

GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

- Read all instructions prior to installation. Follow all guidelines for a successful installation.
- It is important to work out of several cartons to mix the patterns when installing Title Belt to properly mix the décor and ensure a beautiful application.
- Eastern Flooring Products™ produces Title Belt to imitate natural color and texture variation, but there are a finite number of unique pieces. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to avoid creating unintended patterns by installing identical pieces beside one another.
- Avoid creating patterns with the end joints of the material. Stagger the first piece of each row in size to avoid the end joints of alternating rows from lining up. No pieces smaller than ¼ of the piece in length should be installed to maintain the structural integrity of the floor. End joints in adjacent rows should be a minimum of 12” from one another.
- All pieces should be thoroughly inspected prior to installation. Installation of material constitutes acceptance of physical and/or aesthetic imperfections. If you have any concerns about the product, please immediately call Eastern Flooring Products™. Flooring that has been cut or installed is not eligible for claims.
- Title Belt requires acclimation for at least 24 hours prior to installation. To acclimate material, place material in stacks of no more than 2 cartons in the installation area after HVAC has been running at normal temperatures for at least 48 hours. Be sure that material is out of the path of direct sunlight, heaters, or air vents to ensure proper acclimation.
- Install Title Belt in indoor areas that with a constantly maintained temperature between 55°F and 85°F. Eastern Flooring Products™ does not recommend this product in 3 season rooms.
- It is important to protect Title Belt from exposure to direct sunlight. Direct sunlight can result in thermal expansion, UV fading, and discoloration. Ideal protection will include UV treated windows and the use of drapes/blinds during peak sunlight hours.
- Eastern Flooring Products™ recommends installing Title Belt after all other trades have completed their work to avoid damaging the flooring.
- Dry fit all moldings prior to installing the flooring to ensure proper color, fit, and finish.
- Title Belt can be installed via floating or full spread methods. If choosing floating, be sure to follow the following instructions.
 - Do not fasten anything through the flooring such as cabinets, toilets, trim, or molding. Failure to maintain a floating installation may result in buckling or decoupling.
 - Refer to further instructions for expansion requirements in floating installations

SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

- Before beginning installation, read all subfloor guidelines for the correct subfloor type. Proper subfloor preparation is the responsibility of the installer and one of the most important compo-

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nents of the durability of any floor.

- Subfloor must be level, flat, clean, dry, and structurally sound. Subfloor flatness must be within 3/16” in 10’ or 1/8” in 6’ in all directions.
 - Subfloor must be free of any dust, solvent, wax, asphalt sealing compound, and other material that may compromise the bonding of the flooring or adhesive. Unevenness and obstructions may compromise the durability and appearance of the floor.
- Any patching or leveling compound used to achieve a flat subfloor needs to meet subfloor alkalinity and moisture standards. Eastern Flooring Products™ recommends the use of a water resistant, non-shrinking, Portland leveling compound with a compressive strength of at least 3,000 psi.
- Adhesive installation instructions may contain additional subfloor standards. Be sure to consult all related instructions prior to installation.
- Title Belt is waterproof, but it is not a vapor barrier. Subfloor moisture can still cause mold, mildew, and other moisture-related issues, unrelated to Title Belt. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure the subfloor is not improperly emitting moisture prior to installation.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Concrete subfloors must meet the updated ASTM F710 guidelines, prior to installation.
- New concrete floors should be fully cured prior to installation. Concrete slabs must have no visible moisture.
- Concrete subfloors should be free of any adhesive residue. If adhesive residue is cut-back it must be removed by safe methods such as mechanical removal or wet scraping. Contact a professional to remove these adhesives as breathing crystalline silica or asbestos fibers can cause cancer and is a severe respiratory hazard. Refer to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute’s guide “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” for more information on safe removal of resilient flooring.
- It is a best practice to conduct moisture and pH testing prior to installing any floor to limit liability. Ensuring acceptable moisture levels for Title Belt are the responsibility of the installer. Eastern Flooring Products™ is not liable for moisture related claims that do not meet stated installation standards.
 - ASTM 1869 Calcium Chloride – maximum result 8lbs
 - ASTM 2170 Relative Humidity – maximum result 90% per 1000 sf per 24 hours
 - Concrete pH should be no less than 7, but not exceed 10
- Title Belt is waterproof, but it is not a vapor barrier. Subfloor moisture can still cause mold, mildew, and other moisture-related issues, unrelated to Title Belt. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure the subfloor is not improperly emitting moisture prior to installation. An

additional layer of underlayment with a perm rating of .1 or less may be used as a vapor barrier over concrete floors.

