

Installation & Maintenance Guide

Loose Lay

PLEASE READ COMPLETELY BEFORE INSTALLATION

Warranty Information: Refer to Lions Floor Loose Lay Warranty Guidelines.

Installation of Lions Floor Loose Lay flooring must comply with these guidelines as well as applicable national building codes and flooring installation standards at the time of installation. Failure to follow these instructions may void the product warranty.

Tools:

- Tape measure
- Chalk line
- Pencil
- Utility knife
- Spacers
- Straight edge
- Shears (for curved cuts)
- 75–100 lb flooring roller

Applicable Installation Standards

Installation must comply with the following standards:

- **ASTM F710** – Preparation of Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring
- **ASTM F1482** – Installation of Panel Underlayment to Receive Resilient Flooring

These standards define acceptable conditions for subfloor preparation, flatness, and moisture testing.

Pre-Installation — Inspect Materials

Before installation:

- Verify color, design, and batch numbers
- Inspect planks in adequate lighting
- Do not install defective material

Claims for visible defects will not be accepted after installation.

Acclimation

Flooring must acclimate in the installation area for **at least 48 hours** before installation.



Conditions must be maintained:

- **65°F – 81°F (18°C – 27°C)** before installation
- During installation
- For **48 hours after installation**

HVAC systems should be operational during this period.

After installation maintain temperatures between: **55°F – 81°F (13°C – 27°C)**

Avoid direct sunlight exposure during acclimation and installation.

Subfloor Requirements

Subfloors must be:

- Structurally sound
- Clean
- Dry
- Smooth
- Flat
- Free of dust, grease, paint, wax, oil, adhesive residue, and contaminants

Subfloor flatness should meet: **3/16" within 10 ft**

Moisture Testing

Concrete moisture must be tested prior to installation using one of the following methods:

- **ASTM F1869 – Calcium Chloride Test**
- **ASTM F2170 – Relative Humidity Test**

Moisture limits should not exceed:

- **5 lbs / 1000 sq ft / 24 hours (ASTM F1869)**
- or
- **85% RH (ASTM F2170)**

If moisture exceeds these limits, a **moisture mitigation system must be used**.

Wood subfloor moisture content should **not exceed 13%**.

Subfloor Preparation — Concrete



Concrete must be smooth, clean, flat, and free of dust and moisture. Remove all dust, dirt, grease and adhesive residue. Sweep and vacuum floor thoroughly. Fill all cracks and holes with a suitable patch/underlayment/ embossing leveler per manufacturer's instructions.

Concrete must be:

- Fully cured
- Dry
- Smooth
- Free of curing compounds, sealers, oils, grease, and contaminants

All cracks and joints must be filled with appropriate patching compound.

Wood Subfloors

Securely nail all loose boards. Scrape, plane or fill uneven boards with a suitable patch/ underlayment/ embossing leveler.

Wood subfloors must be:

- Securely fastened
- Structurally sound

Install **minimum 1/4" (6 mm) underlayment grade plywood** if surface irregularities exist.

Existing Floors

Loose Lay flooring may be installed over certain existing hard surface floors provided they are clean, smooth, dry, and well bonded. Planks should not be installed over heavily embossed tiles unless the embossing has been filled in with a suitable patch/ underlayment/ embossing leveler.

LOOSE LAY may even be installed over ceramic tiles if the surface is smooth, dust-free, and the grout lines and any other irregularities are filled with a suitable patch/ underlayment/ embossing leveler. Installation is not suitable for existing foam-backed or cushion-backed flooring and stairs, or, in rooms with sloping floors or floor drains.

NOTE: Installation possible if the substrate temperature does not exceed 81°F at all points and with reversible floors. Turn the underfloor heating off 24 hours prior to installation. Restart the heating gradually after installation.

Loose Lay flooring may be installed over:

- Well-bonded vinyl
- VCT
- Ceramic tile
- Terrazzo

Provided the surface is smooth and grout lines are filled.

Do not install over:

- Foam-backed flooring
- Cushion-back flooring
- Floating floors
- Laminate
- SPC / WPC floors

Adhesive Residue

Old adhesive residues must be **mechanically removed**.

Chemical adhesive removers must not be used as they may damage the backing of the flooring and affect performance.

Layout Planning

Plan the installation to avoid narrow planks along walls.

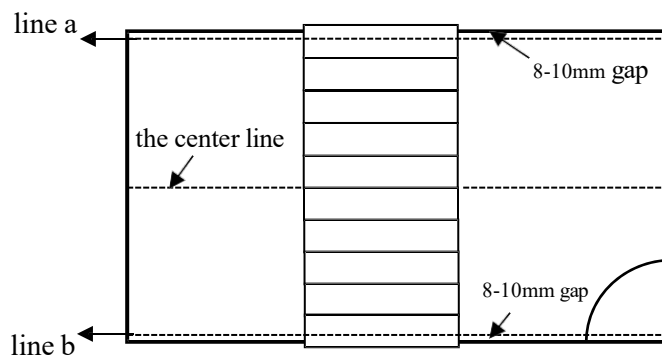


Fig.1 – Dry layout to determine width of border plank.

