

# **Luxury Vinyl Tiles (LVT) Maintenance And Under Floor Heating Instructions**

**Important Information - Please Read Carefully**

Congratulations! You've invested in our luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) to make your house a home. To ensure they look their best over the years you will need to clean and maintain them properly.

We've put together this care guide to help you, packed with expert hints and tips!

### **Immediately After Your LVT Has Been Fitted**

To avoid damage, never push or drag furniture around on LVT. Lift any furniture that needs to be moved. By placing soft castors under chairs and table legs you will prevent scratches and dents occurring.

### **Cleaning LVT**

Luxury Vinyl Tile flooring is known for being easy to clean and this makes it a practical addition to family homes where spillages and stains are more common.

- Luxury vinyl tile flooring is wonderfully simple to clean and most floors will require little more than a regular brush and mop.
- Vacuum regularly or sweep with a soft brush to remove loose debris.
- Wash weekly to get rid of stains.
- Never soak the floor but use a well wrung out mop or damp cloth to clean the surface instead.

## **Staining On LVT**

Luxury Vinyl Tiles are known for being easy to clean but some stains, especially in the kitchen, may be more difficult to remove than others.

First use a damp cloth with hot water and a mild detergent to lift the stain or mark. Never soak or drench the floor but use a well wrung out mop or cloth to wipe at the stain.

If this doesn't work then try using a soft bristled brush to remove the mark. Use only gentle movements to rub at the stain so as not to damage the surface of the vinyl tiles.

For an alternative approach, chemicals and cleaning agents can be used to remove stubborn stains. However, you do need to make sure these chemicals are suitable for use on vinyl tiles and are safe for use in your home. As with all these things try them in a discreet, out-of-the-way place first.

Always wipe the surface of the floor thoroughly with a damp cloth using clean water after use and dry thoroughly before letting children or animals back into the room.

## **LVT Maintenance**

A simple brush and clean on a weekly basis can keep your flooring looking good as new.

Placing doormats at all of the entrances to a home will help to trap dirt and moisture. Large doormats at main entrances will significantly reduce dirt from

outside being spread around your home and onto your luxury tiles. The doormats themselves should be cleaned regularly.

To maintain the finish of Luxury Vinyl Tiles you will need to remove food stains, grease or liquid spills as soon as they happen.

Fortunately this can often be done using very basic cleaning fluids and a damp cloth, although you should always check the label to make sure the cleaning solutions are compatible with the flooring.

Remember that some cleaners contain chemicals which can cause the floor to become slippery so it's vital to limit the amount that is used. Similarly, no wax products should not be used with vinyl flooring as this can also make it slippery and even dull the appearance of the tiles.

To keep your flooring looking its best, shutting blinds or curtains to prevent extreme sunlight can help to slow or prevent discolouring or the fading of vinyl tiles caused by sunlight.

Vinyl floor tiles are very robust but they can still be damaged, especially when heavy furniture is moved across the surface. Using floor protectors is highly recommended as this will support your furniture and limit the indentations that may occur. Heavy items should be lifted rather than dragged into place. The use of

coasters or floor protectors also ensures that furniture and other heavy items such as fridges and freezers do not slide across the flooring.

Using strips of wood or hardboard as runners with goods that are too heavy to lift can help to protect your vinyl flooring. Using such an approach is advisable even if the heavy items have wheels or rollers.

### **LVT Repairs**

Is it simple to repair LVT? The answer is yes. Any scratches or holes in your luxury vinyl flooring can be fixed without the need to remove an entire tile, although this option may be needed in more severe cases of damage:

#### **In instances where you wish to make repairs:**

Holes can be filled with clear epoxy resin which is mixed with acrylic artist's paint that matches the colour of the flooring. This is placed into the hole or scratch and levelled out with any excess removed before being left to dry.

#### **For instances where a damaged tile needs replacing altogether:**

Use a blow dryer or heat gun to loosen the adhesive under the tile which holds it in place. This will allow you to remove the tile from the floor entirely.

Wipe the floor beneath the tile clean before replacing the removed tile with a new one that is cut to size and glued down in place.

Make sure the new tile matches your existing flooring and align any patterns on the floor to achieve a professional result.

Use a rolling pin or floor roller to ensure that the new tile sticks firmly into place and to prevent any air bubbles, lumps or bumps from appearing in the surface and causing a potential trip hazard.

## **LVT Care Tips**

### **When cleaning, Do:**

- Vacuum regularly
- Sweep with a soft broom

### **When cleaning, don't:**

- Over wet the luxury vinyl tiles if attempting to remove stains
- Use wax
- Use a steam mop

### **To protect your floor, do:**

- Put doormats and rugs by doors
- Keep pets' nails trimmed
- Ensure rugs have a non-slip backing to them
- Use hardboard or wood to protect your floor when pushing heavy objects with castors across the floor.

### **To protect your floor, don't:**

- Drag furniture across your LVT
- Place in direct sunlight

## Laying and Using LVT Products Over Under Floor Heating

LVT is suitable for installing over under-floor heating systems, providing they have been insulated so that the surface temperature does not exceed 27°C (80°F).

If you are arranging for installation of under-floor heating or have an existing system, we recommend you make a note of the manufacturer and model of the under-floor heating system and call the manufacturer of that system to ensure your property is able to receive LVT products.

### **IMPORTANT - Heating Your Home Immediately After Installation**

Under floor heating must be off for at least 48hrs before and after installation. When turned on again, it must be brought up to temperature slowly. Maximum floor surface temp should never get any higher than 27c.

Also note that you can't (at any time in the future) suddenly turn the heating off or quickly raise it to higher temperatures, or make sudden drastic changes in temperature in any way. It always needs to be lowered or raised slowly (typically maximum 3°C/hr.)

In other words you may need to have your heating running all the time over winter.

## **Things to Note**

- \* Maximum temperature 27C.
- \* The flooring will need to be placed in location at least a few days before fitting to allow time to acclimatise.
- \* It is recommended the heating system is fully commissioned before the floor tiles are installed to ensure the heating system is working as required with no leaks or cable breaks.
- \* Care should be taken in the placing of large insulating items such as rugs, beanbags and towels onto floors containing under floor heating. This can result in localised "hot-spots" which may lead to distortion or discolouration of the tiles. No responsibility can be accepted under these circumstances.
- \* Level floors – It is essential that the floor covering is fixed only onto a perfectly flat and stable subfloor.
- \* To change temperature when needed, always change temperature in small amounts slowly over time.

