

DECORIGID INSTALLATION GUIDE

GENERAL INFORMATION

These installation guidelines apply to the DECORIGID product only. All instructions and recommendations should be followed for a satisfactory installation.

- The floor covering should be stored and installed in a climate controlled location under an average temperature between 65°-85°F (18°-29°C).
- Acclimatize material for a minimum time of 24 hours prior to installation in the room/location where the installation will take place.
- Do not store directly on concrete, allow for air circulation. Do not open the cartons but spread them out and protect corners from damage.
- Failure to follow these guidelines may result in an installation failure (i.e. flooring may expand or contract, resulting in gapping). DECORIGID is an interior product and must be installed in a temperature controlled environment, maintained between 65 and 85°F (18°-29°C). Please keep in mind a concrete floor can be up to ten degrees colder than the actual room temperature.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods; such exposure may result in discoloration, and excessive temperatures can cause the flooring to expand and lift off of the subfloor. During peak sunlight hours, the use of drapes or blinds is recommended. Flooring surface should not exceed 85°F (29°C).
- Regardless of new construction or remodeling projects, keep flooring stored in rooms that are not being worked in and only install product after all other trades have completed work that could damage the flooring.
- To minimize shade variation, mix and install planks from several cartons.
- Inspect all planks for damage before installing. If you have any concerns about the product fit or finish, visit www.lghausys-floors.co.uk or contact your supplying company. Claims will not be accepted for flooring that has been cut to size and/or installed.
- All subfloor patching must be done with a Portland based compound and allowed to dry completely prior to installing flooring.
- This product can be installed on, above or below grade.
- LG Hausys patented locking technology, is water/moisture resistant and reliably secures the flooring panels on all four sides. However, excessive moisture in the subfloor could promote mold, mildew, and other moisture related issues by the trapping of moisture emissions under the flooring, which may contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment.
- LG Hausys does not warrant nor is responsible for damage to floor covering due to moisture related issues.

Tools : Tape measure, utility knife, saw, tapping block, pull bar ¼" spacers, T-spacers, safety glasses, broom or vacuum and if necessary tools for subfloor repair.

SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Unevenness of the subfloor may result in an unsightly surface and may cause excessive wear on high spots.

Subfloor should be flat to within 3/16" in 10' (5mm in 3m) or 1/8" in 6' (3mm in 1.8m).

CAUTION

Some types of nails, such as common steel nails, may cause discoloration of the vinyl floor covering. Recommendations for attaching underlayment panels are not included. Solvent based construction adhesives are known to stain vinyl floor coverings. All responsibility for discoloration problems caused by the use of the above mentioned products is not the responsibility of LG Hausys, but rests with the installer and the underlayment panel manufacturer.

1. WOOD SUBFLOORS

- Do not install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.
- Do not apply sheet plastic over subfloors.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mm black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist should be no less than 18"(457.2mm) and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation.
Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
- All other subfloors – plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, water board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance.
- If the surface of the wood subfloor is not smooth, a 1/4"(6mm) underlayment panel must be installed over the subfloor, per the underlayment manufacturer's written instructions.
- DECORIGID resilient flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. An additional layer of APA rated 1/4"(6mm) thick underlayment should be installed.

2. CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- New and existing concrete subfloors should meet the requirements of the latest edition of ASTM F 710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring" is available on the ASTM International website <http://www.astm.org>
- Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free from all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
- New concrete slabs must be dry. Maximum moisture level per CaCl is 8 lbs. Per 1,000 in 24hr.
- Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions.
- Maximum acceptable PH level of 9 or less.
- The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.
- Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a Portland based patching and leveling product, and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS

Radiant heat components must have a minimum of 1/2" (12.5mm) separation from the product. This is the only type of radiant heat system that is approved. Radiant heat system must be on and operational for at least 2 weeks prior to installation to reduce residual moisture within the concrete. Three days prior to installation lower the temperature to 65°F (18°C), after installation gradually increase the temperature by increments of 5°C to avoid overheating. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F (29°C). Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

WARNING!

Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic "CUTBACK" adhesives or other adhesives.

These products may contain either asbestos fibres and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibres greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the 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 the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to www.rfci.com

3. EXISTING FLOOR COVERINGS

- DECORIGID flooring can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat, dry and structurally sound.
- Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will diminish DECORIGID's inherent strength in resisting indentations.
- Installation is NOT allowed over any type of carpet.
- Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.

PREPARATION

DECORIGID flooring is designed to be installed utilizing the floating method only. Never secure the planks to the subfloor. Do not install cabinets or fixed objects on top of the flooring. Proper expansion space is required. Undercut all doorjamb. Do not fasten wall moldings and or transition strips to the floorings.

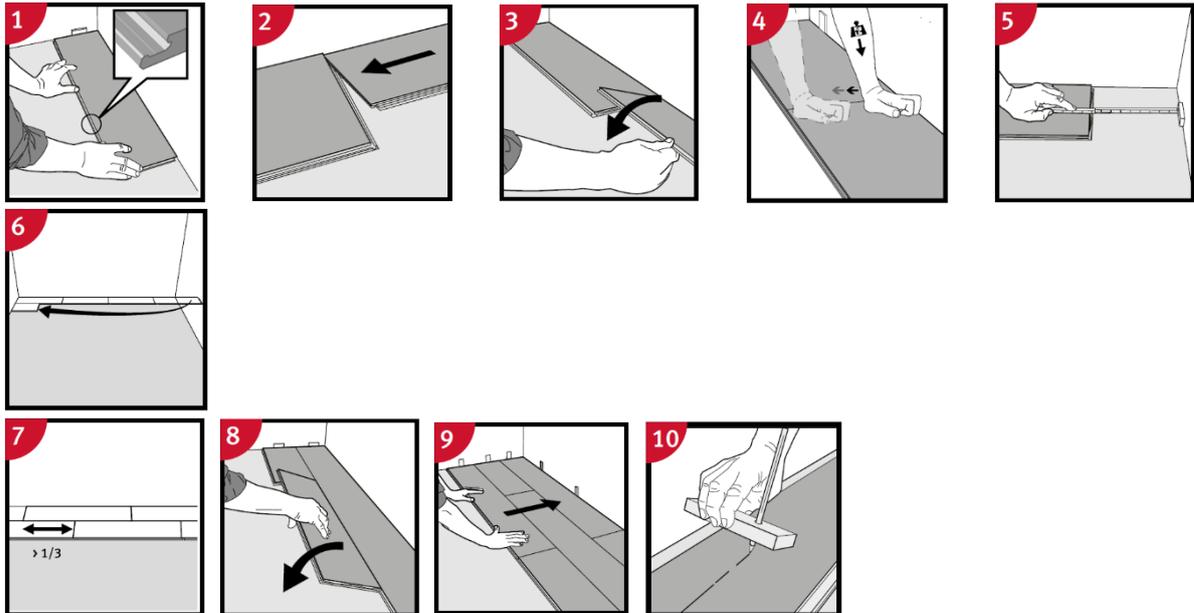
1. The flooring must be acclimated a minimum of 24 to 48 hours prior to installation in the room where the installation will take place.
2. In rooms larger than 20 x 20 m (400 m²), the flooring must be installed in smaller sections with expansion joints.
3. The distance to walls and other permanent pieces of construction elements (such as pillars and kitchen islands) should be approximately 5 mm.
4. Never install very heavy pieces of furniture such as kitchen islands/cabinets on top of the flooring.
5. The indoor climate should have a temperature between 15-23 °C
6. Always follow the floor manufacturers requirements and specifications regarding subfloor preparation

