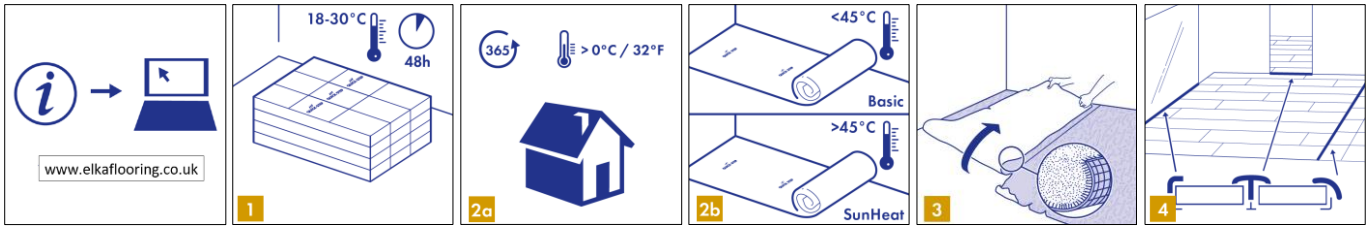
ELKA LVT



1. PREPARATION

Never block the floor. If heavy/fixed objects (ex. kitchen, kitchen island, build-in cabinets, heavy stoves, electrical accumulators, and others) are on the floor, they act as a wall.

1
Always store and transport Elka LVT floors carefully to prevent distortions. Store and transport the boxes on a flat surface in neat stacks. Never store the boxes upright or in moist, dusty rooms or places with extreme temperatures. Elka LVT floors must be acclimatized in the room of installation between 18-30°C (64-86°F) for a period of at least 48 hours before installation. This floor- & room temperature needs to be maintained prior to, during and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed. Installation must be performed between 18-30°C.

2
Elka LVT has been designed for indoor heated (> 0°C) (32°F) installations, preferably at normal room temperature. Elka LVT cannot be installed in solariums, seasonal porches, camping trailers, boats or any other unheated application. If the temperature of your floor is expected to raise up to or above 45°C (113°F) due to direct sunlight, it is mandatory to use the Sun Heat underlay on a levelled mineral subfloor or to install without underlay on a levelled mineral subfloor A heavy wood stove, electrical accumulators, and others should not be installed on top of the Elka LVT click floor. It is recommended to install the stove/accumulator first on top of a protection plate and install the Elka LVT around the plate and respect the dilatation gaps. For other critical situations with high local temperatures it is recommended to glue down. If you have any concerns about the temperature of your floor, please contact the Elka technical department.

3
The type of subfloor, its quality and its preparation has a big influence on the final installation result. If the subfloor is not appropriate for the installation of Elka LVT then necessary actions should be taken. Contact your Elka LVT dealer, who will be more than happy to help you. Be aware that unevenness in the subfloor may leave marks and can create gaps in your Elka LVT floor. The subfloor should be stable and firmly fixed. Furthermore, it cannot be soft, damaged or loose laid. The following floor coverings have to be removed: Carpet, needle felt, cushion vinyl, floating floorcoverings. Does not have to be removed: ceramic tiles, glue down laminate and glue down lacquered parquet, fixed wood boards, etc. Does not have to be removed, but use of PE-foil is mandatory to avoid migration: glued PVC, hard PVC, VCT, glued linoleum and glue down oiled parquet.
4
A transition profile is needed when the temperatures in adjacent rooms will variate differently above and below. Building movement joints must be transposed to the Elka LVT flooring and a profile must be used.

5
In case of installation on a wooden subfloor, please remove any existing floor covering first. No signs of mold and/or insect infestations should be present. Make sure the subfloor is level and nail or screw down any loose parts. Apply a suitable wooden floor panel, level floor, or use levelling compound on top for a perfect subfloor preparation. The levelling boards must be fixed with an appropriate glue or every 30cm with screws. An eventual crawl space under the plank floor must be sufficiently ventilated. Remove any obstacles and make sure there is sufficient ventilation (minimum 4 cm^2 total ventilation openings per m^2 of floor). The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 10%.

