canopy™ flex

Installation Instructions

Introduction

FOR RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS

General Information

Canopy Flex is a new generation of high-performance, self-adhering flooring that is designed to last a lifetime and go right over your existing floors. Requiring no adhesives, Canopy Flex tile is easy to install and has no unpleasant odors. Canopy Flex installs like traditional loose lay/glue-down LVT over a smooth and non-porous surface. This makes it ideal for installing over existing non-porous, fully bonded, and intact resilient flooring such as sheet vinyl, VCT, glue-down LVT, or rubber flooring; please note that Canopy Flex should not be installed over floating floors. Existing flooring must be fully bonded and have all loose or damaged areas removed. Floor finish or polish should be cleaned and remain in place.

Canopy Flex is approved for use in enclosed, 3-season rooms, and is suitable for above, on, and below-grade applications. Canopy Flex is not suitable for exterior. This product can be used immediately after installation. Unlike traditional adhesive installations, there is no need to restrict use while waiting for the adhesive to cure.

Acclimation

While Canopy Flex does not require a set amount of acclimation time, acclimation is achieved when the flooring and subfloor are at a consistent and stable temperature within 5°- 10°F of each other. Slabs should be between 35%- 65% RH.

Radiant Heating

Radiant-heated subfloors shall not exceed 85°F (29°C) under any mode of operation, and subfloors must be radiant-heated for at least two weeks and turned off two days before installation. Maintain and confirm temperature and RH compliance. After two days, gradually raise the temperature by 2°F (1°C) per day to reach normal operating temperature.

Site Conditions

Site conditions should be as outlined in this document, as well as those outlined in ASTM F710 and ASTM F1482.

Introduction

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Understanding Porosity

Canopy Flex requires a smooth, non-porous substrate for proper adhesion. Porous materials like APA rated OSB, AdvanTech® and Plywood are inherently porous, which does not allow the Canopy Flex SetaGrip™ backings micro suction adhesion to perform, reducing bond strength. Lauan is not an approved substrate.

Installation Surfaces

NON-POROUS	POROUS (NEEDS PRIMED)	NOT APPROVED
Non-porous tile	Plywood	Lauan wood
Sheet vinyl	APA rated OSB	Floating floors
VCT	AdvanTech®	
Glue-down LVT	Concrete out of moisture readings	
Rubber		
Concrete within moisture readings		

Preparation Instructions

TURN TO CORRESPONDING PAGE FOR RELEVANT INSTRUCTIONS

If installing over subfloor | page 6

If installing over existing tile | page 10

Installing Over Subfloor

Wood, Concrete, Vinyl, VCT

Subfloor Prep

Overview

Before installing Flex tile, ensure your floors are clean, dry, flat, and free of debris. Your floor must be a non-porous wood, concrete, existing vinyl, or VCT flooring. The following preperations may be needed depending on your situation.

- **Skim Fill:** If your floor is not flat within 3/16" over 10 ft, sand down any high spots or fill low spots with a self-leveling compound or skim filling product.
- **Moisture Testing:** Check moisture levels to ensure appropriate primer is selected.
- **Single Coat Primer:** Porous materials like OSB, AdvanTech®, GypCrete, and Plywood are inherently porous and require a single coat approved primer for optimal performance.
- **Primer Application:** Simply apply a single coat with a 1/4 inch nap paint roller and your surface will be ready for installation in just 45 minutes.

Wood Porosity Testing

To determine if your subfloor is non-porous, pour a small amount of water (about a tablespoon) onto the surface. If the water beads and sits on top, the surface is non-porous and ready for installation. If it absorbs quickly, the subfloor is porous and must be primed before proceeding.

Concrete Moisture Testing

If installing Canopy Flex over concrete, the concrete surface needs to be tested to ensure that it stays within proper moisture readings. Choose one of the following approved methods. (Alkalinity testing is not required)

- **Electronic Moisture Meter:** Use a Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter Meter to check the moisture level of the concrete slab's surface. The moisture limit is 4.0% on the Concrete Moisture scale.
- **Mat Test (ASTM D4263):** Duct tape two-foot-x-two-foot pieces of plastic sheet to the surface of the concrete, ensuring the edges are secure. After 24 hours, peel back the plastic. The concrete that was covered may be darker than the surrounding surface but it must not be damp or have any water drops present. Any condensation or moisture on the slab or the plastic is not acceptable.
- **Calcium Chloride Test (ASTM F1869):** Place the calcium chloride tests as specified in the current ASTM F1869. The maximum limit is 8.0 lbs. MVER.
- **In-Situ Relative Humidity (RH) Test (ASTM F2170):** Place the RH probes as specified in the current ASTM F2170. The maximum limit is 90.0% RH.

Subfloor Prep

Approved Primers for Porous Subfloors

After determinig porosity, properly prepare subfloor, using one of our approved primers:

- **IFC Prime:** for use on wood subfloors; single-coat and fast-drying with 15 minute dry time.
- **Taylor Zephyr:** for use on concrete with moisture readings out of tolerance; single-coat application with 45 minute dry time.
- **Wakol PU280:** for use on concrete with moisture readings out of tolerance; single-coat application with 45 minute dry time.

