

ELEMENTAL

LVT DRYBACK FLOORING

BY ASPECTA

DRYBACK LVT

# PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION MANUAL

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT SUPERSEDES ALL PRINTED AND ELECTRONIC INSTALLATION DOCUMENTS PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED FOR ELEMENTAL™ FLOORING.

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## INTRODUCTION

Elemental™ dryback LVT/LVP (luxury vinyl tile/plank) is a high-performance, “dryback” (glue-down) flooring product, designed for permanent installations using the full-spread professional installation method, applied with an appropriate recommended adhesive.

This document will provide you with information to help you assess the jobsite conditions, select quality subfloor preparation materials, and ensure that your work is completed to the highest of standards. Good preparation, communication between all parties, and attention to detail when following instructions are key to a successful installation.

This document provides information and guidance based upon years of collective experience and best industry practices. Elemental™ should only be installed by professional flooring installers that have demonstrated successful installations of jobs in similar size and scope. For the most secure warranty protection, Elemental™ flooring should be installed in strict accordance with the information and procedures outlined in this document. It is highly recommended that you review this document entirely before starting an Elemental™ flooring installation.

It is important to avoid problems from the outset. If you are unsure of any information provided in this document or are having a problem with your installation, please stop your work and contact your local distributor or Elemental™ Customer Service for additional guidance. Elemental™ Customer Service can be reached by phone at: +31(0)881662500, from Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by email: [info@elementalbyaspecta.com](mailto:info@elementalbyaspecta.com)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The key to a successful and trouble-free installation is thorough preparation. Do not install Elemental™ flooring without first performing a thorough on-site evaluation (including jobsite testing), ensuring that subfloor preparations are finished, and that the work of all other trades has been completed. Site conditions must comply with the information provided within this document. When installing Elemental™ flooring, always use best practices and follow the applicable standards for the installation of floorcoverings, such as BS 8203 in the UK and VOB, Part C, DIN 18365 in Germany and all other relevant European, national and local standards.

- Elemental™ dryback LVT/LVP is available in different sizes and formats. Note: Be aware that some Elemental™ products are square edge and some are micro-beveled.
- Elemental™ dryback is intended for interior use only and is suitable for above-grade, on-grade and below-grade applications. However, Elemental™ should not be installed in locations where the substrate beneath the building structure is exposed to the elements.
- Elemental™ dryback is not recommended for exterior installations or for use in areas that are not climate-controlled.
- Elemental™ dryback is recommended for the use over properly prepared concrete, suspended wood, metal and other suitable substrates.
- Acclimate flooring, adhesives, and the job-site: only install Elemental™ in climate-controlled structures consistently maintained at temperatures between 15°C - 30°C (65°-85°F) and 35%-85% RH a minimum of 48 hours before, all times during, and continuously after installation.
- Protect Elemental™ from foot traffic for 24 hours after installation, allowing full bonding and drying of the glue. Do not wash Elemental™ flooring for five days after installation.

## JOBSITE INSPECTION AND TESTING

Prior to installation, plan and attend an on-site construction meeting with the General Contractor, Architect, and Property Owner to review all requirements and inspect site conditions as outlined in this document and any relevant building codes or national regulations. Flooring installation should not begin until all site conditions have been assessed, testing has been completed, the subfloor has been prepared, and all conditions are in compliance. Defects should be addressed immediately and corrected before installing Elemental™ Flooring. **Installation of material constitutes acceptance of all conditions!**

1. The building construction or area of application must be completely finished before jobsite testing can begin. This includes: windows, doors, roofing, walls, etc.
2. Interior environmental conditions must be maintained at 15°C - 30°C (65°-85°F) and 35% - 85% RH a minimum of 48 hours before testing and at all times during testing
3. Plan, prepare, and protect the substrate moisture test-sites for the duration of the testing in order to achieve valid results.
4. Subfloor flatness for all substrates shall not exceed 4 mm in 3 meters (3/16" in 10 ft.).

