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# LVT GLUEDOWN INSTALLATION GUIDE

Comprehensive Instructions for Dryback Luxury Vinyl Tile & Plank Flooring

**Professional Quality Flooring from Flooring Monster**

Your trusted online retailer for premium LVT solutions

## ■ IMPORTANT NOTICE

Flooring Monster is a retailer of quality flooring products manufactured by leading brands. This guide contains essential information for a successful, long-lasting installation. Proper subfloor preparation, correct acclimatisation, and following adhesive manufacturer instructions are critical. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in installation failure and could affect your warranty claim with the manufacturer. We strongly recommend professional installation if you are unsure.

Document Reference: FM-LVT-INST-2026 | June 2026

Applicable Standards: BS 8203:2017, BS 8204

## QUICK START: INSTALLATION AT A GLANCE

Follow these key steps in order. This overview helps you stay on track. Full details are in the sections that follow. Print this page as a handy reference during installation.

### ■ THE 5 GOLDEN RULES — NEVER SKIP THESE

1. **Test moisture** — Hygrometer RH must be  $\leq 75\%$  (72-hour test). If higher, install surface DPM first.
2. **Acclimatise properly** — Minimum 48 hours at stable 18–27°C in the actual installation room. Shade south-facing windows.
3. **Prepare subfloor correctly** — Clean, dry, level (max 5mm deviation over 2m), structurally sound + minimum 3mm smoothing compound where required.
4. **Roll thoroughly** — Use a 68kg articulated floor roller in both directions on every section (except perimeter until cuts are done).
5. **Retain records & spares** — Keep 3 spare planks/tiles from the batch + your receipt, photos of subfloor, and installation date for warranty.

## STEP-BY-STEP FLOW

### Step 1: Inspect & Prepare

Check delivery for damage/batch consistency. Inspect every tile/plank for defects. Remove all old coverings and contaminants. Test moisture (hygrometer 72 hrs). Make subfloor level and apply smoothing compound + primer if needed. Vacuum thoroughly.

### Step 2: Acclimatise (Critical)

Store boxes flat indoors. Condition tiles/planks + adhesive at constant 18–27°C for minimum **48 hours** (72 hrs if cold delivery) in the room where they will be installed. Do not stack >5 boxes high. Shade windows if strong sunlight.

### Step 3: Plan & Set Out

Dry-lay a section first to check appearance, pattern flow, and directional arrows (if any). Decide starting point (usually room centre or longest straight wall). For planks: stagger joints, keep end cuts  $\geq 150\text{mm}$ , avoid short pieces at walls where possible.

### Step 4: Apply Adhesive

Section the floor into manageable areas matching the adhesive open time. Use the correct notch trowel. Spread evenly — do not spread more than you can lay promptly. For PSA adhesives, flatten ridges if needed with pre-wetted roller.

### Step 5: Lay & Roll

Place tiles/planks into the adhesive while tacky. Press firmly. Once a section is laid (except perimeter), immediately roll thoroughly in both directions with a minimum 68kg articulated roller. Leave last row/perimeter cuts until all main field is done, then fit them last.

### Step 6: Post-Install Care

Protect from traffic for adhesive cure time (min 24 hrs typical). For UFH: keep system off & cool for 48 hrs after install, then ramp temperature gradually by 3–5°C per day to max 27°C at adhesive line. No wet cleaning for at least 7 days. Use furniture pads and walk-off mats from day one.

*Tip: Keep this guide open or print the first two pages. If anything is unclear or your subfloor is unusual (e.g. anhydrite, old asphalt, underfloor heating), contact Flooring Monster before proceeding.*

# 1. PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Thank you for choosing Flooring Monster LVT. To ensure the best possible result and to protect your investment, please read and follow this guide in full. Correct installation starts long before the first plank is laid.

## 1.1 Receipt & Inspection

- Upon delivery, **immediately inspect all boxes** for damage in transit. Note any damage on the delivery note and contact Flooring Monster within 48 hours.
- Check that colours, designs, and quantities match your order. Verify batch numbers are consistent if a single batch was requested.
- **Inspect individual tiles/planks** for visible defects before installation. Defects apparent at the time of installation are not covered under warranty once laid.
- **Retain at least three spare planks/tiles** from the original batch for potential future matching or testing. Store them flat in a safe, dry place.

## 1.2 Storage & Acclimatisation (Critical)

The majority of LVT installation failures are caused by **incorrect conditioning** rather than poor fitting. Vinyl is a temperature-sensitive material and must acclimatise to the installation environment.

