



## **Luxcella Pronto! Porcelain Plank Installation Guidelines**

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING PRONTO FLOORING. When properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for many years. If you have questions or comments, please visit us at [www.thematworks.com](http://www.thematworks.com) or call our Customer Relations and Technical Services at 1-800-523-5179.

### **TOOLS REQUIRED:**

- 1.) Ceramic Tile Cutter
- 2.) Utility Knife w/spare blades
- 3.) Chalk-line
- 4.) Carpenter Square & Straight Edge
- 5.) Tape Measure
- 6.) Felt-tip marker or pencil
- 7.) Wet saw or tile cutter with diamond blade for cutting porcelain
- 8.) Grinder w/stone wheel (for repairs)
- 9.) Vacuum and spray bottle (for repairs)
- 10.) Hand Scraper (for repairs)

### **General Information Prior to Installation**

#### **Recommended Use**

- Residential and light commercial applications.
- Interior use in enclosed, climate controlled areas.
- Do not install over ramps, stairs or steps.
- You may want to consider glue-down installation if any of these conditions exist in your home: uneven floor surfaces, large temperature changes, heavy traffic, or large floor plan (larger than 750 sq. ft. continuous). In these cases, an approved flooring adhesive should be applied to the surface between the subfloor and the Pronto plank.

#### **Storage and Handling**

- All Pronto flooring shall be stored in a climate controlled, enclosed location protected from the weather. Area shall be clean and dry. Ideal storage temperature shall be between 65°F (18°C) and 100°F (38°C). Humidity shall be maintained between 40% and 70%.
- Pronto flooring shall be stored horizontally on a flat, dry level surface. Do not store cartons on end or stack more than 6 high.
- DO NOT store directly on cement, allow for air circulation.
- Avoid damaging cartons of flooring. Use caution when handling and transporting cartons of flooring.
- Protect package corners from damage.
- Pronto flooring cartons can be heavy. Use dollies or carts when moving or handling flooring. Use proper lifting techniques to avoid injury.

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## Measuring and Estimating

- It is necessary to determine the total square footage of the room. To determine the square footage, measure the length and the width of the room. Multiply these two numbers to determine the total square footage of the room.
- For irregular shaped rooms, square the area off into rectangles or squares to determine square footage.

**\*NOTE: When estimating a room, a waste allowance shall be added to the total square footage of the room. 8% to 10% is generally added for rooms ranging from 300 - 1000 square feet. A greater percentage of waste should be allowed for smaller rooms and a lesser percentage allowed for larger rooms.**

## Prior to Installation

- Pronto flooring is designed to be installed in interior areas only. Pronto flooring should never be installed outdoors or in areas exposed to weather.
- It is recommended that the installation of Pronto flooring begin only after the work of all other trades is completed. If the flooring is to be installed prior to completion of other trades, it is important that the flooring be protected.
- Before beginning installation, check to insure correct color and quantity. Inspect all materials carefully for visible defects and/or damage under good light conditions before and during installation. All installed product is deemed 'accepted'.

## Jobsite Conditions

- Jobsite conditions are very important to a successful installation.
- Pronto flooring shall not be installed until the work area is temperature controlled. The work area shall be maintained at a minimum temperature of 65°F (18°C) and a maximum of 100°F (38°C) for 48 hours before, during and after the installation. Ideal relative humidity range is between 40% and 70%. A permanent heat system shall be operational prior to installation.
- Since subfloor conditions are so important, all preparation work shall be performed under normal room conditions. A substrate with a temperature below 55° F (13° C) can affect normal adhesive performance.
- **Maintain flooring between 65° F and 100° F (18°C- 38°C) for 48 hours before, during and after installation.**
- Post installation temperature shall be maintained at a minimum of 40°F (5° C) and a maximum of 100°F (38° C). Maintain relative humidity between 40% and 75%.

## Getting Started

### Preparing the Area

- Remove all furniture and appliances from the room(s)
- Remove wall and doorway trim
- Undercut door casings
- Sweep and vacuum floor surface removing all debris

### Subfloor Recommendations

Planks can be installed over a variety of subfloor surfaces including concrete on all grade levels, wood and many existing hard surface floors. The subfloors must be clean, smooth, flat, solid and dry. Do not install planks over floors that are sloped for drainage. Any uneven areas greater than 1/16" in 3' should be leveled with cement based patching compound. Pronto planks are resistant to water damage but they do not prevent the transmission of moisture. Care should be

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taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of the Pronto planks to prevent the growth of mold and mildew.