## MATERIAL RECEIVING, HANDLING AND STORAGE

1. Upon receipt, immediately remove any shrink-wrap and check material for damage, and that the material is of the correct style (article number), color, quantity, and run number(s).
2. Immediately report any discrepancies.
3. General Storage: Store all materials flat and off of the floor in an acclimatized, weather-tight space between 15°C - 30°C (65°-85°F ). Do not double-stack pallets.
4. Jobsite: Acclimate Elemental™ material and adhesives in the acclimatized jobsite between 15°C - 29°C (65°-85°F) and 35% - 85% RH for 48 hours prior, all times during, and maintain temperature continuously after installation. Divide unopened cartons no more than 6 cartons high and at least 10 cm apart. Keep away from heating and cooling ducts and direct sunlight. If permanent HVAC (Air-conditioning) is not yet operational, temporary means should be used to maintain the noted temperature and Relative Humidity.

## SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Elemental™ can be installed on wood, concrete, terrazzo, stone, and many other properly prepared subfloors, including on subfloor heating. One key factor to ensuring an excellent, finished appearance of an Elemental™ floor is careful subfloor preparation. The information provided in this document includes general recommendations on how to prepare various types of subfloors. The selection of all materials, including: moisture-mitigation systems, self-leveling compounds, floor patch products, wood underlayments, and any other ancillary products are dependent upon existing conditions. The application of subfloor preparation materials must be in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All warranties and guarantees pertaining to the suitability and performance of any preparation or ancillary product rests with that material manufacturer or the Flooring Contractor and NOT with Elemental™. The condition of the subfloor and bond issues resulting from the use of non-recommended, improper, or incorrectly prepared adhesives, sealers, embossing levelers, patches, concrete, gypsum-based products and other such items, are the sole responsibility of the Flooring Contractor, General Contractor, and/or manufacturer of the particular sub-flooring product.

Elemental™ Flooring recommends using only subfloor preparation materials (such as adhesives, primers, leveling compound, etc.) from leading manufacturers that offer complete subfloor preparation systems that have been tested and that are compatible with Elemental™ LVT dryback flooring. Please consult our website ([www.elementalbyaspecta.com](http://www.elementalbyaspecta.com)) for an overview of recommended products and manufacturers.

## CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

All concrete subfloors, regardless of age or grade level must be properly cured, free of excess moisture, and prepared in accordance to the most current version of BS 8203 in the UK and VOB, Part C, DIN 18365 in Germany or according all other relevant European national standards. The surface of concrete floors shall be dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound. They shall be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, film-forming curing compounds, silicate penetrating curing compounds, sealing, hardening, or parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation or laitance, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials that might affect the rate of moisture dissipation from the concrete.

Make sure that the concrete subfloor does not suffer from rising damp or hydrostatic pressure. Prior to installation, the moisture content of the subfloor must be established and if necessary corrected to ensure that it conforms to the parameters set in the relevant national and/or local standards. Absorbent subfloors and smooth and even surfaces are essential if Elemental™ Dryback LVT flooring is to be installed correctly. It is generally recommended to use 2.0 - 3.0mm levelling compound prior to installing dryback flooring. Follow the applicable European, national and local standards (Germany: DIN 18365 and EN 1264-2) when installing dryback flooring in rooms with underfloor heating. The operating temperature on the surface of the flooring should not exceed 27°C. Acclimate flooring, adhesives, and the job-site: only install Elemental™ in climate-controlled rooms/areas, consistently maintained at temperatures between 15°C - 30°C (65°-85°F) and 35%-85% RH a minimum of 48 hours before, all times during, and continuously after installation.

When installing, acclimate flooring, adhesives, and the job-site: only install Elemental™ in climate-controlled structures consistently maintained at temperatures between 15°C - 30°C (65°-85°F) and 35%-85% RH a minimum of 48 hours before, all times during, and continuously after installation.

Note: In the event of adhesion failure, the responsibility for warranties and performance guarantees rests with the compound manufacturer and not with Elemental™.

