

# PARADIGM WATER PROOF FLOORING

## ELITE FLOORING SOLUTIONS

### INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION. IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID WARRANTY.**

- Always check Paradigm panels for defects such as chips and color or sheen differences under well-lit conditions in good light. Also check that the click channel is clean and free of debris. Always work out of multiple boxes to mix product to achieve proper pattern repeat and color appearance. Color variation between flooring, samples and replacement material is expected and is not a product defect.
- If the appearance of a board is questionable for either dimensions or appearance, the installer should not use this piece. A replacement carton can be obtained through your dealer in a reasonable time.

**NOTE: Paradigm can be installed above, on and below grade. The product may be installed either as a floating floor or by direct glue down method on approved wood or concrete subfloors. Direct glue down applications require a full spread adhesive such as AAT 675 or equivalent. Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions when doing a glue-down installation of Paradigm.**

**Walls, subfloors, and installed floors in buildings and houses move. A minimum of a 1/4" gap for expansion is required between the Paradigm flooring and any adjacent perimeter wall, vertical structure, or wood based floor (laminated or hardwood).**

#### **SUBFLOOR PREPARATION**

Paradigm flooring is a waterproof product. Moisture will not damage the product. When installed, it does not produce a moisture barrier nor does it protect the walls or structure of the home. Only installing a moisture barrier in a crawl space or under the Paradigm flooring over a concrete floor can insure this.

#### **JOBSITE PREPARATION BEFORE INSTALLATION**

The responsibility for installation of Paradigm is with the local job site installer. All product must be inspected prior to installation for color variation, finish condition, sheen variation, and quality. This inspection should be conducted with proper lighting available. Any boards that are not acceptable **SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED**. Contact your dealer immediately to obtain replacement boards. ELITE FLOORING SOLUTIONS is not responsible for the installation of flooring with obvious/visual defects.

It is the responsibility of the local job installer to insure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these installation instructions. ELITE FLOORING SOLUTIONS is not responsible for failure of Paradigm flooring caused by unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Minimum crawl spaces of 18" are required from the ground to the underside of the joists. A vapor barrier of 6-20 mil thick polyethylene film with 6" sealed lap joints is needed. Moisture resistant tape should be used as the vapor barrier sealant at the lap joints. Venting for the crawl space should be at least 1.5% of the crawl space

square footage. Vents should be located for cross-ventilation of the crawl space. Local regulations should prevail at all times.

Before floor installation, the room conditions in the installation area (temperature and moisture) should be at normal year-round conditions for at least one week prior to and during flooring installation. Recommended installation room conditions are temperatures between 65-85 degrees F and relative humidity between 35-55%. *Temperature and relative humidity shown above are industry standards and are not required for Paradigm.*

## **SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS**

All subfloors must be dry, structurally sound to support the floor, free of debris and foreign matter, and flat to 3/16" in a 10-foot radius.

Moisture testing is not required for Paradigm however the concrete substrate must be visually dry.

Wood subfloors must be dry and properly secured to accept a top floor. The subfloor must be secured every 6" along joists with nails or screws to avoid squeaking. The floor must be leveled and flat. High spots must be ground down and low spots must be filled with a Portland cement leveling compound.

Please note that Paradigm is not approved for installation over any type of carpet.

Tiles including ceramic, resilient, and sheet vinyl must be well bonded to the subfloor, must be level and flat, and must be clean. Existing vinyl floors should not be sanded as they may contain asbestos.

## **INSTALLATION TOOLS**

1/4" spacers, Paradigm professional tapping block (Item: ELTPROFTB), pull bar, saw, utility knife, pencil, tape, measure, ruler

Acceptable subfloor types:

CDX Underlayment Grade Plywood (minimum of 5/8" thickness)

Underlayment Grade Particleboard (only for floating installation)

OSB (minimum 3/4"/23/32" thickness)

Concrete slab

Ceramic Tile

Resilient Tile – 1 layer well bonded

Sheet Vinyl – 1 layer well bonded

Gypsum type toppers are suitable as long as they are structurally sound

**NOTE: Never install Paradigm over a below grade VCT (vinyl composition tile).**

**NOTE: The Paradigm Professional tapping block was specially designed for installing the Paradigm flooring product with a licensed Unilin drop and tap click joint. The tapping block must be used on every panel to ensure the positive locking of the joint and to validate the product warranty. ITEM: ELTPROFTB**

## **BASIC INSTALLATION OF PARADIGM**

While Paradigm flooring is dimensionally stable, buildings, walls, and existing hardwood and laminate floors will expand and contract. Because of this, we recommend for all installations, both floating floor and glue down types, that an expansion gap of 1/4" be left between any walls, vertical structures and existing floor coverings.

As stated earlier, always work out of multiple boxes to mix product to achieve proper pattern repeat and color mix for the look of natural wood. A minimum of 3 boxes of product is recommended. Inspect each plank or tile in good light for visual defects. If they show visual faults or damage, do not install them. It is the responsibility of the installer to insure that the appearance of the finished floor meets the consumer's expectations.

Paradigm is an indoor product. It will not be warranted when installed in locations or conditions not recommended for this product. Recommended use temperatures are between 45 – 105 degrees F.

