

LIBERTY VALOR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING AHF PRODUCTS FLOORING

If properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will look great for years to come. These directions are based on industry standards and best practices. Failure to follow these installation instructions may result in damage to the flooring and void the floor's warranty.

- For complete warranty information call 1-866-243-2726 or go to www.ahfproducts.com.
- For technical or installation questions, or to request a Safety Data Sheet, please call 1-866-243-2726 or visit www.floorexpert.com our technical website.
- For general questions or comments, please visit us at www.ahfproducts.com or call 1-866-243-2726.

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.

Visit rfci.com to see the 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 or contact your retailer.

AHF floor coverings and adhesives do NOT contain asbestos.

NOTICE: Liberty Valor must be installed using the Armstrong Flooring S-319 Roll Strong Flooring Adhesive. Failure to use Armstrong Flooring S-319 could affect the integrity of the installation. Flooring installed without Armstrong Flooring S-319 will not be warranted.

Adhesive	Trowel	Set-in-Wet	Dry-to-Touch	Comments
Armstrong Flooring S-319	Short nap paint roller	N/A	Dry to Touch	Foot Traffic: Immediately Heavy Rolling Loads: Immediately

Do not wash or scrub the new flooring for at least 5 days after the installation. This will allow the tile to become "seated" in the adhesive and prevent excess moisture and cleaning agents from interfering with the adhesive bond.

Installation:

Location: All grade levels; Fitting: All methods

Tools:

Tape measure, chalk line, utility knife, pencil, straight edge, vacuum or broom, optional tile cutter or cutting shears. Subfloor prep supplies. Armstrong Flooring S-319 Roll Strong Flooring adhesive.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

CHECK RUN NUMBERS AND MANUFACTURE DATE

The Upon receipt, immediately check material for damage and that the material is of the correct style, color quantity, and run number. Immediately report any discrepancies.

Locate the run number on the short end of each carton and verify that all the material for your job is from the same run.

Owner/Installer Responsibility

- The owner/installer has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. Inspection of all flooring should be done prior to installation. The flooring should also be carefully examined for color, finish and quality before installing it.
- The installer must use reasonable selectivity and not use or cut off pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause. Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use that piece. If material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately.
- Prior to installation of any flooring product, the owner/installer must determine that the job-site environment and the sub-surfaces involved meet or exceed all applicable standards. Recommendations of the construction and materials industries, as well as local codes, should be followed. These instructions recommend that the construction and subfloor be clean, dry, stiff, structurally sound and flat. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from, or associated with, subfloor and substrates or job-site environmental deficiencies.

Keys to Successful Glue Down Installation

- Most installations will need approximately a 10% cutting allowance added to the square footage of the room.
- Proper conditioning of the job site is necessary. Flooring planks should not be exposed to sudden changes in temperature.
- Store, transport and handle the flooring planks in a manner to prevent any distortions. Distortions will not disappear over time. Store cartons flat, never on edge. Ensure that the flooring planks are lying flat during installation.
- Installations of carpet, metal strips and other transition moldings should not pinch the flooring against the subfloor and should allow for some slight movement wherever practical.
- Protect the floor from heavy-rolling loads, other trades, and movement of appliances by using sheets of plywood or similar.
- **Acclimation of this product is not required**, although, it is best to store these products in the environment in which it is expected to perform prior to installation. Check adhesive label for adhesive storage limitations.

Suitable Substrates

All substrates listed below must be properly prepared and meet certain requirements. There may be other exceptions and special conditions (as noted below) for these substrates to be suitable for the glue down installation system.

- Concrete – dry and smooth on all grade levels

- Suspended wood subfloors with approved wood underlayments – must have minimum of 18" well-ventilated crawl space underneath including:
 - Properly prepared OSB
 - Luan Plywood: Use only Type 1 luan exterior grade "BB" or "CC" for underlayment. The use of lesser grades of luan plywood is unacceptable and may cause severe problems when used as an underlayment, including discoloration, indentation, loss of bond and delamination.