Lay the long dimension of the planks parallel to the long dimensions of the room. Draw a line with some chalk lengthwise along the middle of the room. Do a dry layout of planks from the center line to the wall running parallel to the long direction of the planks to determine the width of the last row of planks (Figure 1). Reserve an 8-10mm expansion gap between the line a or line b to the walls. Avoid having less than a half plank width at the line a or line b. Measure the width of the room at the front, middle and back and divide the widths of each measurement by the width of a plank. If the remainder is less than half the plank width, then the planks on your starter row should be narrowed to make the last row approximately half the plank. The width of the last row of planks should be approximately the same width as the first row of planks.

Note: This may also be figured out by laying down loose planks across the width of the room without securing them to each other and making the necessary adjustments.

Installation Procedure

- The planks will be installed starting in the corner of the room on the left side of the starting wall (Figure 2).

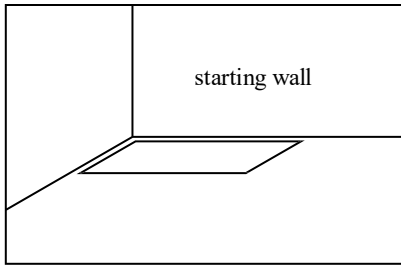


Fig.2 – Left corner of starting wall

- Begin laying the first row of planks, left to right, until you near the end and need to cut the last plank to fit.
- Remember to put spacers along the walls to maintain 8-10 mm expansion zone between the wall and the planks.

NOTE: Loose Lay planks are designed for adhesive-free installation under normal residential conditions. Where adhesive is required or recommended (including large installations, rolling loads, commercial applications, or climate-sensitive areas), LionsGrip™ Pressure Sensitive Adhesive is recommended. **When installing FormaLay with LionsGrip adhesive, a semi-wet installation is the recommended method to achieve optimal adhesive transfer and bond performance.**

- Start the second row on the left side with a piece cut to about 2/3 the length of the starting plank in the first row. It is important to keep the end joints staggered a minimum of 15.2 cm in adjacent rows (Figure 3).

NOTE: Measure the length of the room at left wall and divide by the length of a plank. If the remainder is less than 30.5 cm, then you need to cut the first plank down to make the remainder 30.5 cm or longer.

- Continue laying planks, one row at a time. Pause, check, and then recheck again the first three rows to make sure everything is straight and square. These three rows are the foundation for the rest of your floor. If a mistake is made in fitting, the planks can be lifted and repositioned at the time of installation.
- Maintain staggered end joints between rows with a **minimum offset of 15.2 cm (6")**. End joints must never align or form repeating patterns across successive rows, as this may create a zipper-style seam and lead to plank movement. Note: Ideal random stagger: 20–30 cm (8"–12") - Never repeat offsets in a pattern
- When you are done, remove all spacers along the walls and install moldings over the planks. When installing the moldings, always fasten them to the wall, not to the plank.

Avoid having border planks less than $\frac{1}{2}$ plank width.

Expansion Gap

Maintain an expansion gap of **8–10 mm (5/16"–3/8")** along:

- walls
- pipes
- door frames
- thresholds
- fixed objects (kitchen islands, vents, etc.)

Use spacers during installation to maintain this gap.



Maximum Installation Area (Important)

Loose Lay installations larger than:

1,000 sq ft (93 m²) or exceeding 30 ft (9 m) in any direction;

Requires the use of adhesive to help prevent plank movement. LionsGrip™ Pressure Sensitive Adhesive is the recommended adhesive for these applications. When using LionsGrip, a **semi-wet installation is the recommended method to achieve optimal adhesive transfer and bond performance.**

Rolling Load Conditions

Areas exposed to **rolling loads or heavy furniture** may require adhesive installation.

Examples include:

- Office chairs
- Carts
- Hospital equipment
- Refrigerators
- Heavy furniture
- Vending machines

In these environments, **LionsGrip™ Pressure Sensitive Adhesive is recommended. When installing FormaLay with LionsGrip adhesive, a semi-wet installation is the recommended method to achieve optimal adhesive transfer and bond performance.**

Climate Stability

Areas subject to extreme temperature fluctuations may require adhesive installation.

Examples include:

- Sunrooms
- Rooms with large windows
- Areas exposed to intense sunlight

In these environments adhesive is recommended to prevent plank movement. When installing FormaLay with LionsGrip™ adhesive, a semi-wet installation is the recommended method to achieve optimal adhesive transfer and bond performance.

Rolling the Floor

After installation, roll the floor using a **75–100 lb flooring roller** in both directions.

This ensures full contact between the plank backing and the subfloor and improves floor stability.

Finishing

After installation:

- Remove spacers
- Install baseboards or moldings

Moldings must be attached **to the wall, not to the floor**.

Subfloor Show-Through

The manufacturer is **not responsible for subfloor imperfections** that telegraph through the finished flooring surface.

Proper subfloor preparation is the responsibility of the installer. Installation of flooring constitutes acceptance of the subfloor conditions.

Final Installer Notes

- Mix planks from multiple cartons to minimize shade variation.
- Do not install defective material.
- Maintain recommended room temperature and humidity conditions.

Care and Maintenance

Please visit our website for an in-depth Care And Cleaning guide: <https://www.lionsfloor.com/care-cleaning/>