

## Ultra RLX™ Acoustical Rigid Loose Lay Flooring INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### GENERAL INFORMATION

For a satisfactory installation of Ultra RLX™, please read this information carefully and follow all installation guidelines and instructions.

The flooring shall be stored and installed in a climate-controlled location with an average temperature range between 55°- 85° F.

Temperature after installation must be continuously maintained between 55°- 85° F.

Only store flooring in rooms that are not being worked in.

Only install product after all other trades have completed work that could damage the floor.

Exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time should be avoided. The use of drapes and blinds during peak sunlight hours is recommended.

Mix and install planks from multiple cartons to minimize shade variation and enhance appearance.

Make sure to inspect all planks for damage prior to installation. Claims of cut or installed flooring will not be accepted.

All subfloor patching and prep must be done with a Portland-based compound and allowed to dry completely prior to floor installation.

Installation Methods: Perimeter Adhesive, Perimeter Nail, Perimeter/Pattern Adhesive, Full Spread Adhesive.

NOTE: This document may have been updated and revised. Visit [www.ascendcontract.com](http://www.ascendcontract.com) for the most current version of this guide, warranty information, and maintenance guidelines.

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### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Ascend Contract FLEX ULTRA 3090 Adhesive
- Ascend Contract PRE-FLEX Primer

### RECOMMENDED TOOLS AND MATERIALS:

- Square-Notch Trowel Size 1/16"x1/16"x1/16"
- Handled Tapper Bar
- Safety glasses
- Measuring tape
- Square
- Roller (100lb)
- Utility knife
- Pen
- Vinyl plank cutter
- 18-gauge finish nailer (perimeter nail over plywood)
- 18-gauge finish nails

### RECOMMENDED TOOLS AND MATERIALS FOR FLOOR PREPARATION, IF APPLICABLE

- Floor patching compound
- Trowel
- Embossing leveler
- Floor Scraper
- Floor Grinder

## PREPARATION

Ultra RLX™ Acoustical Rigid Flooring must be acclimated to room temperature for at least 24 hours prior to installation. Store unopened boxes in the room where it is to be installed. Boxes must be placed on a flat and level surface no more than five (5) boxes high. Never store boxes on their sides. Room temperature must be kept between 55°F– 85° F for the entire acclimation and installation period.

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. Proper preparation of the subfloor is essential for a successful installation. All subfloors must be flat – 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.

## SUBSTRATES

### Concrete Substrates

1. Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all dust and foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue.

- The surface must be hard and dense, free from powder or flaking.
2. New concrete must be dry. Maximum moisture level per CaCl test method is 8lbs. per 1000 in 24 hrs. Maximum level for ASTM 2170 In-situ Relative Humidity Test Method – 85%. Higher moisture content in concrete may be acceptable for installation with water proofing membrane and/or water proof adhesive. (Contact Ascend Contract for details).
  3. Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions.
  4. Ph level of concrete should be between 5-9
  5. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry and acceptable for installation of Ultra RLX™ flooring belongs to the installer.

### Gypsum-Based Substrates

Ultra RLX™ may be installed over flooring grade gypsum subfloors that are structurally sound and flat within 3/16" per 10 feet radius (4.7 mm per 3 m) or 1/8" in 6'.

1. Gypsum surfaces shall be in accordance with and properly prepared to the appropriate ASTM specifications.
2. Gypsum-based subfloors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all dust and foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. The surface must be hard and dense, free from powder or flaking.
3. Questions regarding the dryness and integrity of gypsum-based surfaces should be referred to the gypsum surface contractor or manufacturer.
4. All patching compounds must be recommended for use with gypsum, gypcrete, or lightweight concrete surfaces by the patch compound manufacturer. Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding use, mixing, and application.
5. A floor primer application (rolled or sprayed) may be necessary to reduce dust and allow for a better bonding surface for floor installation. Be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions when applying primer.
6. The final responsibility for determining if the gypsum-based surface is dry and acceptable for installation of flooring belongs to the installer.

### Wood Subfloors

Suitable wooden subfloors include a minimum 3/4" (19mm) exterior grade and APA approved plywood, flooring grade OSB and particleboard. The panels must have a fully sanded face and deflection shall not exceed 3/64" (1.1mm). These subfloors must be clean, structurally sound, dry, smooth and flat.

1. Do not install flooring over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.
2. Do not apply sheet plastic over wood subfloors
3. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist is to be no less than 18" 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.

A moisture test is recommended using an invasive moisture meter. The maximum allowable moisture content must not exceed 14%.

### Other Substrates

Quarry tile, terrazzo and ceramic tiles are suitable substrates provided there are no irregularities, damages, and that they are flat. Any embossing or grout joints must be leveled off with a Portland Cement-based leveling compound. Existing single layer resilient is also suitable provided it is not cushioned and is well bonded to the subfloor.

### Radiant Heated Floors: Hydronic only

Ultra RLX™ may be installed over radiant heated floors provided the operating temperature never exceeds 85° F (29.4° C). A minimum of 1/2" separation between radiant heat components and the product is required. The radiant heating system must be in operation for two weeks prior to installation of the flooring to reduce residual concrete moisture. 48 hours prior to and during installation, the system must be kept at 65° F (18° C). Once the installation is completed, the heat must be gradually increased by a maximum of 5°F per day until the desired setting is reached. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85° F.