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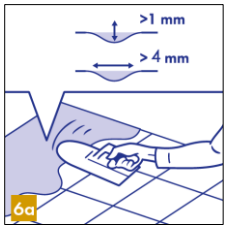

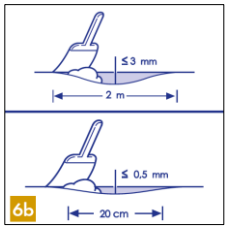

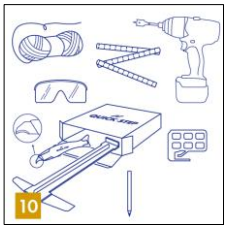

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Make sure the subfloor is completely flat. Cement joints between tiles or other gaps of more than 1 mm (0,04inch) in depth and 4 mm (0,16inch) in width should be levelled. For Elka LVT Click flooring: any unevenness of more than 0,5mm (0,02inch) over a length of 20cm (7,87inch) must be levelled out. The same applies to unevenness of more than 3mm (0,12inch) over a length of 2m (78,7inch). Bumps should be removed by sanding or scraping. An appropriate levelling compound is required and check if a primer or sealer is needed. In some cases, the use of an underlay can avoid extra levelling of the subfloor.

7

The moisture content of the subfloor must be less than 2,5%CM / 75%RH (cement screed) or less than 0,5%CM / 50%RH (anhydrite subfloor). In the case of floor heating, results must be respectively 1,5%CM / 60%RH and 0,3%CM / 40%RH. Always measure, record and keep your moisture content results.

8

Floor heating systems (water / electricity) which are built-in the screed can be used with Elka LVT if a constant room & floor temperature of 18°C (64°F) can be guaranteed during acclimatization, installation and 48h after installation. For health and safety reasons and to avoid problems with the Elka LVT floor, a sub-floor surface temperature of maximum 27°C (80°F) is allowed. Separate rooms with and without floor heating, or with different temperature controllers, or e.g. corridor vs. kitchen must be installed with a transition profile and an expansion gap of minimum 5mm. An Elka LVT floor cannot be installed on top of so called loose laid heating systems like electrical foils, etc. For a good preparation, read also the separate installation instructions for floor heating on www.elkaflooring.co.uk

9

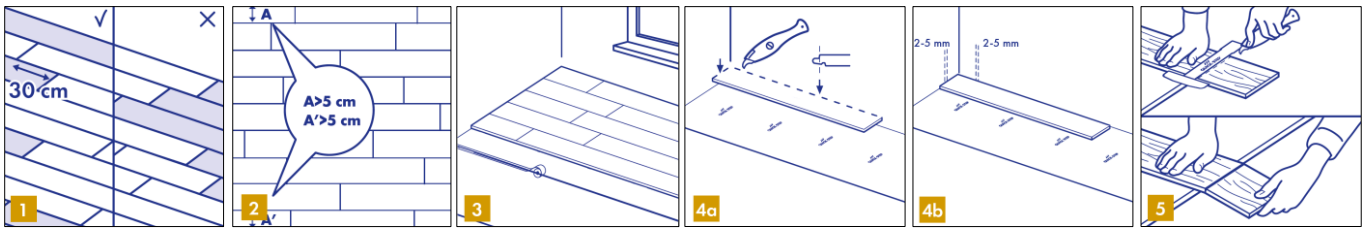
Make sure that the subfloor is dry, flat, stable, clean and free from grease and chemical substances. If needed, scrape off and clean up old adhesives. Prior to installation, carefully remove all debris (including nails), sweep and vacuum. Repair major surface imperfections and large cracks. It is recommended to remove old skirtings and to install new ones after the installation of the floor, skirting boards must be scribed to the subfloor and not allowed to pin the LVT to the subfloor.

