

APPLICATIONS

SUITABLE APPLICATIONS

- Avella Click Flooring can be installed on all grade levels of the home; on, above and below grade. This flooring can be installed over existing tile, vinyl and hardwood* flooring that is clean, flat, and dry and is securely attached to the subfloor. (*Any existing wood flooring products (solid, engineered, bamboo, etc.) installed directly over concrete substrates must be removed prior to the installation of this flooring.)
- This flooring can be installed over approved radiant heating systems. Please note, the Avella Click System should not be installed above heating systems that may expose the grid to temperatures above 110° F (43°C).
- This product can be installed in seasonal homes (summer homes, vacation homes, etc.)
*See complete details under the CARE and MAINTENANCE section of these instructions.

UNSUITABLE APPLICATIONS

- Carpet or cushioned vinyl.
- Showers, saunas, and steam rooms
- Floor Drains, Unstable sub-floor
- Walls, stairs, countertops and backsplashes.
- Outdoor environments or any "other environment" subjected to rain, snow, standing water or where water would get under the flooring system.
- Other floating flooring systems, such as laminate wood floors.
- Wood, bamboo or any natural flooring installed directly over a concrete slab.
- Installations that expose the floor to temperatures exceeding 110° F (43°C) wood-burning stoves, fireplace hearths, etc.).

Jobsite Conditions

- The building should be enclosed with all doors and windows in place.
- Crawlspace, basements, and garages under the flooring should be dry and well ventilated
- Crawlspaces must be a minimum 18" from the bottom of the floor joist to the ground. The ground of the crawlspace must have a minimum 6 mil thick polyethylene film covering the entire crawlspace ground.
- All gutters should be in place and functioning properly. Yard grading should be sloped to run water away from the home foundation.
- Home should be in normal living conditions.
- All constructions trades should be completed before tile flooring installation begins.

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS: All subfloor systems must meet local building codes and be CLEAN, SMOOTH, DRY, HARD, FLAT, and STRUCTURALLY SOUND.

Subfloor must also meet JOINT SPECIFICATIONS, TOLERANCE (FLATNESS) SPECIFICATIONS, and DEFLECTION SPECIFICATIONS according to the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) guidelines.

- Subfloors must be flat to within 1/8" in 10' from the required plane, with no more than 1/16" variation in 24" when measured from the high points in the surface. A straightedge should be used to determine whether floor is within tolerance. Note that joist spacing determines minimum subfloor thickness.
- Joist spacing 16" on center (oc) or less: Plywood: Minimum of (5/8", 19/32) Oriented Strand Board (OSB): minimum (3/4", 23/32")
- Joist spacing 16" up to 19.2" (oc) Plywood: Minimum of (3/4", 23/32") Oriented Strand Board (OSB): minimum of (3/4", 23/32")
- Joist spacing over 19.2" up to maximum 24" (oc): Plywood: Minimum of (7/8") Oriented Strand Board (OSB): Minimum of (1" or two layers of subflooring, or brace between truss/joists in accordance with local building codes).
- **DEFLECTION SPECIFICATIONS:** To prevent tiles from breaking; the subfloor must not have deflection greater than 1/360 of the span when measured under a 300lb concentrated load (per ASTM C 627). Inspect floor for movement. If movement is caused by loose boards, secure them. If movement is caused by deflection or structural movement, consult a carpenter for structural repair.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

PREP

- **REMOVE base and /or quarter round moldings if needed.**

Identify high and low spots that are out of tolerance by laying a 6'-8' straight edge across your subfloor. High spots should be removed by planing, sanding or grinding. Low spots should be filled. When leveling the concrete subfloor, use only portland-based fillers; never use gypsum-based fillers as they support mold growth. (Follow the manufactures self-leveling/patching product guide-lines for proper mixing & application.)

- **MEASURE THE AREA:** Measure the area to be tiled and estimate the square footage needed, plus 10% for cut-waste and possible future repairs. To find the square footage of the room, take the length times the width. Each package of 6"x24" tile contains five sq. ft. of tile. Divide the square footage by nine and you will have a rough estimation of how many cartons to purchase. When buying grout, it is helpful to know that one 9lb. pail of NeverSeal Urethane Grout covers approximately 80 square feet.

- **CHECK ALL CLEARANCES:** Check all door and appliance clearances, as well as transition heights. Cut or plane the bottom of doors to accommodate the change in floor height.

- **UNDERCUT DOOR CASINGS AND JAMS:** Undercut door casings and jambs. This will allow tiles to move freely while also covering the cut edges. A scrap piece of tile can be used to guide the saw blade. This will help achieve the correct height for undercutting.

- Temperature during installation must be maintained between 50°F (10°C) and 100°F (38°C).

- Acclimation time is not required when the product and worksite are within the above temperatures. If the jobsite is not within the recommended temperature range, bring indoor climate back to recommended climate and acclimate flooring for 24 hours prior to installation.

- Don't forget to Check the flatness of the subfloor (See SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS).

LAYOUTS/PATTERNS

- Installs in a staggered or herringbone pattern.
- Installation can begin in the center of the room or at perimeter. As with a traditional tile installation, the layout should be planned so the cut pieces along the perimeter appear in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

- The layout should be a collaboration between the home owner and tile installer. Wood plank tiles can be installed in the center of the room to create a balanced layout, or can be installed starting at one wall and working toward the opposite wall to place cut planks in a less noticeable location. In some cases the install may start at a focal point in the room. The final layout is a matter of personal preference.

- A 1/4 in. expansion space must be left around the perimeter of the room and at all vertical obstructions. **Install around, not under, cabinetry, center islands, bathtubs, shower pans, etc.

- Tabs can be removed using a wet saw, tin snip, or rubber mallet.

