

THE ATELIER SERIES

LUXURY PERFORMANCE VINYL

The Atelier Series® Luxury Performance Vinyl The Sovereign Edition Installation Instructions

Recommended Adhesive: DuChâteau® DUAG-58 Premium Resilient Flooring Adhesive, available in 1- and 4-gallon containers, is designed specifically for the installation of all DuChâteau®, Atelier Series® and American Guild® glue-down luxury resilient flooring. See your local sales representative for more information.

General Information

- Resilient flooring installation should be scheduled after all other trades have completed their work.
- All products should match the order and be inspected prior to installation for style, size, quality and shipping damage, as well as color consistency between lot numbers. Products should not be installed if any irregularities are observed. Any material installed with visual defects will not be considered a legitimate claim as it pertains to labor cost.
- All substrates to receive moisture sensitive floor covering require proper moisture testing.
- The Atelier Series® Luxury Performance Vinyl is recommended for use over properly prepared concrete, suspended wood, metal and other suitable substrates.

Job Site Conditions

- Do not install The Atelier Series® Luxury Performance Vinyl flooring products until the work area can be temperature controlled.
- **Ambient Temperature:** Controlled environments are crucial. Fully functional HVAC systems are the best way to ensure temperature and humidity control. The permanent HVAC system must be operational and functional and set to a minimum of 65° F (20° C) or a maximum of 85° F for a minimum of 7 days prior to, during, and after installation. Once the installation is complete, the temperature should not exceed 85° F.
- Flooring, adhesive, and subfloor must be acclimated to a stable condition before installation for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
- After installation, light foot traffic should be minimized for 24 hours; point loads and rolling traffic for 48 hours and should utilize only slightly damp mop cleaning for 7 days if needed.

Asbestos Warning: WARNING! DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC “CUTBACK” ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES. Previously installed resilient floor covering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesives used to install them may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the previously installed product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. 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 covering structures.

Storage and Handling

- Flooring material and adhesive must be acclimated to the installation area for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.
- Store cartons of flooring flat and squarely on top of one another, in the most “center” area of the installation away from HVAC vents, direct sunlight or any other condition creating extreme heat or cold.

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Subfloor Conditions

- All substrates to receive resilient flooring shall be dry, clean, smooth and structurally sound. They shall be free of dust, dirt, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening/parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation/laitance, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials that may stain or prevent adhesion, smooth, flat, sound, fit for purpose, free of movement, excessive moisture and high alkalinity (ACI 302.1 and ASTM F710).
- Remove existing floor covering, all residual adhesive, paint or other contaminants. The use of adhesive removers, solvents, or ANY TYPE OF CHEMICAL ABATEMENT in the removal of old adhesives is prohibited and will void any warranty.
- The surface shall be flat to 3/16" (3.9mm) in 10 ft. (3050 mm) and 1/32" (0.8 mm) in 1 ft. (305 mm). To check flatness, place a 10 ft. straight edge, string, laser level or use another suitable method on the surface to measure any gap.
- Careful subfloor preparation is vital for an excellent floor appearance and good tile/plank adhesion. The subfloor must be smooth, firm, flat, clean, dry, free from defects, and fit for purpose. A suitable smoothing compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. In all cases, the subfloor must meet the moisture and pH requirements before installation.
- Below and on-grade concrete subfloors must have a suitable vapor retarder properly installed directly beneath the slab.