- Store boxes **flat** (never on edge) in dry indoor conditions, away from direct sunlight, heat sources, and cold draughts.
- Maintain the flooring, adhesive, and subfloor preparation products at a **constant temperature between 18°C and 27°C** for a **minimum of 48 hours** prior to installation. The conditioning area should be the room where the floor will be installed.
- Stack boxes no more than **5 high** during conditioning. Open boxes and remove planks/tiles 30 minutes before use if required by adhesive instructions.
- If material has been stored or delivered below 10°C, increase conditioning time to **at least 72 hours**.
- **Temperature must remain stable** — fluctuations of more than 2°C during conditioning or installation can cause issues. In rooms with large south-facing or full-height windows (including bi-fold/patio doors), conservatories, or orangeries, **shade windows** during conditioning, installation, and for 24 hours after completion.
- Maintain these temperature and humidity conditions (ideally 35-65% RH) for at least **72 hours after installation** for optimal adhesive cure and product performance.

**KEY REQUIREMENT:** Installation conditions must comply with BS 8203:2017. The minimum subfloor temperature should be 10°C.

## 2. SITE CONDITIONS & SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Proper subfloor preparation is **the single most important factor** for a successful, long-lasting LVT gluedown installation. Moisture, unevenness, and poor adhesion are the leading causes of failure (debonding, telegraphing, buckling).

### 2.1 General Requirements

The subfloor must be **clean, dry, level, and structurally sound**. All contaminants (oil, grease, paint, adhesive residues, dust, dirt, curing agents, surface hardeners) must be removed before installation.

- **Surface Regularity:** Must not deviate more than **5mm over a 2m straight edge**. For intricate LVT patterns or large format tiles, a stricter tolerance of **3mm over 2m** is strongly recommended.
- Use a slip gauge or accurate measuring device under a 2m straight edge. High spots should be ground or planed; hollows filled with a suitable smoothing compound.
- After preparation, vacuum thoroughly and check for any remaining contaminants that could impair adhesion.

### 2.2 Moisture & Damp Control (Most Critical)

**Moisture is the most common cause of LVT installation failure. It leads to adhesive breakdown, debonding, and in some cases, mould or structural issues. Never install over a damp subfloor.**

- **All subfloors must be tested** using a calibrated hygrometer over a minimum 72-hour period in accordance with BS 8203:2017. Installation should only proceed if the **relative humidity (RH) is 75% or lower**.
- **New concrete/screed:** Drying times vary significantly. As a guide, allow **one month per 25mm thickness for the first 50mm**. Greater thicknesses require proportionally longer (e.g., a 150mm slab drying from one face may take up to 12 months). Always test rather than relying on time alone.
- If RH exceeds 75%, or if there is any doubt about rising moisture, apply a suitable **surface damp-proof membrane (DPM)** before proceeding with smoothing compound and installation.
- Wooden subfloors (evaluated with pin-type moisture meter) should have a moisture content of **13% or less**.

### 2.3 Specific Subfloor Types

In all cases where a smoothing compound is required, apply a **minimum 3mm thickness** of a cementitious smoothing underlayment suitable for the end use and subfloor construction. Consult the smoothing compound manufacturer for the correct product and any required primer.

#### 2.3.1 Concrete & Screed (BS 8204)

Must incorporate an effective DPM. If absent, damaged, or suspect, apply a surface DPM. In all instances, apply a minimum 3mm smoothing compound prior to LVT installation. The smoothing underlayment supplier will advise on suitable products and primers for your specific construction.

#### 2.3.2 Power-Floated Concrete

If laid directly to ground, an effective DPM is essential. Power-floated finishes are dense and impervious, making adhesion difficult. Shot-blast the surface to remove the top layer and make good. Then apply minimum 3mm smoothing compound. **Do not use curing agents or surface hardeners** with power-floated concrete.

#### 2.3.3 Mastic Asphalt

**Ensure minimum 15-20mm thickness brought to a wooden float finish. Apply minimum 3mm smoothing compound using a product specifically recommended for asphalt floors, with suitable primer key coat if directed. NEVER adhere LVT directly onto mastic asphalt.**

#### 2.3.4 Magnesite

Highly absorbent composition floors (magnesium oxychloride or PVA/cement). If laid directly to ground without effective DPM, they are prone to breakdown when overlaid with impervious LVT. In such cases, manufacturers recommend uplifting and relaying with a proper DPM. Always apply suitable smoothing compound and primer.