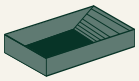
TOOLS NEEDED

PRIME

Approved Primer

Paint Roller

1/4" or 3/8" Nap Microfiber Roller



Paint Tray

Drop Cloth

INSTALL

Hand Roller

Chalk Line

Tape Measure

Multi-Floor Cutter

Carpenters Square

Putty Knife

Utility Knife

Extra Blades

Straight Edge

Pencil

Subfloor Prep

Bond Testing—Pre-Installation

The prepared surface must be checked for proper bonding before the installation begins. Take a piece of Canopy Flex flooring and remove the release liner 6-8 inches from one end. Place the exposed Canopy Flex backing against the prepared surface and step on or firmly press down on the exposed end of the flooring to bond. Wait at least 10 minutes, then take the opposite end of the flooring and move it laterally several inches across the floor surface. If the flooring buckles and the bonded area remains secure to the subfloor, the surface is non-porous and ready to install. However, if the bonded end releases, the surface must be primed with an approved primer. Make sure to check multiple locations throughout the job site to confirm a consistent good bond.

Subfloor Prep Checklist

- [ ] Subfloor is an approved substrated
- [ ] Tested for porosity
- [ ] Tested moisture readings (if concrete)
- [ ] Skim filled/sanded as needed for floors not flat within 3/16" per 10 feet
- [ ] Applied an approved primer as needed
- [ ] Bond tested subfloor; applied another coat of primer if needed
- [ ] Floors are clean, dry, flat, and free of debris

ONCE PREP IS COMPLETED, PROCEED TO INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 12

Installing Over Existing Tile

Existing Tile Prep

Getting Started

Before installing Flex tiles, ensure your floors are clean, dry, flat, and free of debris. Existing tile to be covered must be non-porous. If existing tile is porous, please reference general subfloor prep instructions above for how to prime flooring before proceeding.

Skim Filling Tile

To prevent telescoping over time, existing tile needs to be skim filled if the grout depth is greater than 1/8" in depth. This can be achieved by filling grout lines with floor patch. Filled grout lines should be feathered out and smoothed.

Bond Testing—Pre-Installation

The prepared surface must be checked for proper bonding before the installation begins. Take a piece of Canopy Flex flooring and remove the release liner 6-8 inches from one end. Place the exposed Canopy Flex backing against the prepared surface and step on or firmly press down on the exposed end of the flooring to bond. Wait at least 10 minutes, then take the opposite end of the flooring and move it laterally several inches across the floor surface. If the flooring buckles and the bonded area remains secure to the subfloor, the surface is non-porous and ready to install. However, if the bonded end releases, the surface must be primed with an approved primer. Make sure to check multiple locations throughout the job site to confirm a consistent good bond.

Existing Tile Prep

TOOLS NEEDED

PREP

Floor Trowel

Floor Patch

INSTALL

Hand Roller

Chalk Line

Tape Measure

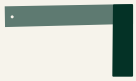
Multi-Floor Cutter

Carpenters Square

Putty Knife

Utility Knife

Extra Blades



Straight Edge

Pencil

Existing Tile Prep Checklist

- [ ] Subfloor is an approved substrated and non-porous
- [ ] Existing tile has been skim filled if grout depth is more than 1/4" deep
- [ ] Application surface has been bond tested
- [ ] Floors are clean, dry, flat, and free of debris

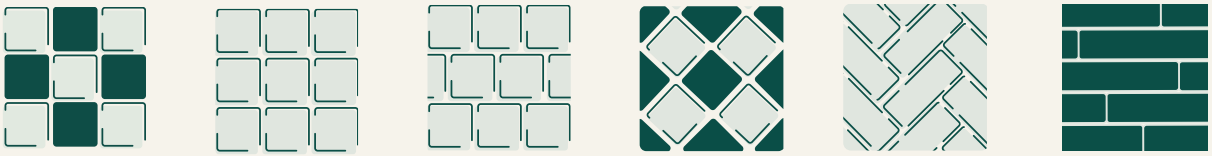
ONCE PREP IS COMPLETED, PROCEED TO INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 12

Installing Canopy Flex

Getting Started

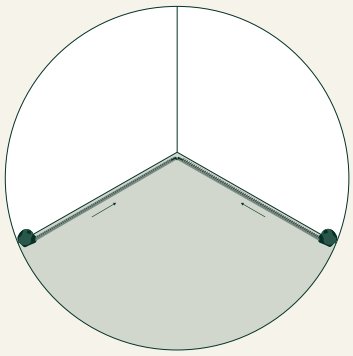
ONE

Choose a layout format



Checkerboard | Grid | Brick | Diamond | Herringbone* | Stagger**

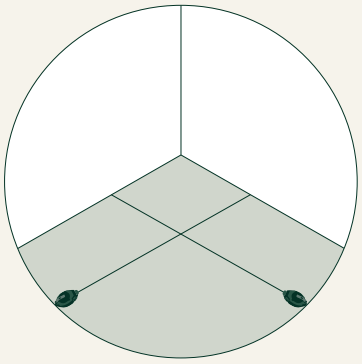
* Install pattern compatibility varies by tile size.
**For stagger installations, avoid using stair stepped 'H' patterns.



