

Wellmade®

HDPC® Dryback Vinyl Plank with No Tongue and Groove Installation Guideline

Wellmade HDPC® Dryback with No Tongue and Groove is a 100% waterproof flooring that can be installed over most floor surfaces and is suitable for both commercial and residential interior applications. With its durable wear layer and our patent pending HDPC® rigid core, this is one of the most durable floors on the market today. HDPC dry back vinyl flooring has been proven to provide superior dimensional stability compared to traditional vinyl LVT before, during and after installation. For technical information or questions, you can [email:tech@wellmadefloors.com](mailto:tech@wellmadefloors.com), or call 866.582.0848 (US only); outside the US, call 503.582.0848.

General Information

1. Wellmade HDPC® Dryback is intended for interior (fully enclosed and weather tight) uses and should not be installed in exterior conditions.
2. Purchase enough flooring to cover 105% of the area measured, this will allow for waste, 110% for diagonal installations.
3. Flooring should be transported and stored in a neatly stacked fashion on a smooth flat surface.
4. Acclimation of flooring is not required.
5. Adherence to adhesive instructions is required for successful installation. See adhesive manufacture instructions to determine job site requirements for temperature, environment and climate control.
6. Wellmade Dryback Planks should only be installed after other trades have finished and the jobsite has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage a finished floor.
7. Verify that all production date/run numbers are the same, different runs may have slightly different sheen levels.
8. Inspect flooring for damage, defects, or shading issues before installation; claims for visual defects will not be accepted after cutting and/or installed.
9. Due to pattern and color variations, mix and install planks from several different cartons during installation to ensure a random appearance.
10. Leave a minimal 1/8 in. for expansion around the **entire** perimeter of the flooring or any vertical obstacle like pipes or posts.
11. Protect your flooring from scratches by following our maintenance procedures below.
12. **INSTALLED FLOORING MUST BE ROLLED AFTER INSTALLATION USING A 100 POUND ROLLER FOR GOOD ADHESION**

Installation

Tools and Supplies needed for Installation:

1. Chalk Line and Chalk
2. Tape Measure
3. Square and straight edge
4. Utility Knife and Blades
5. Wellmade adhesive (Wel1220 HDPC® Adhesive)
6. Recommended trowel
7. Clean Rags
8. Mineral Spirits paint thinner
9. Small hand roller
10. 100 Pound Roller

Jobsite Conditions:

Areas to install must be fully enclosed, well-lit and weather tight. All drywall and painting should be completed prior to installation. Consult Adhesive instructions to determine the required job site conditions for temperature, environment and climate control requirements. Adhesive manufacture instructions must be followed. Wellmade HDPC® Dryback is not recommended to be installed in external locations.

Subfloors:

Planks can be installed over a variety of subfloor surfaces including concrete on all grade levels, wood, terrazzo, stone, and many other properly prepared subfloors, including in-floor radiant heating. The subfloors must be clean, smooth, flat, solid (no movement), and dry. **Do not install planks over floors that are sloped for drainage more than 1 in. per 6ft.** Any uneven areas greater than 3/16 in. in a 10 ft. radius should be leveled with a Portland cement-based patching compound. Our Wellmade HDPC® Plank is resistant to water damage, but they do not prevent the transmission of moisture. Care should be taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of the flooring to prevent the growth of unhealthy mold and mildew. **All Skim Coats or Fillers must be fully cured before beginning installation.**

Recommended Surfaces:

Our Wellmade HDPC® Dryback can be installed over a variety of finished floors including single layer resilient sheet flooring/ tile, ceramic, marble and terrazzo. The surface must be in good condition and show no signs of excessive moisture conditions. Grout joints and heavy embossing in tile or vinyl should be leveled so they are flush with the flooring surface. Additionally, the tile may require several skim coats to achieve that flat surface.

Non-Recommended Surfaces:

Carpet, heavily cushioned vinyl floors or vinyl floors consisting of multiple layers are not suitable surfaces under our HDPC® Dryback flooring. Wellmade HDPC® Dryback flooring cannot be installed over rough and uneven sub-floors; heavily textured or uneven surfaces.