NOTE: the use of luan plywood and other extremely porous wood underlayments will reduce the flash and working time of adhesives. It is best to apply an acrylic-based primer to any porous substrate prior to applying the adhesive. A manufacturer's certification of luan grade must accompany any claim involving the use of a luan underlayment.

- Single-layer, fully-adhered, existing resilient floors – must not be foam-backed or cushion-backed
- Ceramic tile, Terrazzo, Marble
- Polymeric Poured (seamless) Floors

DO NOT INSTALL OVER

- Existing resilient tile floors that are below grade
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring
- Carpet
- Hardwood flooring installed directly over concrete
- Existing floating floors
- Particleboard 40lb. density or waferboard

Job Conditions/Preparations

- It is necessary to maintain a consistent temperature between 45°F (7°C) and 120°F (49°C) before, during and after the installation.
- All substrates must be structurally sound, dry, clean, flat, and smooth with minimal deflection. Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents and other foreign matter, and contaminants.
 - Subfloors must be flat within 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'
 - For concrete substrates, moisture testing should be conducted.
 - RH levels for the Armstrong Flooring S-319 should not exceed 95% (in-situ probe)
- High spots on the substrate should be leveled and low areas filled with appropriate underlayments.
- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.
- For renovation or remodel work, remove any existing adhesive residue so that 100% of the overall area of the original substrate is exposed.
- Ceramic tile floors, ceramic and marble grout joints, and irregularities in concrete should be filled and leveled using a cementitious patch to fill and smooth any embossing in the old floor.
- The area to receive resilient flooring materials and adhesives should be maintained between 45°F (7°C) and 120°F (49°C) for 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation. Maintain minimum temperatures of 32°F (7°C) and 160°F (71°C) thereafter.
- Radiant heated substrates must not exceed a maximum surface temperature of 85°F (29°C).
- The subfloor panels must have a smooth, sanded face and show no swelling of edges or surface due to exposure to weather conditions or construction traffic.
- There are numerous products available for use as floor fills, patches, self-leveling underlayments, and trowelable underlayments. They include proprietary blends of compounds such as Portland cement, calcium aluminates, and gypsum-based products. These are recommended by their manufacturers for smoothing rough or uneven subfloors, enhancing acoustical and fire characteristics of structures or as substrates to receive floor covering for otherwise unsuitable subfloor conditions. If the subfloor surface appears to be dusty then apply a primer to the surface.

Installation Preparation

Remove baseboard, quarter-round moldings, wall base, appliances and furniture from room. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.

Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. The end joints of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 6" apart. Do not install over expansion joints.

Determine which direction the plank will run. Find the center of each of the end walls (the walls perpendicular to the long dimension of the planks) and place a pencil mark on the floor. Connect these points by striking a chalk line down the center 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 (refer to Fig. 1).

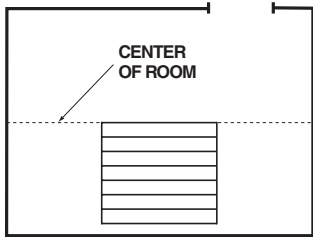


Fig. 1 - Dry layout to determine width of border plank.

Avoid having border pieces less than half with width of the planks. If you find the border planks will be less than 1/2 the width of the plank, the center starting line should be shifted a distance equal to 1/2 the plank width. This will "balance" the room and provide for a larger cut piece at the wall.

NOTE: The subfloor must be thoroughly free from dust and debris. If the subfloor is dusty this may affect the product performance.

NOTE: Stagger end joints by 6". Cut pieces at the ends of rows should be 8" long or longer.

For ease of installation, follow the steps below. Refer to the appropriate adhesive procedure below before installing any planks.

Roll the planks gently into a cylinder so that the backing is facing out. This will allow you to keep the edges straight on your starting line and butt up tight to planks in adjacent rows (Fig. 2). To begin the first row, place the edge of the plank on the starting line (avoid applying pressure) (Fig. 3). Carefully unroll the plank along the starting line, ensuring that it is tight on the line (Fig. 4). Continue to unroll the plank until you reach the end, pulling the plank towards you. **DO NOT APPLY PRESSURE UNTIL THE PLANK IS SEATED PROPERLY** (Fig. 5). Continue these steps as you build your remaining rows.