### **Wood Subfloors**

Pronto planks are suitable for installation over double layer wood subfloors that are a minimum of 1" thick, or single layer subfloors constructed with APA rated Sturd-I-Floor panels, 23/32" or heavier. Joist spacing should not exceed 19.2". Set fasteners 1/32" below the subfloor surface, sand joints smooth and fill holes and gaps wider than 1/8" wide. Install suitable underlayment when necessary to achieve a flat or solid surface. Pronto planks can be installed over underlayment grade or lauan plywood. Installation over oriented strand board and particle board is not recommended since these panels presents a greater risk of sub-floor instability and can detract from the performance of the floor. Wooden subfloors installed over a crawlspace should have a moisture barrier installed in the crawlspace with at least 18 inches of ground clearance.

**NOTE:** Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection. Indications of excessive deflection are subfloor fastener release, squeaking, compromised or sectional contours such as bowing or dipping in floors and uneven flooring material. Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure boards with excessive vertical movement or deflection prior to installation of the Pronto planks. If the subfloor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete. Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

### **Concrete Subfloors**

Pronto planks can be installed over concrete on all grade levels. The installation site must be acclimated with HVAC in operation. The floor and room temperature, as well as flooring materials and installation accessories, must be maintained at 65F-85F and the humidity below 65% for 48 hours prior to, during, and after pre-installation testing and installation. All substrate preparation and testing procedures must conform to appropriate ASTM F 710, ASTM F 1869, and ASTM F 2170. Moisture levels should not exceed 85% RH or 5 lbs. Calcium Chloride PH should read between 8-9.

### **Existing Flooring**

Pronto planks can be installed over a variety of finished floors including single layer resilient sheet floor and tile, ceramic, marble and terrazzo. The surface must be in good condition and show no signs of excessive moisture conditions.

### **Asbestos Warning**

**WARNING: EXISTING IN-PLACE RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING AND ASPHALTIC ADHESIVES. DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST, OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVE, OR OTHER ADHESIVE.**

These **existing in-place** products may contain **asbestos fibers** and/or **crystalline silica**. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such 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 existing in-place 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 removal and disposal of material.

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See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for instructions on removing all resilient floor covering structures.

The floor covering or adhesive in this package does NOT contain asbestos.

## **Installation**

### **Cutting Pronto**

- Measure tiles to be cut carefully and mark with a pencil, chalk or felt-tip pen.
- Make straight or diagonal cuts with one of the two methods below:
- Wet saw – Cut on the line as you would with standard porcelain tile.
- Tile Cutter / Utility Knife (no fiberglass mesh):
  - Using square, transfer the mark on the porcelain top to the Pronto base.
  - Ensure the marks on the top and bottom are aligned.
  - Score the porcelain top with a tile cutter.
  - Score the Pronto bottom with a utility knife.
  - Snap the piece.

### **Installation**

- For best appearance planks should be installed parallel to the long dimension of the room and preferably parallel with outside light sources i.e. windows and doors.
- Inspect the planks and to avoid installing planks with similar patterns/colors next to each other. Carefully selecting planks from several boxes will significantly reduce the effect of any shade variations as well as increase the authenticity and beauty of your floor.
- Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and to determine the width of the last row of planks.
  - If the width of the last row of planks is less than 2" excluding the tongue, cut and adjust the width of the first row of planks accordingly.
  - The first and last pieces of each row should be at least 12". Cut and adjust the length of the first plank in the row.
- During installation, inspect the groove area for any debris that may prevent proper assembly and locking.
- The tongue side of the plank shall face the starting wall, groove side facing outwards, to get closest to the wall.
- Install planks in a random layout. Start with a whole plank in the left hand corner of the room with the tongue side and end toward the wall. Lay the first row of planks along the chalkline and trim to fit to the wall allowing a ¼" expansion space.

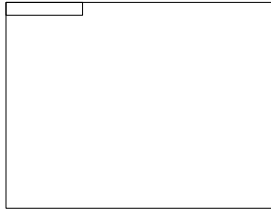
**Note:** If starting the first row with a whole width plank it will be necessary to trim the tongue off against the wall. Always place the cut edge against the wall. To trim planks, use a utility knife and a straight edge. Score the top surface of the plank and flex it downward to separate the pieces.