WOOD SUBFLOORS

- Wooden subfloors must meet the updated ASTM F1482 guidelines, prior to installation.
- Be certain the floor joists do not impede the floor flatness as required. Floors must be sufficiently rigid to avoid excess deflection. An additional layer of APA rated 1/4" thick underlayment is recommended to aid rigidity where unacceptable conditions exist.
- Crawl spaces and basements must be dry. The bottom of wooden subfloor joists must be a minimum of 18" above ground surface. 6 mil or greater black polyethylene sheeting must be in place covering 100% of the ground and overlapping a minimum 6" at seams acting as a moisture barrier. This polyethylene sheeting must run up the walls no less than 6". Air venting must be open on all sides and open no less than 1.5% of the total crawlspace area. Plastic sheeting is not recommended over wood subfloors.

OTHER SUBFLOORS

- **Acceptable** subfloor types include:
 - Concrete slab meeting updated ASTM F710 guidelines
 - APA rated plywood underlayment meeting updated ASTM F1482 guidelines
 - Underlayment grade particleboard
 - Securely fastened hard surface flooring including hardwood, ceramic tile, or one layer of resilient sheet or tile. Must be clean, flat, free of deflection, and securely adhered or fastened.
 - Properly prepared gypsum cement.
- **Unacceptable** subfloor types include, but are not limited to:
 - Crumb rubber underlayment, as it may interact with the flooring, chemically.
 - Existing floating flooring or cushion back products of any kind. Soft layers of flooring under Title Belt may compromise the locking integrity and resistance to indentation.
 - Ceramic tile with grout joints exceeding 1/4" in width. Grout joints exceeding 1/4" must be filled with an acceptable patching compound, previously described.
 - Carpet of any kind.
 - Wood adhered to concrete, including sleeper construction subfloors.
 - Underlayment with cushioning properties.
 - Eastern Flooring Products™ only recommends Title Belt to be installed with AMB 2000 underlayment for acoustical, moisture, and bonding remedies. If any rolling traffic will occur, double glue installation is required. You can find this product from the same source as Title Belt.

RADIANT HEAT

- Embedded radiant heating elements are acceptable in the subfloor provided they are a minimum of 1/2" from Title Belt in final installation.
- Material covering embedded radiant heating elements should still meet subfloor standards.
- To install Title Belt over radiant heating systems, system should be running and operational for at least 2 weeks prior to installation. 72 hours before installation, system temperature should be reduced to 65°F or cooler. After installation, increase temperature in increments of 5°F per 24 hours period to avoid overheating. Once installed, the floor temperature should never exceed 85°F.

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- It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure the installation environment meets the subfloor requirements previously stated. Eastern Flooring Products™ is not responsible for flooring failures resulting from unsatisfactory subfloors.
- Eastern Flooring Products™ is not responsible for installation related costs when visibly defective planks are installed.
- Measure and designate the middle of each wall. Strike a chalk line between the center of each wall in a square or rectangular room to determine the center of the room. Layout the room with the longest side of the plank perpendicular to the longest wall in the room, or parallel to incoming sunlight in square rooms. Both the first and last row should be greater in width than ½ the width of the plank, so you may need to adjust the center point of your installation pattern and/or rip the planks for these rows.
- Dry-fit your rows to ensure the starting and ending pieces of each row are no less than ¼ of the length of the total plank or tile.
- Full spread installation is required for areas with rolling loads, heavy furniture, commercial and/or heavy foot traffic, and caster chair traffic.