Moisture Testing:

Sub-floor moisture testing is necessary, it will alert you of current moisture issues that may affect the installation and promote the growth of unhealthy mold and mildew which could potentially affect you and your family's health, as well as the flooring.

You may want to consult with a professional for proper testing and guidance. Moisture levels above 12% in wood subfloors or 4.5 on moisture encounter meters for concrete subfloors can promote the growth of mold and should be investigated to determine the cause and solution of the problem.

Checking for moisture:

Use a Ligno DuoTec (or equivalent) moisture meter for wood, or a Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter meter (or equivalent) for concrete. You can also use a calcium chloride test for concrete; test results above 5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft., (or 85% RH using in-situ probes) in a 24-hour period can indicate a more extreme moisture issue and should be investigated.

Concrete Subfloors:

Planks can be installed over concrete on all grade levels. Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 5 lbs./24 hour per 1,000 sq. when tested with the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test in accordance with ASTM F 1869 or 85% RH in accordance with ASTM F 2170 "Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Slabs using in situ Probes. Any uneven areas greater than 3/16 in. in a 10 ft. radius should be leveled with a Portland cement-based patching compound. Holes and cracks in the cement should be patched, and expansion joints should be filled with a Portland cement-based underlayment and troweled smooth. Newly poured concrete floors must cure for a minimum of 90 days. The concrete shall be free of dust, solvents, paints, waxes and oils, grease, left over adhesive, or removers, sealers, or any other foreign materials that might affect the installation. Please note it is the person installing the floor and/or the homeowner's responsibility to ensure any moisture or alkalinity issues are resolved **prior** to installing the floor.

NOTE: Excessive moisture may cause the growth of unhealthy mold or mildew and/or cause staining of the flooring which is not covered by our Warranty. Concrete substrates must have compression strength of 3,000 psi or greater.

Wood Subfloors:

Wood floors should be a minimum of 3/4" thick. Planks should be installed over a smooth, flat, level wood subfloor, underlayment grade plywood, lauan plywood and other underlayments recommended by the manufacturer. Subfloor should be flat within 3/16 in. in a 10 ft. radius, or 1/8in. in 6 ft. Be sure to sand seams or fill uneven areas with a Portland cement-based patching compound and allow to completely cure. Wood subfloors must be suspended at least 18" above the ground. Adequate cross-ventilation must be provided, and the ground surface of the crawl space should be covered with a suitable vapor barrier.

NOTE: Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection; Indications of excessive deflection are subfloor fastener release, squeaking, compromised or sectional contours such as bowing or dipping in floors and uneven flooring material. Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure boards with excessive vertical movement or deflection prior to installation of the flooring material. Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of substructures.

Radiant Heat Subfloors:

Wellmade HDPC® Dryback planks can be installed over in-floor radiant heating systems provided the subfloor surface does not exceed 85°F (29.44°C) at any point. The initial floor temperature should not exceed 70°F (21.11°C) for 24 hours prior, during, and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter the temperature should be gradually increased to the desired setting up to 85°F (29.44°C). Heating system must be installed using an embedded hydronic radiant heat system or electric radiant heat system using embedded cables within the sub-floor. Electrical heating systems that are installed on top of the subfloor surface and not encased with self-leveling underlayment are not recommended.

Important Notes:

Before removing any existing resilient flooring or tiles, please consult with a flooring professional to determine if asbestos abatement is necessary to avoid exposure. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covered structures.

Pre-installation inspection:

It is the duty of the person installing the floor to inspect all flooring before installation. If during inspection the installer or buyer feels the floors is the wrong color, improperly manufactured, is off-grade or is the wrong gloss level, he/she should **NOT** install the flooring. Please immediately contact the retailer from which the flooring was purchased. No claims will be accepted for flooring which is visibly wrong if such flooring is installed. **Installed flooring is deemed to be visibly acceptable.** Remove wall base and undercut door jambs.

Installation

Layout and Design:

Wellmade HDPC® Dryback flooring comes in plank, square, and rectangle patterns, with several surfaces to choose from. Always determine the best starting point for your Dryback installation. Always try not to start or end a row, with less than 6 in. from wall on tile, and 6 to 8 in. on plank for aesthetic purposes.