- It may be advantageous to begin an installation at a doorway or underneath an undercut (depends on lay-out).
- Due to the variations associated with glazed porcelain tile, including shade, finish, color and texture, tiles should be mixed from cartons if installing different lot numbers. We recommend all jobs be installed from the same lot number.

- Inspect each tile by turning and looking at all sides for color match, damage or defect before installing.
- All claims for defective product must be filed before the tile is installed.

SNAP/ASSEMBLY

- Tiles can be interlocked using a white rubber mallet and tapping block. Using a tapping block is optional.
- Tiles may be installed one at a time, or in rows.
- System is non-directional, and can be installed to the right or to the left.
- Ensure interlocking tabs are fully engaged.
- Small cut pieces installed along the perimeter should be adhered using a 100% urethane construction adhesive.
- Tile rows can be shifted for perfect alignment using a rubber mallet and pull bar, or tapping block.

- Tiles can be disengaged in 2 ways:
 1. Lifting one tile upward until tiles disconnect.
 2. Placing the rubber-coated pull bar in the grout joint and twisting until tiles separate.

MARKING/CUTTING

- Always follow tool manufacturer safety requirements and use appropriate eye and ear, and lung protection.
- Tiles may be cut using a wet saw, tile cutter, or angle grinder, all with a diamond blade designed for porcelain.

- A 1/4" gap is required along the perimeter of room and permanently installed items such as cabinets, bathtubs, etc. to allow for expansion and contraction. Remove the tabs from this space.

- When using a wet saw, be sure to change the water often. Shavings from the plastic tray float, and will clog the water pump.
- After cutting the tile with a wet saw, set it with the cut edge facing down to allow the water to drain properly.

- When cutting tile using a tile cutter:
Step 1: Score tile with tile cutter.

- **Step 2:** Snap porcelain tile.
Step 3: Separate the two pieces of porcelain tile, then run a utility knife through the plastic tray and snap.

- L cuts can be made using a wet saw or angle grinder.
- Curved, circular, or U cuts can be made using an angle grinder.
- Holes can be drilled using a high quality carbide-designed hole-cutter or diamond bit.
- Once cut, a tile can be installed along the perimeter using a rubber-coated pull bar.

GROUT

NeverSeal™ Urethane Flexible Grout is the only grout approved for this product. Other grouts are not sufficiently flexible to handle the movement associated with a floating floor and will fail. See FULL Grouting Instructions included with Grout Pail.

TRIMS AND TRANSITIONS

- Base and/or quarter round moldings should be installed to cover the perimeter spaces.
- A flush wood, overlapping vinyl or overlapping metal stair nose molding is needed at stair edge.
- Use the appropriate transitions between all existing floor coverings and at all step-downs (stairways) and the QC Avella flooring.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- Regular sweeping or vacuuming and damp mopping is recommended to keep your floor looking its best. * Bostik Blaze™ Urethane Grout Cleaner is highly recommended. Follow instructions on container.
- For deep cleaning, or to address messy or sticky spills, use a non-detergent cleaner designed for porcelain.
- DO NOT USE commercial enzyme-based cleaners, vinegar or steam mops.

- **After installation, if the home temperature is left unregulated when the home is unoccupied, the temperature must be adjusted back to acceptable conditions between 50°F and 100°F for 24hrs prior to normal use. Foot traffic in temperatures outside the ranges above may cause damage to the flooring.**

REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

- 1: Remove grout from perimeter of broken tile
- 2: Cut the tabs at 3 of the 4 surrounding sides of the broken tile
- 3: Remove broken tile
- 4: Cut the upward tabs of the new tile on 3 of 4 sides
- 5: Apply a layer of 100% urethane construction adhesive to the back of the new tile
- 6: Place the new tile into position, interlocking the side with remaining tabs
- 7: Apply pressure to ensure full adhesion
- 8: Allow adhesive to dry for 24 hours
- 9: Once adhesive cures, apply flexible grout

Questions? Call toll-free: 1-800-366-4204 • www.lumberliquidators.com

The Avella Click tile installation system can be summarized in three categories: Prep, Snap and Grout. However, within these categories are regulations and steps to take to ensure the best floor performance and ease of installation. PLEASE read all instructions thoroughly prior to beginning the install process. YOUR AVELLA PRODUCT LIMITED WARRANTY IS VOID IF ANY OF THESE IMPORTANT GUIDELINES ARE NOT FOLLOWED.

ATTENTION!

Save time & avoid frustration! Read these entire instructions before starting your installation! Prior to installing a single tile, you and or your installer must determine that the job-site environment and the sub-surfaces meet the requirements set forth in this installation guide.

CAUTION: Do not sand any surfaces containing lead based paints, finishes, or asbestos. For buildings built in 1978 and earlier, contact the EPA for lead based testing prior to any sanding (www.epa.gov).

CAUTION: To obtain installation assistance or product information concerning this flooring, contact the store of original purchase, or call the Lumber Liquidators customer care at 800-366-4204.

HELPFUL TOOLS*

- Two 5 Gal. pails
- Straight Edge
- Speed Square
- Wall Spacers
- Undercut Saw
- Wet Saw (w/Diamond Blade)
- Angle-Grinder (w/Diamond Blade)
- Tile-Snapper
- Sponge (regular grout sponge & micro fiber sponge)
- Safety Goggles
- Ear Protection
- White Rubber Mallet
- Tapping Block
- Rubber-coated Pull Bar
- Rubber Gloves
- Tape Measure
- Utility Knife

*The tools indicated on this page are helpful for a Avella Click System installation, but, not every tool listed is necessary.

Always follow the tool manufacturer's safety requirements and keep appropriate safety guards in place.