FULL SPREAD INSTALLATION STEPS

1. Working from multiple cartons, dry lay several rows of material to ensure desired aesthetic.
2. Consult the adhesive recommended trowel size and spread rate. Spread adhesive based on how much area can be installed within the working time using the required tools, described herein.
3. If using a pressure sensitive installation on porous or non-porous floors, follow the following steps:
 - a. Wait 30-60 minutes after adhesive is spread to allow it to dry, the adhesive will darken to visually cue the preparedness

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- b. Be sure to install the material within the working time for the adhesive. While the time will vary based on temperature and humidity, it can be up to 12 hours.
4. If using a semi-wet set installation on porous floors, follow the following steps:
 - a. Wait 20-30 minutes after adhesive is spread to allow it to skin over.
 - b. Working time is around 20-30 minutes.
5. Begin installation in the center of the room for best results. Based on your layout from the pre-installation notes, install the first pieces adjacent to your center line.
6. Lay each adjacent piece, ensuring a tight fit to the previous.
7. After laying all rows of material, roll the floor with a 75–100-pound roller to ensure proper adhesive transfer.
8. Install trim over exposed subfloor or unsightly cuts to ensure a beautiful, finished floor.

FLOATING INSTALLATION STEPS

1. Working from multiple cartons, dry lay several rows of material to ensure desired aesthetic.
2. After consulting the adhesive installation instructions for use as pressure sensitive, spread a 6" band of adhesive around the outside of the room. For rooms exceeding 15' in any direction, a band of adhesive is required every 15' in each direction. Evenly distribute the bands for the best results.
3. For best results, add a small area of pressure sensitive adhesive in front of any doors and windows, as well as in any pivot points in the room.
4. Begin installation in the center of the room for best results. Based on your layout from the pre-installation notes, install the first pieces adjacent to your center line.
5. Lay each adjacent piece, ensuring a tight fit to the previous.
6. When you reach the edge of the room, you can fit the material tight to the walls if the room is smaller than 15' in each direction. For larger rooms, allow 1/8" for each additional band of adhesive required. For example, a room that is 20' in length would require 1/8" expansion, whereas a room that is 50' in length would require 3/8" expansion. It is not recommended to float floors with dimensions exceeding 60' in any direction.
7. After laying all rows of material, roll the floor with a 75–100-pound roller in all areas where there is adhesive to ensure proper transfer.
8. Install trim over exposed subfloor or unsightly cuts to ensure a beautiful, finished floor. Take care not to pin the flooring to the subfloor.

AFTER INSTALLATION

- All furniture must be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and

appliances must be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with wheeled castors should only have 2” or wider castors no less than 4” in diameter.

- Office areas must have a protective mat under chairs or be equipped with non-marking roller blade style wheels. Do not use ball-type castors.
- Floating floors must not be pinned with fixed cabinetry, heavy equipment, or other heavy items. This includes kitchen cabinets/islands, slate pool tables, safes, or other heavy objects that would keep the floor from floating freely. If you have a question about a given piece of furniture or otherwise heavy object, please contact Eastern Flooring Products™ technical support.
- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt driveway sealer or other oil-based products on the floor.
- Use walk-off mats at entrances to prevent dirt, grit, and staining substances from damaging the floor. Use mats with non-staining backs, as rubber may discolor the floor.
- Eastern Flooring Products™ does not recommend the use of steam cleaning devices of any sort on Title Belt.

REPORTING A PROBLEM

1. If you think there is something wrong with your floor that is covered by this warranty, immediately contact the company you purchased the floor from within 48 hours of noticing the problem. Subsequent damage to the floor is not covered by the warranty.
2. Do not walk or roll anything over the affected area of the floor until the problem is identified or resolved.
3. If the company you purchased the product from determines there is a warranted issue with the floor, they will contact Eastern Flooring Products™ to file a claim. They are the only party that can file a claim or inquire as to the status of that claim.

WARNING: Existing resilient floor coverings and black asphalt adhesive may contain asbestos. Improper removal procedures could release asbestos fibers into the air. Asbestos fibers, when inhaled, could cause serious bodily harm. Do not sand or dry scrape these materials. If removal of existing floor coverings is necessary, be certain that all precautions are taken and proper procedures are followed. For information regarding proper removal procedures in the U.S.A., please consult the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 12-B, Rockville, MD 20850) for a pamphlet, “Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings.”