dirt
- Wipe up spills immediately
- Use walk-off mats at entrances

Regular Cleaning

- Damp mop with neutral pH cleaner
- Use neutral pH cleaners
- Avoid excess water
- Do not use abrasive scrub pads

Products to Avoid

- Steam cleaners
- Wax or acrylic polish (unless specifically approved)
- Abrasive cleaners
- Harsh chemicals (acetone, bleach)
- Rubber-backed mats

Periodic Maintenance

- Strip and re-polish as needed (commercial)
- Check seams for lifting or separation
- Inspect caulking in wet areas annually
- Address damage promptly

Additional Resources

Industry Associations

- Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI)
- World Floor Covering Association (WFCA)
- Floor Covering Installation Contractors Association (FCICA)

Certification Programs

- CFI Certified Flooring Installers
- INSTALL Flooring Certification

Warranty Information

See separate warranty brochure for complete warranty terms and conditions.

This installation guide is provided for general reference. Always consult local building codes before installation.