#### 2.3.5 Terrazzo, Quarry & Ceramic Tiles

Dense, hard, normally impervious surfaces. Ensure floor is sound and firmly fixed. Remove loose/powdery material from joints. Thoroughly wash/degrease to remove contaminants. Clean out and fill cracks with suitable resin-bonded cement/sand mix. Mechanical abrasion may be needed for key. Apply minimum 3mm smoothing compound in all cases.

#### 2.3.6 Gypsum, Anhydrite & Calcium Sulphate Screeds

These can be difficult to identify — if in doubt, check with adhesive or subfloor preparation manufacturer before starting. Always test for moisture. These screeds are susceptible to laitance and moisture in the smoothing compound, leading to

bond failure. Mechanically abrade and fully remove any laitance. **Require a special primer** before installation. Discuss with an approved adhesive manufacturer beforehand. Note: Failures on these substrates are often below the vinyl; manufacturers may not accept responsibility if advice was not sought.

**IMPORTANT: If a failure occurs on anhydrite/gypsum/calcium sulphate screeds, it is normally below the floorcovering and manufacturers will not accept responsibility unless their guidance was followed.**

### 2.3.7 Expansion Joints

Expansion joints must extend through the floorcovering. Use proprietary expansion joint covers designed for vinyl (vinyl with flexible section welded to LVT, or aluminium/PVC combinations with flexible insert). **Do not fill expansion joints with sealant or smoothing underlayment** — this will lead to failure.

### 2.3.8 Timber Substrates (New)

New suspended timber floors should use flooring-grade plywood or chipboard manufactured for flooring, with joist spacing per manufacturer's recommendations for the board thickness.

### 2.3.9 Chipboard (Structural/Load-Bearing & Floating)

Overlay with flooring-grade plywood conforming to EN 636-3 and EN 314-2 Class 3, minimum **5.5mm thick**. Plywood must be conditioned on-site (loose laid or stacked in service conditions) for at least 3 days prior to fixing. Do not overlay if moisture content exceeds 7% in chipboard or plywood (electrical resistance meter). For joist centres up to 450mm: 18mm load-bearing chipboard. For 610mm centres: 22mm chipboard. All chipboard to EN 312, P4-P7 grade. Lay plywood half-bonded over chipboard joints, screw or nail fixed (see existing wooden floors for fixing schedule).

### 2.3.10 Existing Wooden Floors

Preservative treatments can cause poor bonding — do not lay directly if treated. Nail loose boards firmly, replace damaged ones. Sand high spots, fill hollows/cracks with flexible underlayment. Overlay with minimum **5.5mm flooring-grade plywood** (EN 636-3 / EN 314-2 Class 3). Sheets laid with staggered joints. Fix with annular ring shank nails (min 20mm) or countersunk screws at 100mm centres along edges (12mm from edge) and 150mm centres throughout. Perimeter fixings max 18mm from board edges. Condition plywood as above. **Critical for ground-level suspended timber: ensure excellent ventilation** via air bricks — impervious covering without ventilation risks dry rot.

### 2.3.11 Woodblocks / Granwood

Even if appearing sound, overlaying impervious LVT on direct-to-earth woodblock can cause expansion and lifting. **Manufacturers recommend removal** and bringing the subfloor to the required standard.

### 2.3.12 Metal Floors

Typically steel; may have rust, oil, grease. Thoroughly degrease, abrade or wire brush to remove rust/oxidation. Grind high spots if necessary. In most cases (unless excessive flex/movement), apply minimum 3mm cementitious smoothing compound with appropriate primer. Consult smoothing compound supplier.

### 2.3.13 Painted or Epoxy-Coated Floors

Epoxy and polyurethane coatings should preferably be removed (grinding/blasting) to prevent future breakdown. Painted floors impair adhesion and should be removed mechanically (grinding, blasting, or scabbling if difficult). If epoxy is well-bonded, grinding/blasting to provide key may allow proceeding, followed by 3mm smoothing compound and primer if recommended.

### 2.3.14 Existing Floor Coverings

**Unless specifically approved in product literature, LVT should never be laid over existing floor coverings. Uplift all existing coverings and remove as much old adhesive as possible. On very old floors, be aware of possible asbestos — contact Flooring Monster for guidance. Recycle removed material if uncontaminated. Apply minimum 3mm smoothing compound over the whole floor. After uplifting from plywood underlay, replacement of plywood is usually necessary. After uplifting from suspended chipboard/hardboard/plywood, overlay with min 5.5mm plywood as described above. Failure to remove sufficient adhesive can cause premature underlayment failure.**

### 2.3.15 Access Planks / Tiles

If access is no longer required, and planks/tiles are sound and level, overlay with minimum 5.5mm plywood, adequately fixed. Use smoothing compound to fill joints and hollows.