10

The following standard tools are needed: measurer, safety glasses, thin rope, gloves and a pencil. Never use a tapping block during the installation of Elka LVT. In addition to the standard tools, we recommend using the LVT concave cutter knife and installation tool. The latter serves as a 2-in-1 pulling bar and a carpenter's square. The use of all accessories other than Elka LVT accessories (for example wrong underlay) may cause damage to your Elka LVT floor. In such cases the guarantee provided by Elka will be void.

11

Check all panels before and during installation in optimal light conditions. Defective panels must never be used. An installed plank is considered as accepted and cannot be claimed.



INSTALLATION

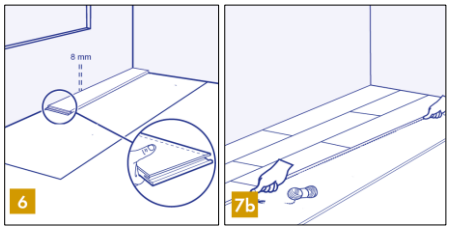
1
During installation, make sure that you mix the floor panels sufficiently so that there are not too many identical, lighter or darker panels next to each other. To obtain the best visual effect, it is best to fit the panels in the direction of the longest wall and/or parallel to the incidence of light. Ensure that the end joints of the panels in 2 successive rows are never in line, they should be staggered by at least 30 cm (12 inch). For a natural look and better mechanical strength, we recommend no installation of the planks in a pattern but at random formation.

2
Measure the room before you start installing. Make sure that the first and last row of panels is at least 5 cm wide.

3
First install the underlay, line/line or room/room, if one is needed. With Elka LVT click panels you can choose where you want to begin. Think about what the easiest way will be to install the floor. We advise to start in the left corner of the room and fit an underlay if needed. We strongly recommend using the special Elka LVT underlay which makes installing easier and has a sound-reducing and levelling function. An underlay which is too soft (CS < 350kPa) or made from the wrong material will damage your floor. A laminate / parquet / carpet underlay is not suitable for click vinyl. You can find out more information on the packaging of your underlay or from your dealer. When installing the next line of underlay, it is recommended to connect the underlays using the tape to avoid overlapping.

4
The planks against the walls are to be stripped off their click system. Cut off the tongue on the long side of the first panel and row. Make sure that you leave an expansion joint of minimum 2mm (0,08inch), preferably 5 mm (0,20inch). For easy way of working you can use a leftover piece of Elka LVT floor as distance spacer. For installations with floor heating, you need to leave an expansion gap of minimum 5mm (0,20inch).

5
Elka LVT floors can easily be cut with the decor side face up using a special concave vinyl cutting knife. For cutting the vinyl plank, mark the line and use the knife to make a firm cut in the surface. Then break off the plank using both hands. You never need to completely cut through the vinyl.



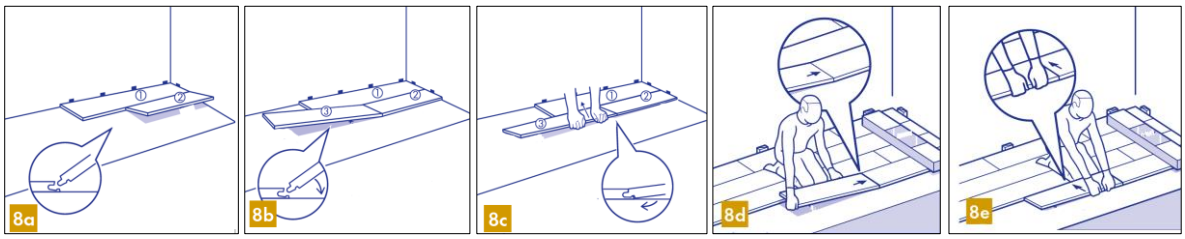
6

Start with the first plank that will be installed in the corner. Remove the click profile on both the long and the short side of the plank by sawing. For other planks of the first row (not in the corner), remove the click profile on the long side that will be

directly next to the wall. Any side of a plank that is directly next to a wall, must have its click profile removed, in order to ensure the required expansion gap.