- The first row of planks must be glued in place to make a secure course for subsequent rows.
- Connect planks by laying the plank flat and sliding the tongue of the current plank into the groove of the previous plank.
- Use a wood block and rubber mallet to tap the joints into place, ensuring a tight fit between all joints.

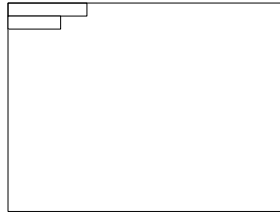
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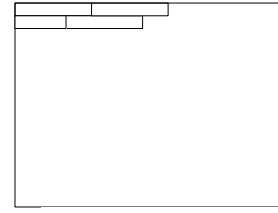
Install the first plank in the back left corner of the room, by gluing in place.



Start the second row using 2/3rd of a plank with the cut end against the wall.

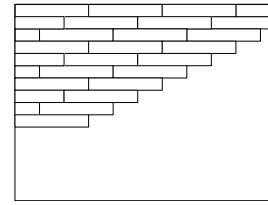
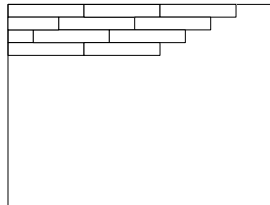
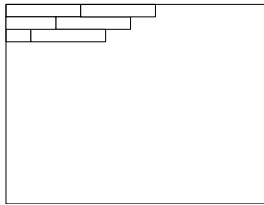


Install the second plank in each row.

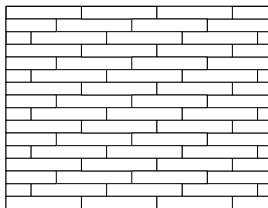


Installing the second plank in the second row ensures the two planks in the first row will be in the correct line and ensures all joints are tight.

Start the third row using 1/3rd of a plank with the cut end against the wall.



Continue this pattern until the floor is complete



- The Last Row May need to be cut lengthwise to obtain the proper width. The width of the last row shall not be less than 2". Align a plank that has been cut to the correct length exactly over the first plank in the previous row. Lay a scrap plank over top of the plank to be cut and mark the distance with a pencil. Cut each accordingly. When performing this step, remember to allow for proper spacing between the wall and the last row of planks. Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short side tongue into the previously installed short side groove.
- It is recommended that you do not have a pattern in which the corners on four different planks would meet.
- When fitting around door trim it will be necessary to slide the plank under the trim. This can be accomplished easily by starting the row on the side of the room with the door trim and then sliding the plank into place once it is attached. The row can be completed by inserting the tongue in to the groove or the groove into the tongue depending on the direction.

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## Completing the Job

- Remove all spacers. Install wall trim lightly over the floor surface. Drive fasteners into the wall and not the floor. When installing doorway transition moldings allow a ¼” expansion space between the edge of the floor and the molding. Do not drive fasteners in to the floor. Return appliances to the room by rolling or sliding over strips of hardboard to prevent damaging the floor.

**Note:** For new construction installations, following the installation and clean up, protect it by laying sheets of breathable brown Kraft paper over the flooring and then a layer of plywood sheets. Leave until the wood of all trades has been completed.

## Floor Care

- Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do not use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Avoid using a vacuum with a beater bar.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner.

## Stairs

Pronto Plank Flooring is not recommended for use on stairs or steps.

## REPLACING/REPAIRING PRONTO PLANK

- 1.) To remove plank that is not on the perimeter of the flooring, use a marker and straight edge and draw a frame around the perimeter of the plank, ½” in from the edge.
- 2.) Use a Grinder with a stone wheel to cut out the frame, creating a “Chipping Channel” down to the sub-floor.
- 3.) Use a Grinder with a stone wheel to make cross cuts along width of the plank, to facilitate removal by sections.
- 4.) Scrape out all debris with Hand Scraper and trim off all remaining locks from adjacent plank.
- 5.) Trim lock off the new plank that will be installed.
- 6.) Apply adhesive, in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions, and place new plank in place, by holding level and installing straight down.
- 7.) Press plank into place, ensuring it is level on all four sides, with adjacent planks.

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