## 2.4 Subfloor Conditions Summary

The subfloor must be free of any contaminants (oil, paint, preservatives, permanent marker, etc.) that may impair adhesion. Good lighting is essential during preparation and installation. As best practice, record moisture test results and

method used.

### 3. UNDERFLOOR HEATING (UFH)

Flooring Monster LVT is suitable for use with electric and water-based underfloor heating systems when installed correctly. The maximum permitted temperature at the adhesive line / subfloor is **27°C** in normal operation.

- The UFH system must be **fully tested and commissioned** before flooring installation begins.
  - Switch off the UFH system and allow the subfloor to **fully cool for a minimum of 48 hours** prior to installation. The system must remain off and fully cooled during installation and for a minimum of 48 hours afterwards.
  - After the 48-hour post-installation period, bring the temperature back up **gradually in increments of 3–5°C per day** until the maximum operating temperature of 27°C (adhesive line) is reached. Do not exceed this limit.
  - **Alternative approach (if recommended by adhesive manufacturer):** It may be acceptable to turn the system down to a maximum adhesive line/subfloor temperature of 12–15°C for 48 hours prior to installation instead of switching off completely. Confirm with your adhesive supplier.
- **Only use specialist high-temperature or epoxy adhesives in areas with UFH, direct sunlight, or high solar gain. Contact your adhesive manufacturer for specific recommendations. Standard adhesives may soften or fail at elevated temperatures.**

## 4. ADHESIVE SELECTION & INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

### 4.1 Adhesive Selection

Use only high-quality adhesives specifically recommended by a reputable manufacturer for gluedown LVT on your particular subfloor type and conditions. Flooring Monster recommends adhesives from established brands such as F. Ball, Uzin, Bostik, Mapei, or equivalent approved products. Always follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for storage, mixing, trowel notch size, open time, and application — these can vary between products and change over time.

- For standard conditions: Pressure-sensitive adhesives (PSA) or suitable vinyl adhesives are commonly used.
- For UFH, direct sunlight, high temperature fluctuations, or high solar gain areas: **Specialist high-temperature polyurethane or epoxy adhesives** are required.
- *The legal responsibility for adhesive performance lies with the adhesive manufacturer. Using an unapproved adhesive is at the installer's own risk and may void the LVT warranty.*

### 4.2 Setting Out

- **Dry lay** a section of the floor first to check pattern appearance, colour distribution, graining/texture alignment, and overall aesthetics. Adjust as necessary before applying adhesive.
- Some designs are directional — check for arrows on the reverse of planks/tiles and box instructions. Alternate direction or 'shuffle' tiles if needed to avoid heavy/light areas.
- Traditionally, start from the **centre of the room**. For irregular rooms, it may be better to square up from the longest wall or a prominent feature.
- **For planks:** Stagger end joints to achieve a random appearance. Ensure plank ends are **not within 150mm of adjacent plank ends**. Minimum cut length at ends/walls: **150mm**. Avoid ending rows with very short planks where possible.

### 4.3 Spreading Adhesive & Laying — Numbered Steps

Follow these steps in sequence for best results:

1. **Section the area** — Divide the floor into workable zones that match the adhesive's open time. Never spread more adhesive than you can cover promptly.
2. **Spread the adhesive** — Use the exact notch trowel size recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Apply evenly. Replace any worn trowel immediately (notch wear = poor coverage and bond failure).
3. **Flatten ridges if needed (PSA adhesives)** — For pressure-sensitive adhesives, lightly roll serrated ridges flat with a lambswool roller lightly pre-wetted with adhesive to avoid 'grin-through' after final rolling.
4. **Lay the tiles/planks** — Place each piece into the adhesive while it is still within the open/tacky time. Press down firmly. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's open time strictly — do not rush or exceed it.
5. **Roll immediately** — As soon as a full section (except the final perimeter) is laid, roll it thoroughly in **both directions** using a minimum **68 kg articulated floor roller**. This ensures full adhesive transfer and a strong, void-free bond. Repeat for every section.
6. **Fit the perimeter last** — Leave the final row and all perimeter cuts without adhesive until the main field is complete and all cutting is done. Then apply adhesive to the perimeter area and fit the cut pieces. This avoids adhesive skinning and ensures accurate cuts.