## WOOD SUBFLOORS

Elemental™ LVT is recommended for use on suspended wood subfloors. Wood subfloors should have standard, double-layer construction with a minimum total thickness of at least 1" (25mm). As a finish layer, use minimum 6 mm (¼") thick, rated "underlayment grade" plywood with a fully sanded surface, or other underlayment panel that is appropriate and warranted for the intended use. Always follow manufacturer's installation instructions! Wood underlayment panels for resilient flooring must be:

- Structurally sound
- Specifically designed and warranted for resilient flooring
- A minimum of 6 mm (¼") thick
- Of a smooth surface, so as to prevent telegraphing
- Able to resist indentations
- Free of any substances that may cause flooring to stain

## OTHER SUBFLOORS (Ceramic tile, etc.)

It is always best practice and recommended to remove existing flooring and start new with the original base. Recognizing that there are certain situations in which this is not possible, existing flooring materials such as terrazzo, marble, ceramic tile, or quarry tiles may be suitable substrate for Elemental™ if properly prepared.

**Note:** Special attention in the preparation of these substrates must be taken. Always consult with substrate preparation material supplier for appropriate material selections, application requirements and warranty information! The responsibility of the assessment, determination, and selection of the substrate preparation material, along with application and product performance, rests with the applicator and preparation material provider.

## UNAPPROVED SUBSTRATES

Remove the floors listed below and refer to the appropriate “General Conditions” subsection under the “Concrete Subfloors” and “Wood Subfloors” sections. For glued-down floors, remove old adhesive before installing Elemental™. Encapsulate adhesive and cutback residue. Any appearance- or performance-related issues associated with the underlayment are the responsibility of the flooring contractor and/or underlayment manufacturer. Unapproved substrates are;

- Asphalt Tile, Carpets, Cementitious Tile Backer Boards, Chipboard, Cushion-Back Sheet Vinyl, all Floating Floors, Glass Mesh Tile Boards, Hardboard, Hardwood, Hardwood - Engineered Hardwood Over Concrete

## SUBFLOOR HEATING (Special considerations)

Radiant Heat: Elemental™ dryback flooring can be installed over subfloor heating systems. Radiant heating systems must be cast ideally between 65 and 75 mm below the surface of the concrete slab and should be operating at least 2 weeks before installing Elemental™ flooring. Set the temperature of the radiant heating system to 20°C (68°F) 48 hours before, at all times during, and 72 hours after installation. The temperature of the radiant heat floor may be gradually increased 72 hours after installation, but the surface temperature should never exceed 30°C (85°F).

**Note:** For approval, recommendation and best performance contact your subfloor heating and/or subfloor preparation materials manufacturer.

# INSTALLATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Before starting the installation, verify that the material is of the correct style, color, quantity, and run numbers, and ensure that the correct adhesive has been selected for area of usage. Also, confirm that all pre-installation requirements, as detailed in the remainder of this section, have been satisfactorily completed. Start of flooring installation indicates acceptance of current subfloor conditions and full responsibility for completed work.

## CHECK RUN NUMBERS AND MANUFACTURER DATE

Locate the run number on the short end of each carton and verify that all of the material for your job is from the same run. Minor shade variations within the same run number contribute to the natural look of Elemental™. To avoid noticeable shade variations, do not install material from different runs across large expanses. To determine manufacture date, locate the run number on the short end of the carton. It is the eight-digit number separated by decimal points.

Examples:

### BATCH NUMBERS / MANUFACTURE DATE

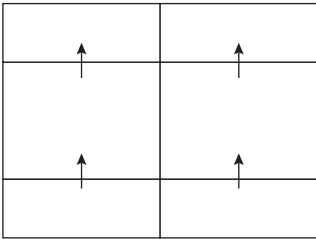
01.07.2020

DAY.MONTH.YEAR

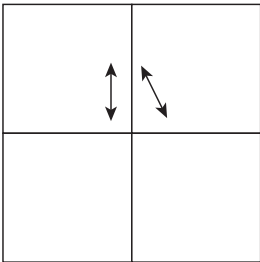
- **Protect areas where there is direct sunlight coming in to the room. Cover windows and doors to reduce heat to the subfloor while installation is taking place until the adhesive is fully cured. (Approximately 24 hours).**
- Acclimate tiles (keep cartons flat), adhesive, jobsite, and subfloor to a stable condition between 15°C-30°C (65°-85°F) and 35%- 85% RH for a minimum of 48 hours before and after installation.
- Confirm quantity of Elemental™ flooring and adhesive are sufficient for area to be installed. Check material for visual defects before installation. Installation of flooring acknowledges acceptance of materials.
- Make sure all surfaces to be covered are completely clean, dry, and smooth, and that all necessary subfloor preparation has been properly completed and documented.
- Perform final acceptance inspection of substrate.
- Protect adjacent work areas and finished surfaces from damage that could occur during product installation.
- Elemental™ should be the last material installed, so as to prevent other trades from disrupting the installation and adhesive set-up, and to prevent damage to the floor.
- Elemental™ comes in plank, rectangular, and square tile formats. Install tiles running in the same direction (block or staggered pattern), quarter-turned or as specified by architect. Elemental™ plank flooring should have end-joints set by at least 15 cm (6”) and should be installed in a staggered manner, so as to create a random appearance that avoids alignment of end-joints. Elemental™ can be laid out to run either parallel or diagonal to the room or primary wall. The following conditions must be given consideration when determining how Elemental™ will be installed: Layout: Layout shall be specified by the architect, designer or end user (refer to architectural drawings).
- Establish center lines and determine starting point to balance the installation by having equal tile widths on opposite sides of room. This can be facilitated by measuring or dry-laying tiles and marking baselines.
- **Wet-Set Applications:** The room layout must be arranged so that all flooring can be installed while working off of freshly installed tiles. This will keep tiles from shifting, minimize adhesive displacement, and prevent wet adhesive from oozing up and getting onto the surface of the tiles. This can be accomplished by snapping chalk lines to create work zones that are no wider than a comfortable arm’s reach, and in multiples of the tile or plank width. Periodically pull back a tile or plank during installation and check for adhesive transfer to backing.
- When all preparatory work is satisfactorily completed, including dry fitting cut tiles (if applicable), proceed with installation. Inspect each tile for visual defects before installing. Installation of flooring implies acceptance of materials.
- **Protecting Newly Installed Floors:** Newly installed flooring must be protected while the adhesive sets, and also protected from damage of other trades. Early foot traffic, as well as point or rolling loads, can cause shifting of tiles, adhesive displacement, or breaking of the bond between the adhesive and the tile or substrate.
- Always start with a clean jobsite. All trades must finish before installing Elemental™. Carefully inspect each plank or tile for defects prior to installation, and do not install damaged material. Be sure to check run numbers/manufacture dates prior to installing.
- **IMPORTANT:** All Elemental™ Dryback flooring must be rolled with a minimum 50 Kg. roller after installation. Use a hand roller in areas that cannot be reached with a 50 Kg. roller.
- **Special Notes:**
  - All sundrop areas will require the correct adhesive.**
  - If a Substrate Flooring Membrane is required Uzin PE460 2-Component Epoxy Blocking Primer is recommended.**
  - Adhere Aspecta Elemental LVT to the substrate using Uzin KE68T 1-Component Hybrid Adhesive.**
  - All perimeter edges and penetrations are to be sealed with a MS Silicone.**

## Elemental™ RESILIENT TILE INSTALLATION

Some Elemental™ products have directional arrows on the back. Elemental™ tiles should be installed with the arrows pointing in the same direction in order to prevent shade, color, or gloss variation. Elemental™ planks may be installed randomly (without concern for arrow direction). This will bring out more variety in the appearance of the installed floor. (Picture 1)



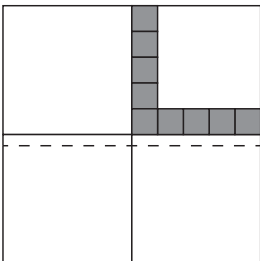
PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2