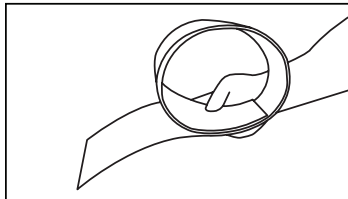


Fig. 2

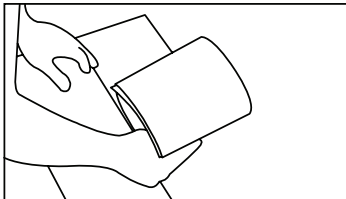


Fig. 3

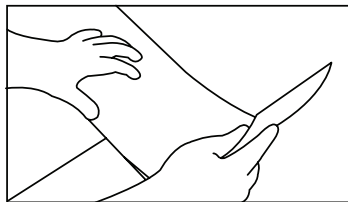


Fig. 4

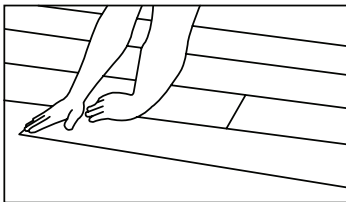


Fig. 5

PROCEDURE - S-319 Roll Strong Adhesive

1. A clean substrate is extremely important with the use of S-319 Roll Strong Adhesive. Thoroughly sweep and vacuum the substrate first. Damp mop to remove any remaining dust or debris. Extra attention to substrate preparation is essential for a successful installation. Failure to thoroughly clean the substrate may result in telegraphing of debris.
2. Bond testing prior to the installation will help identify the appropriate application rate, open and working time, and any potential bonding problems to the substrate or flooring. To determine the accurate coverage rate, measure and chalk line the substrate into grids (using the appropriate square feet of area for the adhesive application) and apply adhesive onto each measured grid area.
3. A roll-on application method is recommended with a medium nap (3/8" nap) roller to achieve a smooth, even, full-spread coating. Spread rate and drying time of the adhesive will depend on the porosity and texture of the substrates and the ambient temperature and relative humidity. **KEEP PAINT ROLLER WET!!** Do not apply pressure to the roller, allow it to freely roll over the substrate. **ADHESIVE COVERAGE MUST NOT EXCEED 400 ft²/gal.** Overly absorbent or rough substrates will require two coats. Once the coating has dried, it must be kept clean and apart from any contact with other surfaces until ready to begin the bonding process. Do not spread more adhesive than can be covered in 4 hours.
4. Allow the adhesive to dry completely with no transfer to fingers when lightly touched. Open time will vary depending on the adhesive coverage, substrate porosity and the ambient conditions.

NOTE: Allowing proper open time will help to minimize knee marks, roller marks and trapped blisters. The amount of open time will vary according to job conditions— temperature, humidity, air flow and type of substrate.

5. Once the S-319 Roll Strong adhesive has become dry-to-touch, install the plank as recommended above, carefully aligning each plank with the chalk lines or adjacent row. Planks can be repositioned as necessary prior to applying pressure. After completion of the installation, roll the entire floor in both directions with 100 lb. roller to achieve a full contact bond. Use a hand roller in confined areas where the large floor roller will not reach, such as under toe kicks. Note: After the flooring has been rolled or pressed into place, repositioning is not possible. Normal traffic and rolling loads may be allowed as soon as the installation, finishing and clean-up are complete.

SAFETY AND CLEAN UP:

Wet adhesive overspray or drips should be cleaned up immediately with soap and water on a clean cloth. Dried adhesive may be removed with mineral spirits and a clean white cotton cloth.

Precautions for All Installation Methods

- When moving appliances or heavy furniture, lay a plywood panel on the floor and "walk" the item across it. This protects the floor from scuffing and tears.
- Use floor protectors on furniture to reduce indentation. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector needed.