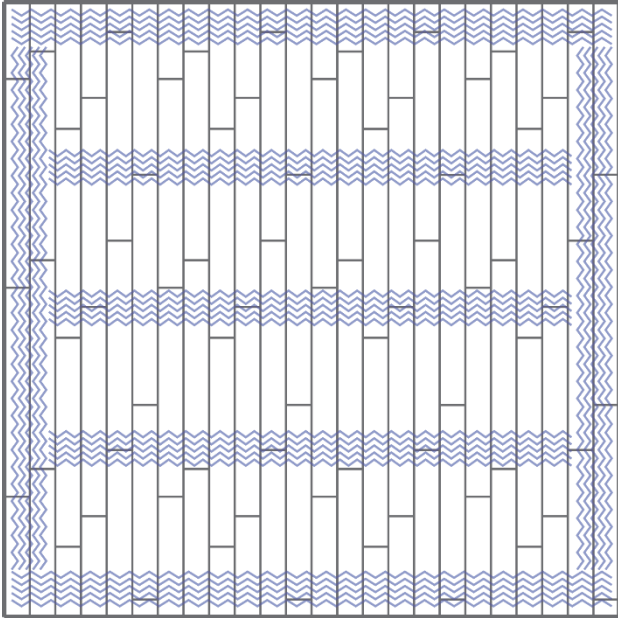
WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES. These products may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation 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 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](http://www.rfci.com).

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Ultra RLX™ is installed using the following installation methods:

4. Perimeter/Pattern Adhesive Method
5. Perimeter Nail/Fasten Method

Perimeter/Pattern Adhesive Method—Recommended for residential, light commercial and heavy traffic areas.



Important! Please Read Carefully. General Installation Guidelines:

- Use only Ascend Contract FLEX ULTRA 3090 Adhesive.
- Use a 1/16"x1/16"x1/16" SQ-Notch Trowel.
- The perimeter adhesive band should be a minimum of 18" wide.
- In bedrooms, great rooms and other moderate areas apply a band of adhesive every 6'-8' perpendicular to the plank lengths.
- In high traffic areas including hallways and heavy appliances, apply full spread adhesive.
- Allow adhesive to dry a minimum of 24 hours before walking or moving objects across the floor.
- Roll all glued areas of the floor with a 100lb roller.

### Adhesive Method Installation Procedures

1. Determine the layout prior to commencing installation. Proper planning and layout will prevent narrow plank widths and odd cuts at wall junctures or very short planks at the end of rows.
2. Determine if the beginning row will need to be cut. If the first row needs to be trimmed in width, place the cut side edge facing the wall and the groove side edge facing out.

3. Lay out the first row and staple every 6"-8" along the outside edge to allow staples to be covered when baseboard is installed.
4. Install the second row by placing horizontally to the floor the plank top short-end connection over the bottom short-end connection so that the long tongue side of the plank is about 1" facing the long groove side. Slide the plank with two hand along the top and bottom short-end connection until the tongue and groove along the plank long side are fit completely into place. Use a handled taper bar to ensure a tight fit along the entire length of the plank.
5. Install subsequent planks using the same method, sliding secured planks into place using the end connection system as a guide. Make sure that all four sides of planks are fit tightly together on long and short ends to avoid unnecessary gaps and out-of-square floor.
6. When placing the second row and every subsequent row, stagger the end joints a minimum of 8" (20 cm) apart from the previous row. Staggering the vinyl planks creates a more authentic visual appearance. In order to accomplish this, you may need to cut a plank to start a row. Ends that have been cut should be placed against the wall. Use a vinyl plank cutter or a utility knife with a square to cut the plank at a 90-degree angle to the desired length. To cut floor planks, score the top surface using pressure then gently bend away from the cut until the plank snaps. Use utility knife to cut the bottom acoustical backing and separate by pulling gently apart. Planks that are against the wall must be a minimum 8" (20 cm) in length.
7. Recommendation: After three or more rows are installed, adjust body position to be perpendicular to the long side of planks and face away from the starter wall, placing knee weight on the installed plank adjacent to the row being installed. Facing out toward the open floor and pulling plank grooves back toward the tongues of installed planks reduces the possibility of plank movement during installation.

## POST-INSTALLATION

1. Use plywood or a heavy-duty construction protecting membrane to cover the flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
2. Use floor protectors under the legs of furniture and chairs.
3. Clean off adhesive residue or overspray on flooring with Acetone or mineral spirits
4. Post-installation temperature must be maintained between 55 °F - 85 °F (18.3 °C - 29.4 °C).
5. Ambient relative humidity must be maintained between 40% and 60%.
6. Avoid exposure to long periods of sunlight. UV protective film, blinds, curtains or shades should always be used to protect product against fading and thermal expansion.

## REPAIRS

1. Ultra RLX™ planks can be replaced individually on any part of the floor without removal of adjacent planks using Ultra RLX Ultra Repair planks. If a damaged plank is close to a wall, it may be easiest to remove wall base and adjacent planks to repair the floor.
2. To remove and replace an individual plank—Cover the planks surrounding the damaged plank with painter's tape to protect them from repair damage and adhesive overspray.
3. Using a glass suction or floor suction lifter, gently lift up the damaged plank at a slight angle to loosen the long tongue side from the long groove side of the plank.
4. Gently remove the plank. Once plank is removed, clean open area from any debris.
5. Apply spray contact adhesive to the four corners of the opening and on the entire back of the replacement plank.
6. Position the Ultra RLX Ultra Repair plank into the opening with the long side groove into the tongue of the floor opening and fold down into place.
7. Using a rubber mallet, gently tap the plank into place until it is flush with the floor surface of adjacent planks.
8. Remove any adhesive residue from adjacent planks.

## MAINTENANCE

Visit [www.ascendcontract.com](http://www.ascendcontract.com) for proper care and maintenance instructions.

## WARRANTY

For warranty information, visit [ascendcontract.com](http://ascendcontract.com).