INSTALLATION

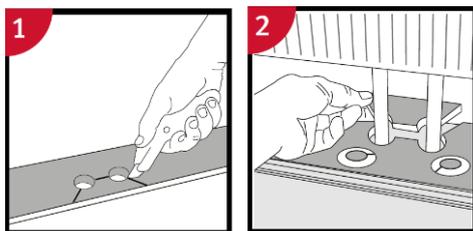
1. First plank, first row - Place a spacer with predicted thickness to the left and position the panel against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with predicted spacers.
2. Second plank, first row - Place this panel gently close to the short end of the first one.
3. When folding down it is important to start from the corner closest to the previous row, folding down towards the center, and continue towards the opposite long side. During the fold down, make sure the panels are close to each other.
4. Afterwards press slightly along the short end just installed.
5. Work across the length of the room installing planks along the wall in the first row and then aligning the planks in the second row. It is critical to keep these two rows straight and square, as they are the "foundation"

for the rest of the installation. Check squareness and straightness often

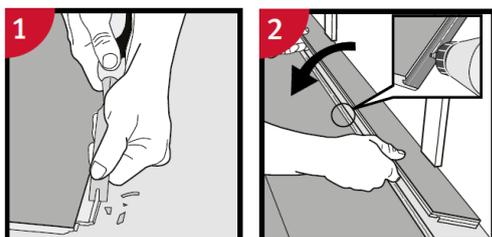
6. At the end of the first row, put a spacer to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.
7. Second row - First plank min length 400 mm. Put a spacer against the left wall.
8. Staggered joint distance i.e. minimum distance between short ends of panels in parallel rows shall not be less than the given length.
9. Second plank second row - Place the panel gently and close to the short end of the previous panel and fold it down in a single action movement.
10. After 2-3 rows - Adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacers.
11. Last row (and perhaps also first row) - Minimum width 50 mm. Place a spacer to the wall before measuring. Make a simple drawing tool(piece of wood with a hole) and mark the panel along the wall. Cut the panels lengthwise including the flexible tongues



12. Installation around radiator/heating pipes - Drill holes two times larger than the diameter of the pipes. Remove a piece of the panel with a utility knife. Put the panel on one side of the pipes and the removed piece on the other side



13. When angling is not possible - Remove the vertical locking part of the strip with a chisel, put applicable glue on the strip and push the planks horizontally together. Place some spacers between last board and the wall.



14. Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips. Make sure that no plank will be secured in any way to the sub floor.
15. Protect the finished flooring from exposure to direct sunlight.

IV. REPAIRS

1. DECORIGID plank flooring is tough and durable; however, if a plank becomes damaged, it can be replaced. If the damaged plank is along the perimeter of the room, the easiest technique is to disconnect the planks until the damaged plank is removed. Replace the plank and reassemble the planks. If it is impractical to disconnect and reassemble the flooring, the following procedure should be followed:
 2. It's recommended to use painters tape along the sides of the board to be replaced to prevent damage to the adjoining boards.
 3. Using a Utility Knife or a fine Tooth Saw, cut through the center of the damaged plank, running the length of the plank.
 4. Carefully remove cut pieces from the insert. You can use a Utility Knife to remove the pieces from the floor. Clean up any debris from opening area.
 5. To prepare replacement plank. Cut and remove tongue from the long side and the short end of the plank. This can be accomplished by using a Utility Knife.
 6. Using a Utility Knife, remove approximately 1.5"(38mm) of the groove on the long side of the plank from the tongue end.
 7. Apply a small bead of seam sealer or use an Ethyl Cyanoacrylate adhesive (super glue) to the groove of the boards in the floor.
 8. Insert replacement plank, locking the long side joint (groove side) into the existing floor.
- NOTE:** The tongue end of the replacement plank will overlap the existing floor prior to being fully inserted.
9. Using a scrap piece of plank as a tapping device, tap the groove end into place. Insert the blade of a Utility Knife on the opposite side to lift and adjust the end as it is being tapped into place.
 10. Place a weight on the plank until the adhesive sets. (LG Hausys recommends minimum 6-8 hours).