Floating floor installations must be installed with an approved underlayment. When using underlayment we recommend Sound Solution Foam Item: RY1010 or Prevail 1mm underlayment Item: PRUSSU200. Underlayment should be butted side by side with no overlap. Run the foam underlay in the same direction as the extruded composite LVT panels. Tape the butted seams together. No underlayment thicker than 1MM should be used.

Remove the tongue on the side of the panels that face the wall. This is to ensure that the decorative surface of the extruded composite LVT floor is well under the finished trim when installed. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off.

Start in a corner by placing the first panel with its trimmed side facing the wall. Use space along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 6mm (1/4") between the wall and the flooring.

To attach the second panel, insert the end tongue of the panel into the end groove of the first panel at a 20 degree angle. Lower the panel flat to the floor. Line up the edges carefully.

Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last full panel. Fit the last panel by rotating the panel 180 degrees with the pattern side upward, place it beside the row, and mark it.

Saw off the excess plank. Attach as described above.

Begin the next row with the off cut piece from the previous row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 20cm (8") long and joint offset should be at least 20cm (8").

Start the second row by pushing the long side tongue of the panel into the long-side groove of the very first panel at about a 45 degree angle. When lowered, the plank will click into place.

Attach the second panel of the new row on the long side as described above. Push this panel as close as possible to the previous row. To attach this second panel to the previous panel, lightly tap the end using the Paradigm professional tapping block. Continue along in the same fashion.

To fit the last row, lay a panel on top of the previous row. With the tongue to the wall, lay another panel upside down on the one to be measured and use it as a ruler. Don't forget to allow room for 1/4" spacers. Cut the panel and attach it into position.

Door frames and heating vents also require expansion room. First cut the panel to the correct length. Then place the cut panel next to its actual position and use a ruler to measure the areas to be cut out and mark them. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion distance on each side.

Door frames can be trimmed by turning a panel upside down and using a handsaw to cut away the necessary height so that panels slide easily under the frames.

## FINISHING MOLDING

- Reducer molding;** is used to finish flooring when the adjoining surface is lower than the Paradigm floor.
- T-molding;** is used to finish flooring when two level surfaces meet in doorways.
- Stair Nose;** molding is used to finish flooring on landings or stair edges. Moldings need to be glued and fasteners down to the sub-floor for safety and stability. Color fill should be used to cover the fasteners.
- End Cap;** molding is used to finish flooring at any vertical obstructions. Such as a sliding glass doors, French doors, bathtubs and can be used at carpet.
- Quarter round;** molding is nailed directly into the baseboard. To finish the perimeter of the room install quarter round molding using finishing nails.

### **Radiant heated floors:**

Paradigm flooring can be installed over certain types of radiant heated floors as a floating floor.

When installing over a radiant heated floor:

- The heat must be turned down to 68 degrees F at least 24 hours before, during, and for 24 hours after the flooring installation.
- The floor temperature must not ever exceed 85 degrees F (30 degrees C) in operation.
- The radiant heat source must be separated from the extruded composite LVT by at least ½".
- Failure to strictly follow the adhesive manufacturer's installation directions may result in failure and voiding of the warranty.

**NOTE: Electrically heated radiant mats not embedded in the subfloor and installed directly under Paradigm flooring are not recommended for use beneath this product. The installation of electrically heated radiant floor heating mats could void the warranty of the installed floor in case of a heating system failure.**

## INSTALLATION TIPS

1. Paradigm is a Water Proof Product (WPC = Wood, Plastic, Composite/Resin Core)
2. Can be installed on all grade levels. On grade, above grade, or below grade.
3. No acclimation required
4. Recommended room temperature should be maintained between 65-85 degrees before during and after installation. The product remains stable between 45 – 105 degrees.
5. Relative humidity should be kept between 35-55%. Relative humidity does not affect product.  
**4 and 5 are Industry Standards**
6. Substrate should be:
  - a. Firm – with no movement
  - b. Flat – within 3/16 in a 10 foot radius
  - c. Dry – Visually Dry (Moisture testing not required)
  - d. Clean – No debris / No adhesive residue / No foreign material
7. Can be installed over existing Sheet Vinyl/LVT/VCT. 1-Layer well bonded. Cushion vinyl and floated floors must be removed before installation.
8. Paradigm must be installed with an underlayment when floating. If gluing down no underlayment is required.  
*(The recommended underlayment is Sound Solution Foam Item: RY1010 or Prevail 1mm Item: PRUSSU200. AAT 675 is the recommended adhesive)*
9. Paradigm is a floating floor that requires a ¼” perimeter expansion (Do not net fit)
10. Paradigm has the Uniclic® Locking System  
Can be installed - Angle/Angle, First install the end joint then install the long joint  
May also be installed as a Drop & Tap – First install the long joint then tap the end joint closed  
Both installations require Paradigm Tapping Block Item: ELTPROFTB
11. Work out of multiple boxes to ensure proper color blend
12. Install plank flooring in a random order
13. Minimum end joint stagger is 8” on adjacent rows
14. Door jams should be undercut
15. Radiant heating is approved – Do not exceed 85 degrees