■ **Always read and follow the specific adhesive manufacturer's application instructions carefully, especially for absorbent vs non-absorbent subfloors and temperature-sensitive conditions. These can vary between brands.**

## 5. POST-INSTALLATION, CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

### 5.1 Immediately After Installation

- Protect the new floor from traffic for the period recommended by the adhesive manufacturer (typically minimum 24 hours, longer for some systems).
- For UFH installations: Wait the full 48 hours with system off and cooled, then ramp temperature gradually as described in the Underfloor Heating section.
- Do not wet-wash or scrub the floor for at least **7 days** after installation (or longer if advised by adhesive manufacturer) to allow full cure.
- Avoid dragging heavy appliances or furniture across the floor. Use hardboard/plywood sheets and a hand dolly or furniture sliders.

### 5.2 Cleaning & Routine Maintenance

- Maintain the installed floor at temperatures between **12°C and 27°C** throughout its service life.
- **Do not use steam cleaners — they can cause delamination and are not covered under warranty.**
- Clean up spills and water immediately to prevent slips and long-term damage. LVT can withstand short periods of water exposure (e.g. washing machine leaks) but should not be immersed or flooded for extended periods. **Not suitable for wetroom installations.**
- For routine cleaning: Use a soft brush, vacuum cleaner, or spray mop with a **neutral pH cleaner** approved for resilient/vinyl flooring. Always squeeze out excess water from mops/cloths before use.
- Immediately remove any aggressive or stain-forming substances (solvents, nail polish remover, etc.) from the surface.
- Place walk-off mats at all entrances to protect from grit, sand, grease, and water.
- Use wide floor protectors / felt pads under tables, chairs, and heavy furniture. Avoid narrow or hard feet that can cause indentation.
- Roller castor chairs must have undamaged **'Type W' castors** specifically designed for resilient flooring.
- During peak sunlight hours, use UV protection film, blinds, or curtains to minimise discolouration and temperature fluctuations from direct sunlight.

### 5.3 Scratch & Damage Prevention

Take precautions when moving heavy objects. Use protective boards or plywood paths. Furniture glides and felt protectors help prevent scratches and indentations. Prolonged direct sunlight can cause discolouration and stress — shading is recommended.

## 6. WARRANTY, HOMEOWNER & INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure the longevity of your floor and to support any warranty claim with the manufacturer, the following responsibilities apply:

### 6.1 Installer / Homeowner Responsibilities

- Flooring must be installed **exactly as described** in this guide and in accordance with BS 8203:2017 and adhesive manufacturer instructions.
- Only use vinyl-safe cleaning products approved for resilient flooring. Never use abrasive cleaners, solvents, or steam cleaners.
- **Retain three spare planks/tiles** from the original installation batch for potential product testing or matching.
- Keep your purchase receipt, delivery records, installation date, and photographs of the subfloor preparation and installation for warranty purposes.
- Avoid alterations that may compromise the installation, such as gluing additional layers or pinning mouldings through the floor in a way that restricts movement (where applicable).
- For floating installations (if relevant to your product), do not glue planks down or restrict natural movement.

### 6.2 Warranty Claims & Complaints

Flooring Monster is a retailer, not the manufacturer. **Warranty claims for manufacturing defects should be directed to the product manufacturer in the first instance**, following their specific claims process (usually requires proof of purchase, installation photos, and retained spare planks).

• **Defects that are clearly identifiable must not be installed. Laying the floor constitutes acceptance of the product condition.**

- If you are unsure how to make a claim or need assistance coordinating with the manufacturer, please contact Flooring Monster support at [support@flooringmonster.com](mailto:support@flooringmonster.com). We are happy to help guide you.
- Issues caused by incorrect installation, subfloor problems, local site conditions, or failure to follow this guide are the responsibility of the installer/homeowner and are not covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

#### SUMMARY — KEYS TO SUCCESS

1. **Subfloor** — Clean, dry (RH ≤75%), level (≤5mm/2m or 3mm for intricate), sound, with appropriate DPM and minimum 3mm smoothing compound where required.
2. **Conditioning** — Minimum 48 hours at stable 18–27°C in the installation area.
3. **Adhesive** — Use only reputable, approved adhesives suitable for your conditions; follow manufacturer instructions exactly, including rolling.
4. **UFH & Environment** — Respect temperature limits and ramp-up procedures.
5. **Protection & Maintenance** — Protect from heavy traffic initially, use proper protectors and mats, clean appropriately, avoid steam and prolonged water exposure.

Following these guidelines will give you a beautiful, durable floor for years to come. If you have any questions during installation, contact Flooring Monster customer support for advice.

Thank you for choosing Flooring Monster.  
We are committed to helping you achieve a perfect installation.