### STEP 1: SQUARE THE ROOM

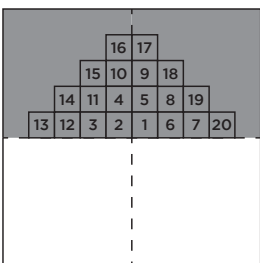
Square the layout of the room, find the center of one end of the room. Locate the same point at the other end-wall. Snap a chalk line between these points to mark the center line on the floor. Then, measure along this center line to find the middle of the room. At the center point, mark off a line across the room at precise right angles to the first line. (Picture 2)



PICTURE 3

### STEP 2: BALANCE THE ROOM

Either measure or dry-lay a row of tiles from the center line to the side wall to determine the size of the first and last tiles. If the resulting border is too small in either direction, move the row of tiles over one-half tiles' width and snap a new line. This becomes your new starting line. (See Figure 2) TIP: Use the dimensions of the room to calculate the size of the first tile without dry-laying. (Picture 3)



PICTURE 4

### STEP 3: INSTALL THE TILES

After determining the layout and snapping center line, spread adhesive and install flooring as outlined below using the dry to touch or wet-set application method. (Picture 4)



## Elemental™ RESILIENT PLANK INSTALLATION

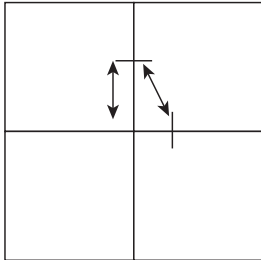


FIGURE A

### STEP 1: SQUARE THE ROOM

Square the layout of the room, find the center of one end of the room. Locate the same point at the other end-wall. Snap a chalk line between these points to mark the center line on the floor. Then, measure along this center line to find the middle of the room. At the center point, mark off a line across the room at precise right angles to the first line. (See Figure A)

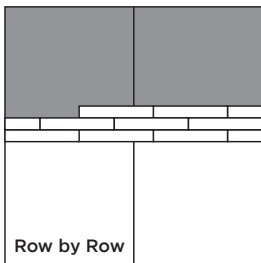


FIGURE B

### STEP 2: BALANCE THE ROOM

Either measure or dry-lay a row of tiles from the center line to the side wall to determine the size of the first and last tiles. If the resulting border is too small in either direction, move the row of tiles over one-half tiles' width and snap a new line. This becomes your new starting line. (See Figure 2) TIP: Use the dimensions of the room to calculate the size of the first tile without dry-laying. (See Figure B)

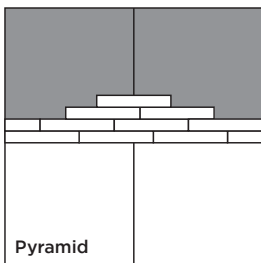


FIGURE C

### STEP 3: INSTALL THE TILES

After determining the layout and snapping center line, spread adhesive and install flooring as outlined below using the dry to touch or wet-set application method. (See Figure C)

**GENERAL NOTE:** Only use recommended adhesives that are approved and warranted for use with Elemental™ Dryback flooring. Bond issues resulting from the use of non-recommended adhesives are not warranted. All warranties and guarantees pertaining to the suitability and performance of any product not recommended by Elemental™ rests with the material manufacturer or the installation contractor and NOT with Elemental™. The condition of the subfloor and bond issues resulting from the use of non-recommended, improper, or incorrectly prepared adhesives, sealers, embossing levelers, patches, concrete, gypsum-based products and other such items, are the sole responsibility of the installer and/or manufacturer of the particular sub-flooring product.

## CARE & MAINTENANCE

### Elemental™ DRYBACK – GENERAL CARE & MAINTENANCE

Elemental™ dryback flooring is manufactured with a high-performance coating, which provides improved maintenance characteristics and options for end-users. All floor coverings require some care to look their best, and many problems can be prevented before they occur. The area of usage, type of traffic, and frequency of traffic on the floor will determine the type and frequency of maintenance needed. Proper care and maintenance are an essential part of keeping your Elemental™ flooring attractive and safe. These guidelines will help to maintain the appearance of and extend the life of your Elemental™ flooring.