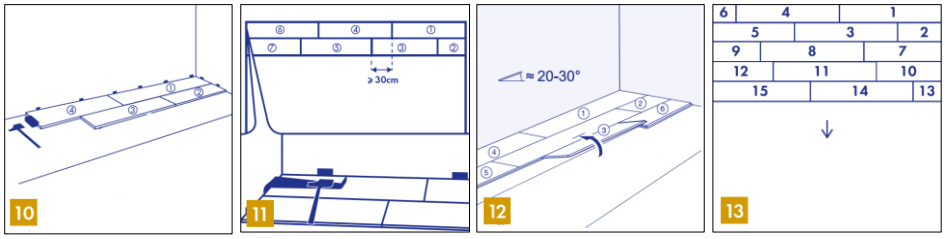
7

In order to make the start of the installation easier, assemble the first 3 rows away from the wall, so you can sit on the planks during the assembly. Then slide the first 3 rows at the wanted position close to the wall with distance spacers in place. Take a thin rope and hold it alongside the installed planks to check and adjust the straightness of your installed first 3 rows. It is recommended to make additional checks of the straightness, in order to confirm the straightness during the installation. Remember to use the distance spacers for the expansion gap along the perimeter



8

Uniclic® is unique because you can install the planks in two different ways. Method A (angle-angle): First, rotate the short side of the plank to be installed, into the short side of the already installed plank, by means of the angle principle. Then raise the newly installed plank to an angle of 20-30°. This will also raise the previously installed planks in the same row, because their short sides are already connected. Now place your BOTH hands close to the joint as shown in the figure and pull the long side of the plank towards you. The panels will now click together. You can either insert the tongue into the groove, or the groove on to the tongue. The tongue in groove method is the most common and easiest way.



10

Method B (taping): With Uniclic® you can also join the panels, by tapping the planks into each other, eliminating the need to lift them. This method requires the use of the special Uniclic® tapping block. The planks should not be joined with a single tap. To avoid damaging the panels you must tap them together gradually. You can angle the short or long side of the plank first and then tap to connect the other side.

11

In places where it is too difficult to install the Unilic® planks with the tapping block (e.g. against the wall), you can pull them together using the pull-bar and a hammer.

12

After the installation of each plank and before continuing with the next plank, check each short and long side joint to make sure there are no height differences and no openings.

13

Continue the installation like this - row by row - towards the end of the room. The easiest way to work is to sit on the already installed planks. 7

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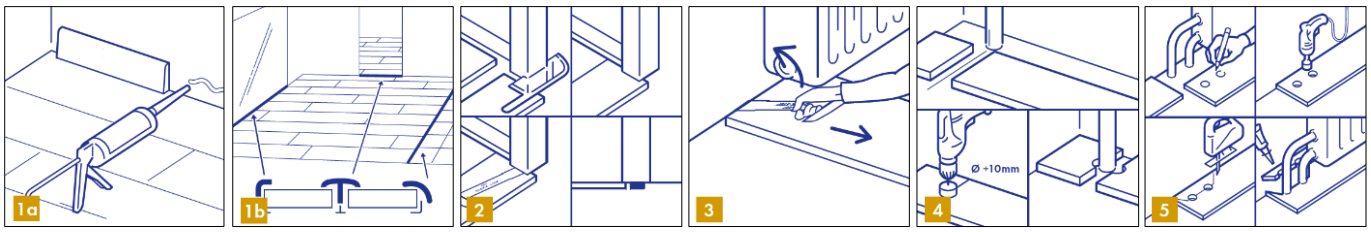
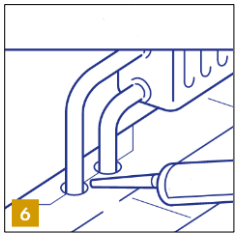




FINISHING

1

Inspect the final surface of the installed floor. Install skirtings against the wall but never attach the skirting to the floor itself. In small places with a high moisture level like bathrooms and toilets and where the floor surface is < 10 m², you can fill the expansion gaps with “Hydroflex white, Hydrokit or other low modulus silicone”.