Recommended Adhesives:

We recommend purchasing Wellmade Wel1220 HDPC® Trowel Applied Adhesive from your flooring supplier for use in installing this product. You will want to make sure to follow the recommendations on the bucket for installation of our Dryback flooring. **Be sure to roll entire floor with a recommended 100lb roller after the job is complete, this will ensure a good contact with adhesive and good adhesion.** Remove any excess adhesive that may have transferred to the flooring surface using mineral spirits and buff with a clean cloth. Floor can be used immediately after installation, although it is recommended to wait 24 hours after installation before rolling heavy furniture across the floor. Follow Wellmade's recommended maintenance procedures to keep your floor looking new.

Plank Installation:

Planks should be installed by offsetting end joints of each plank at least 6 to 8 in. as you place them row by row. As planks are laid end-to-end, if the last plank is longer than needed, mark and cut the plank by using a utility knife and square. The remainder of the plank can be used to start the next row if the piece is a minimum 6 to 8 in. or longer. Start the next row by cutting a plank at least 6 to 8 in. longer or shorter than the last row. Place each plank tight against the neighboring plank and seat it in the dry to touch adhesive.

1. First, determine how you want the flooring to run. Typically for plank products the flooring runs the length of the room. There may be exceptions since it is all a matter of preference.
2. To avoid narrow plank widths or short plank lengths near the walls/doors, it is important to do some preplanning. Using the width of the room, calculate how many full boards will fit into the area and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial planks.
3. Apply adhesive per Wellmade's adhesive installation guideline listed on the bucket.

4. Start with a whole plank in the corner of the room. Lay the first row of planks and trim to fit to the wall allowing a 1/8 in. expansion space (recommended). **Make sure to roll entire floor when completed.**
5. Start the second row using 1/3rd of a plank or offset by at least 8". Place the cut end against the wall and complete the second row allowing 1/8 in. expansion space (recommended) at the start and end of each row.
6. Complete each row thereafter using a random layout with end joints off-set by at least 8". Plan the layout to avoid using small planks (less than 6") at the walls and stagger the end joints 6 to 8 in. The cut piece at the end of the row can often be used to start the next row provided it achieves a random layout. Always place the cut end against the wall. There should never be a cut piece in the field of the installed area; all cuts are along the perimeter.
7. When fitting around door trim it will be necessary to slide the plank under the trim.
8. **Roll entire floor with 100lb Roller in both directions when completed.**

Square Tile Installation:

Square tiles may be installed corner to corner (in line) or in an offset pattern. Try to center the tiles in the room, by measuring off the room, and starting in the center. Avoid installing a tile less than 6 in. in width along a wall.

Rectangular Tile Installation:

Rectangular tiles can be installed in line, or an offset pattern. Always try to balance the appearance of this installation by installing approximately the same size finish tile on each side of the room. Avoid installing a tile less than 6 in. in length.

Note: It is best practices to always keep extra planks/tiles of the product after installation for repairs or testing purposes if needed. Make sure the floor is installed according to the Wellmade Installation Instructions.

Floor Maintenance:

- Furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor and checked regularly. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do not use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- To avert change in appearance over time we recommend that drapes be closed during peak sunlight hours
- Use walk-off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Avoid using a vacuum with a beater bar.
- Never use wax, polish, abrasive cleaners, or scouring agents as they might dull or distort the finish. High heels can damage floors.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do not use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor.
- It is a good idea to save a couple of boxes of flooring in case of accidental damage. Planks can be repaired or replaced.

Finishing the Job:

Inspect your work, as it will cost you more if you must come back to do a repair later. Replace original baseboards or install matching baseboard. Install matching transitions as needed or recommended by your dealer or installer. It is not recommended or necessary to use a topical sealer on this floor after installation. Protect your floor from scratches by using felt pads on chair legs or furniture feet. Plastic rollers/castors can damage your flooring; if necessary, try to replace with softer rubber wheels/castors. When moving heavy items, use at least two sheets of 1/4" Masonite or plywood while moving, slide the appliance from one sheet to the next to protect the flooring against scratching and denting.

Congratulations!

You have just installed a beautiful, and elegant Wellmade Floor!

Warranty information:

For a copy of the warranty, please go to: <https://wellmadefloors.com/hdpc-warranty-install/>
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