TWO

Find the center

Once you decide on layout format, you need to find the center of your room, starting with the longest wall. Measure from the longest wall to the opposite wall with a tape measure. Connect the centerpoints from opposite walls to place the center lines in the room.

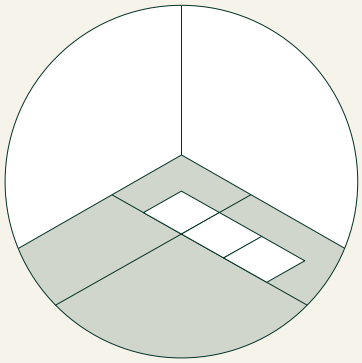


THREE

Make a chalk line

Snap a chalk line between the center points on opposite walls to mark the center line on the floor. This will ensure that you can balance the installation by having equal tile widths on opposite sides of the room. If you do not have a chalkline, you can determine this by dry-laying tiles and marking reference lines to install from.

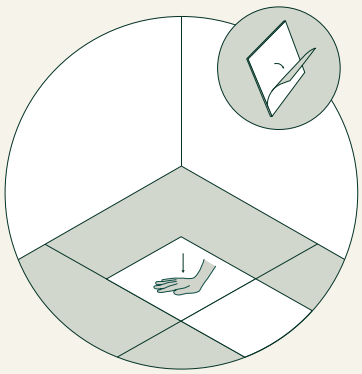
Start Installation



FOUR

Start installing

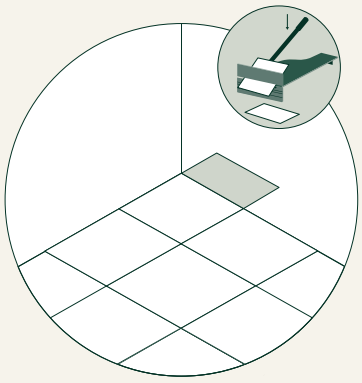
Begin by dry laying your first few tiles along the center line in your desired pattern to ensure you are happy with your layout.



FIVE

Secure the tile

Begin by removing the release liner on the back of the tile closest to the center and place along the line from the center starting point. Dependent upon your desired layout, begin firmly adhering the tiles one by one. For the most common brick install layout (or stair step method) use two rows along the starting line to begin the installation working outwards. Be sure to press down firmly when securing the tiles into place. Position the second tile aligned to the edge of the first tile without any gap or force.

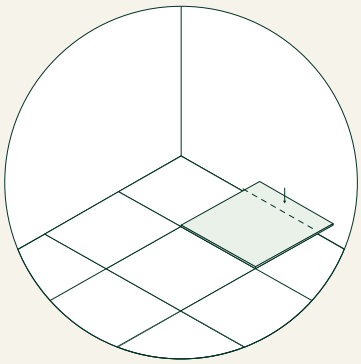


SIX

Cut perimeter tiles

Install additional tiles, ensuring each tile is aligned with the tiles next to it. Once all full tiles are installed, cut perimeter tiles next to or slightly gapped to the wall, ensuring the wall base or other trim will cover any gaps. DO NOT FORCE-FIT OR COMPRESSION-FIT TILES TO THE WALL OR VERTICAL SURFACES.

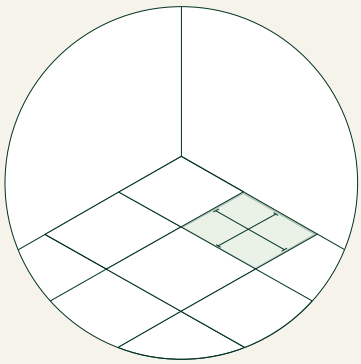
Cutting and Finishing



How to trim the final pieces along the wall:

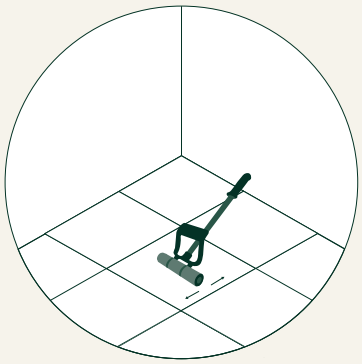
METHOD 1

Place a full tile on top of the last complete row in the position it will be installed. Take another full tile and place it against the wall on top of the tile to be trimmed. Use the edge of the tile on top to mark and cut the uninstalled full tile. Take the cut piece and place it in position along the wall.



METHOD 2

Cut the last row of tiles by measuring the distance from the edge of the last full tile to the wall. Mark the exact distance on each side of the tile to be cut. Use a utility knife, straightedge, or carpenter square to trim the excess edge. For walls with an uneven edge, it may be necessary to take multiple measurements and transcribe them to the tile to be trimmed to provide a good fit. Install the last rows by placing the factory edge to the factory edge and the cut edge towards the wall.



FOUR

Final steps:

Roll the installed flooring with a hand roller.