

Standard glue-down LVT installation instructions

Aurora II | Galaxy II | FINcrete

IMPORTANT

Glue-down LVT requires professional substrate preparation and a compatible full-spread adhesive system. Improper assessment, preparation or installation may void the warranty. Inspect all material before installation.

Ranges covered

RANGE	FORMAT / CONSTRUCTION	WEAR LAYER	CURRENT WARRANTY SUMMARY
Aurora II	1,220 × 228.6 × 2.0 mm glue-down plank	0.3 mm; double SUPER UV	20-year heavy domestic; 5-year light commercial
Galaxy II	1,526 × 230 × 2.5 mm glue-down plank	0.5 mm; double SUPER UV	Lifetime heavy domestic; 10-year general commercial
FINcrete	908.4 × 451.2 × 2.5 mm glue-down tile	0.55 mm; double SUPER UV	30-year domestic; 10-year heavy commercial

Product selection and installer responsibility

Select the range according to expected traffic, point loads, rolling loads, contaminants, sunlight and temperature. FINfloor recommends installation by an experienced resilient-flooring contractor able to assess the complete system. The installer must confirm that the substrate, primer, moisture barrier, smoothing compound and adhesive are compatible with each other and with the selected LVT.

Site conditions

- Condition the installation area to normal occupied conditions, between 15°C and 30°C, before, during and after installation.
- Acclimatise unopened cartons flat for at least 48 hours unless the current product or adhesive data states otherwise.
- Protect the working area and stored flooring from direct sunlight, fireplaces, heaters and concentrated heat.
- Do not allow foot traffic, wet cleaning, rolling loads or heavy furniture until the adhesive is fully cured - normally at least 48 hours; the adhesive manufacturer's cure time governs.
- Embedded underfloor heating requires written flooring and adhesive approval. Limit the screed/floor surface to 27°C and change temperature gradually.

Subfloor requirements

- Dry, clean, smooth, dense, structurally sound and free from dust, paint, grease, oil, laitance, curing compounds and adhesive residue.
- Mirror-smooth, because ridges, joints, cracks and undulations may telegraph through the LVT.
- Flat to less than 3 mm over a 1.5 m radius. Correct all irregularities using a suitable professional smoothing system.
- Concrete surface strength of at least 20 MPa; 25-28 MPa is preferred for demanding installations. The surface must not powder or flake.
- Moisture at or below 3% on a Tramex meter or 12% on a Protimeter, subject to the supporting-product requirements. Record dated readings and photographs.
- A compatible two-coat liquid moisture barrier is strongly recommended on ground-floor installations and must be used where required by moisture conditions or the adhesive/smoothing system.
- Existing tiles may be overlaid only when sound, firmly bonded and uncracked, after correct degreasing, priming and smoothing. Obtain system-specific written guidance.

Preparation and adhesive system

Supporting products

Use primers, repair mortars, moisture barriers, smoothing compounds and adhesives designed for resilient dry-back LVT and the specific substrate. Do not combine products from different systems unless written compatibility is confirmed. Keep all invoices, data sheets, batch information and installation records.

Tools and equipment

Moisture meter	Long straightedge / laser	Chalk line and pencil
Mixing drill and clean buckets	Utility knife / guillotine / fine saw	Tape, square and dividers
Specified notched trowel	68 kg three-part roller	Small hard hand roller
Cleaning cloths and water	Appropriate PPE	Spare blades and trowels

Adhesive application

- Use an adhesive approved for the LVT range, substrate, traffic, temperature, solar exposure and underfloor-heating conditions. Follow the current technical data sheet.
- Where specified, use a 1.5 × 1.5 mm V-notched trowel at approximately 4 mm spacing. The adhesive manufacturer's trowel and spread-rate specification takes precedence.
- Spread only what can be placed and rolled within the adhesive's flash-off, open and working times. Local heat and humidity can change these times significantly.
- Lift-test planks or tiles throughout installation to confirm uniform adhesive transfer. Replace worn trowels and correct technique immediately where transfer is insufficient.
- Remove wet adhesive using the approved method. Never allow adhesive contamination, skinning or ridges to remain beneath or around the flooring.

Straight-plank setting-out

1. Confirm the preferred laying direction, normally parallel with the longest wall or toward the main light source. Do not assume walls are straight or square.
2. Measure the room across the laying direction. Adjust the first-row width so the last row is not narrower than 60 mm and both sides appear balanced.
3. Measure along the laying direction and plan end cuts. Maintain at least a 250 mm stagger between adjacent plank end joints unless the product design requires more.
4. Establish a straight working line with a laser or chalk line. Dry-lay several rows and agree the colour and décor blend with the client.
5. Mix planks from several cartons and distribute décor variation naturally. Do not install visibly defective material.