#### FLOOR-CARE BEST PRACTICES

- Sweep or vacuum daily; use only vacuums without beater (“Plastic”) bars.
- Protect the floor from tracked-in dirt and grit particles by using walk-off mats at all outside entrances.
- Avoid the use of rubber-backed mats, as certain rubber compounds can permanently stain vinyl.
- In order to prevent indentations and scratches, provide glass or felt, or other non-staining cups with flat under-surfaces not less than 5 cm (2”) wide for the legs of heavy furniture or appliances. Equip swiv-eled-type office chairs and other rolling furniture with broad-surface, non-staining casters at least 5 cm (2”) in diameter. Remove small diameter buttons from the legs of straight chairs and replace with metal or felt glides that have bearing surfaces no less than 2 cm (1”) in diameter.
- Always use the proper equipment, to protect the flooring from damage that could be caused by the moving of heavy fixtures or appliances.
- Never use anything coarser than 3M-equivalent red cleaning pads or brushes on Elemental™ resilient flooring (see Maintenance Procedures section).
- Protect your floor against burns. Burns from the glowing end of cigarettes, matches, or other extremely hot items can damage Elemental™ floors.
- Do not flood floor or subject to frequent standing water.
- Only use recommended cleaning and maintenance products (like Dr. Schutz), as they are designed for Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) floors with urethane coatings.
- All Elemental™ floors have good resistance to stains and are not affected by most common spills. However, any spill should be cleaned up immediately. The longer the spilled materials are left on the floor, the greater the risk of permanently staining the floor.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. The use of drapes or blinds is recommended during peak sunlight hours. Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight can result in discoloration, and excessive temperatures might cause tiles or planks to expand.

#### MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

Safety: When performing wet maintenance, always use proper signage and prohibit traffic until the floor is completely dry. Always use caution and follow manufacturer’s safety instructions.

## NO-POLISHING/NO-BUFFING MAINTENANCE OPTIONS

### A) Initial Maintenance for a Newly Installed floor

1. Allow the adhesive to cure for at least 48 hours prior to wet- cleaning the floor.
2. Thoroughly sweep, dust-mop, or vacuum (without beater -plastic- bar assembly) the floor to remove all loose dirt, dust, grit, and debris.
3. Remove any dried adhesive-residue from the surface with a Neutral Cleaner, or with mineral spirits applied to a clean, lint-free cloth. Do not allow excessive amounts of solvent to sit on the vinyl or to penetrate the joints of the flooring. NEVER APPLY SOLVENT DIRECTLY TO FLOORING.
4. Damp-mop the floor using a Neutral Cleaner.
5. 5. If necessary, scrub the floor using an auto scrubber or rotary machine (175 rpm or less) using a Neutral Cleaner, using the proper dilution ratio and the appropriate scrubbing brush or pad. Fit the buffer with a 3M-equivalent red or white scrubbing pad and work the solution over the floor.
6. 6. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh, clean water. Remove the dirty residue with a wet-vacuum or with a clean mop and allow the floor to dry completely.

## DAILY/ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

1. Clean entryway walk-o mats to remove dirt, grit, sand and other contaminants from being tracked onto the floor (as needed).
2. Thoroughly sweep, dust-mop, or vacuum (without beater - plastic - bar assembly) the floor to remove all loose dirt, dust, grit, and debris that can stick to and damage the surface of the floor.
3. Spills should be cleaned up immediately. Spot-clean using a Neutral Cleaner and micro fiber or preferred mop.
4. Damp-mop the floor on a regular (recommended - daily) basis using a Neutral Cleaner.

## PERIODIC MAINTENANCE

1. When necessary, scrub the floor using an auto scrubber or rotary machine (175 rpm or less) with a Neutral Cleaner, using the proper dilution ratio. Fit the buffer with a 3M-equivalent red or white scrubbing pad and work the solution over the floor.
2. 2. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh, clean water. Remove the dirty residue with a wet-vacuum or with a clean mop and allow the floor to dry completely.

**AUTOMATIC SCRUBBERS:** Automatic scrubbers come in walk-behind and ride-on styles with some being compact for hard-to-reach areas around equipment or fixed seating. Auto Scrubbers are efficient, safe and cost effective delivering substantial time savings compared to the mop and bucket method of floor maintenance.