Concrete Subfloors

- DuChâteau® suggests referencing the current ASTM F710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring" and ASTM F301.
- Concrete subfloors must have a minimum compressive strength of 3000 psi. Concrete subfloors shall not consist of lightweight concrete or gypsum.
- Moisture Testing: Perform either the preferred In-situ Relative Humidity (RH) Test (ASTM F2170) or the acceptable Moisture Vapor Emission Rate (MVER) Test (ASTM F1869). For acceptable moisture limits, please refer to the DuChâteau® recommended adhesive specifications.
- Alkalinity: Must test surface alkalinity (ASTM F710). A 7.0 to 9.0 pH is acceptable.
- Perform corrective actions necessary for elevated moisture or high alkalinity conditions.
- Record and document site conditions, test results and any corrective actions taken. This documentation must be available throughout the warranty period.
- Slick surfaces, such as power troweled concrete, shall be abraded or profiled to allow for a mechanical bond between the adhesive and subfloor.
- For concrete subfloors, use only high quality Portland cement- or synthetic gypsum-based materials (minimum 3000 psi compressive strength according to ASTM C109). Mix with water only, do not use latex. Caution: Do not lightly skim coat highly polished or slick power troweled concrete surfaces. A thin film of floor patch will not bond to a slick subfloor and may become a bond breaker, causing flooring to release at the interface of the subfloor and patching material. If in doubt, perform a bond test prior to commencing with the installation.

Moisture Suppressant System

- Concrete subfloors that exceed DuChâteau® recommended adhesive specifications will require a Moisture Suppressant System. Due to complexities associated with moisture vapor transmission, emissions and movement of soluble salts (alkalinity) in concrete subfloors, we do not offer, recommend, or warranty a specific solution for excess moisture in concrete slabs. However, there are many companies that offer solutions with warranties for excess moisture in concrete slabs. Reference the current ASTM F710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring" and ASTM F301 "Standard Practice for Two Component Resin Based Membrane Forming Moisture Mitigation Systems for Use Under Resilient Flooring Systems."

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Wood Subfloors/Underlayment

- DuChâteau® recommends the use of suitable underlayment materials, which have been designed or engineered specifically for resilient flooring. Selection and installation of suitable underlayment products is the responsibility of the individual(s) installing the flooring.

Pre-Installation

- Ensure that all recommendations for subfloor and job site conditions are met prior to beginning the installation.
- Refer to DuChâteau® recommended adhesive instructions for proper usage, trowel size recommendations and moisture tolerances. Failure to do so risks voiding the warranty.
- Start of flooring installation indicates acceptance of current subfloor conditions and full responsibility for completed work.
- Flooring installation layout shall be specified by the architect, designer or end user.
- Working out of multiple boxes at a time is recommended for proper variation in flooring install.

Installation

- With desired layout determined, establish centerline of room and start point, using conventional plank and tile installation techniques.
- Begin in the center of the room along the center line and work your way out to the walls, dry laying the flooring and marking base lines along the way.
- Check that there are equal plank lengths on opposite sides of room. Ensure that all cuts to be made along the perimeter will be of adequate size, dividing the length and width of the room by the respective length and width of the product. Always make sure the ends of each row end with at least 6” to 12” for plank products.
- Plank products should have a minimum of 6” seam stagger to achieve a random appearance.
- Create work zones with chalk lines to spread adhesive so it aligns with the established base line. This way the room will be laid out so all flooring can be installed, while staying off freshly installed flooring. This minimizes adhesive displacement and adhesive bleed between the flooring.
- To cut cleanly, score the top side of the material with a utility knife, bend the product and finish the cut through the backside. Remember, cut edges should always be against the wall.
- Be sure to inspect each plank for visual defects before cutting or gluing down. Installation of The Atelier Series® Sovereign Edition flooring implies acceptance of materials.
- When all previous steps have been satisfactorily completed, including dry fitting cut pieces (if applicable), proceed with glue-down application according to DuChâteau® recommended adhesive specifications.
- Once floor is completely laid, roll the the entire glued floor area with a 3-section 100 lb. roller within the adhesive’s working time to ensure proper adhesion.
- To finish the perimeter of the room, install baseboard molding using finishing nails. Nail trim directly into the baseboard, NOT the flooring.
- It is recommended to use floor protection after installation. Do not use a plastic adhesive-based protection system.

NOTE: DuChâteau® does NOT warrant installers’ workmanship. Workmanship errors should be addressed to the contractor who installed the floor. Your Atelier Series® floor should be professionally installed by contractors who have demonstrated expertise in installing resilient floors.

Questions regarding the installation of your Atelier Series® floor, please contact DuChâteau® at 1.888.DUCHATEAU.