Tile-format setting-out: FINcrete

1. Establish perpendicular centre lines and verify the room diagonals. Dry-lay tiles along both axes.
2. Shift the layout to avoid small perimeter cuts and to align grout-free joints with key doorways and architectural features.
3. Agree straight, quarter-turn or approved pattern orientation before spreading adhesive. Keep control lines visible and check them frequently.

SETTING-OUT RULE

A glue-down floor cannot be repositioned once the adhesive grabs. Complete and approve the dry layout before adhesive application.

Installation procedure

Laying the floor

1. Reconfirm site temperature, substrate readiness, pattern, batch blend and working lines before opening adhesive.
2. Apply adhesive evenly to a manageable area. Observe required flash-off; do not lay into adhesive that is too wet, skinned or beyond its working time.
3. Place the first row or tile field exactly on the control line. Press each piece into the adhesive without trapping air or smearing adhesive into joints.
4. Keep joints tight, clean and level. Never force planks or tiles together. Remove and replace pieces that do not sit correctly.
5. For plank formats, continue with a random stagger of at least 250 mm. Avoid H-joints and repetitive stair-step patterns.
6. For FINcrete tiles, check both perpendicular axes and joint alignment continuously. Correct drift before the adhesive develops grab.
7. Cut perimeter pieces accurately, leaving the clearance required by the site/system. Dry-fit complex cuts around frames, columns and pipes.
8. Roll each completed field in both directions using a 68 kg three-part roller within the adhesive's stated time. Hand-roll edges and confined areas.
9. Lift-test periodically for adhesive transfer, re-roll during the installation and roll the complete floor again at completion.

Completion and curing

- Inspect under strong, even light; remove adhesive residue immediately using the approved cleaning method.
- Restrict access and protect the area for the full adhesive cure period. Do not wet-clean or expose the floor to rolling loads or heavy furniture for at least 48 hours unless a longer period is specified.
- Use clean rigid protection for following trades only when the adhesive permits. Avoid covers that trap moisture or concentrate heat.
- Fit trims and profiles without damaging the flooring. Seal wet-area perimeters only where the approved installation and building detail specifically require it.
- Store spare pieces flat with the product label and batch information.

INSTALLATION RECORD

Retain moisture readings, photographs, substrate-preparation records, product and adhesive batch numbers, trowel details, invoices and the installer's signed job card.

Cleaning and maintenance

Initial care

- Do not wet-clean until the adhesive is fully cured. Remove loose dust with a soft broom or vacuum with the beater bar switched off.
- Use non-staining entrance mats. Do not use rubber-backed mats, which may discolour vinyl.
- Move furniture over rigid protective runways and fit broad, non-staining protectors or clean felt pads. Use soft castors designed for resilient flooring.

Routine cleaning

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to remove grit.
- Damp-clean using a clean microfibre system, room-temperature water and a suitable diluted vinyl-floor cleaner. Rinse or replace dirty pads frequently.
- Do not flood the floor. Water can penetrate joints and affect the adhesive or substrate even though the LVT product is waterproof against topical water.
- Do not use steam mops, harsh chemicals, dishwashing liquid, abrasive cleaners, wax, polish or scouring pads.
- Clean castors and furniture protectors regularly, trim pet nails and move rugs periodically to minimise uneven fading.

Heat and sunlight

- Protect flooring in front of heaters and fireplaces with a suitable heat-resistant platform.
- Manage intense sunlight with blinds, curtains or solar-control measures; concentrated solar heat can affect both vinyl and adhesive.
- Embedded underfloor heating must be approved, limited to 27°C at the screed/floor surface and operated with gradual temperature changes.

Warranty overview

RANGE	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL
Aurora II	20 years - heavy domestic	5 years - light commercial
Galaxy II	Lifetime - heavy domestic	10 years - general commercial
FINcrete	30 years - domestic	10 years - heavy commercial

- Warranty cover is subject to the current range-specific FINfloor glue-down warranty, correct fit-for-use selection, professional installation and maintenance.
- FINfloor does not warrant installer workmanship or failures caused by moisture, alkalinity, hydrostatic pressure, incompatible products, poor preparation, telegraphing, excessive heat or water, scratches, indentation, staining or abuse.
- Installed material is deemed accepted. Retain proof of purchase and report concerns first to the retailer/installer for a site inspection and formal claim process.

Online range references

FINcrete Glue Down	Tile-format setting-out in this guide applies.
Galaxy II Glue Down	Straight-plank setting-out in this guide applies.
Aurora II Herringbone Glue Down	Use the separate Aurora II Herringbone installation guide.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

This 2026 guide updates the FINfloor standard dry-back instructions for straight-plank and tile LVT. Always verify the exact product specifications, current warranty and supporting-product data sheets on www.finfloor.co.za before installation.