2

When the new flooring meets a threshold or a doorway, we recommend undercutting the door frames or moldings. To secure the right cut, turn a plank upside down and place it on the floor up to the door frame. Then place a hand saw flat against the plank and simply cut through the frame. Remove the cut out and vacuum away debris. You can now simply click the plank in on the long side at the side of the undercut molding. Then slide to panels to close the end joint. Use the LVT installation tool as a pull bar to secure absolute tightness in the long and short joint.

3

If it is difficult to tilt the planks (e.g. under radiators), use the LVT installation tool to pull the panels horizontally together.

4

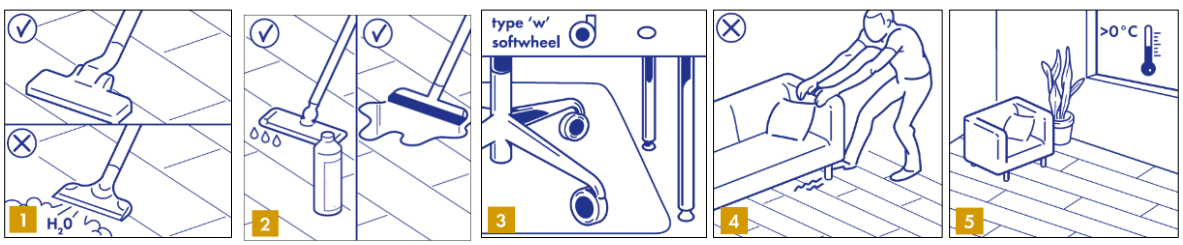
In rows where there is a pipe, make sure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two panels. Take a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe plus 10 mm (0,4inch). Click the panels together on the short side and drill a hole centered on the joint between the two panels. Now you can install the panels.

5

In case of a double pipe, drill a hole at each of the marked points that is equivalent to the diameter of the pipes plus 10 mm. If located on the long side of the plank, make a 45 degree cut from each hole to the edge of the plank.

6

Then, using an appropriate glue along the cut edges of the piece you cut out, glue the piece in place. Be sure no glue comes between the cut-out piece and the subfloor.



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MAINTENANCE

1
You can immediately walk on your new Elka LVT floor after installation. It is allowed to use a vacuum cleaner on your vinyl floor. The use of a steam cleaner is forbidden.

2
Your vinyl floor can be cleaned with a damp or wet mop. Elka Clean is a maintenance product specifically developed to keep your new vinyl floor in top condition. Never use natural soap detergents since this will leave a sticky film on the surface which will collect dust and dirt and will be difficult to remove. The same with detergents containing scratching particles, these might matt down the surface. It is always important not to overdose any cleaning detergent, as this will lead to a build up of cured detergent which is difficult to remove without using a vinyl stripper. For specific cleaning instructions in commercial applications or projects, you can contact Elka. Always remove spilled liquids immediately from the floor.

3
Protect furniture and chair legs. Use (office) chairs type W and seats with soft wheels that are suitable for a vinyl floor and/or use a suitable desk mat.

4
- Never drag heavy items of furniture over the floor but lift them up.
- Make sure furniture legs have a large surface and are provided with non-staining floor protectors.
- The taller and/or wider the furniture feet are, the greater the repartition of weight will be on the floor and the less chance there is to damage the floor.
- Place non-rubber backed mats at all outside entrances to prevent dirt, grit and soil from being tracked onto your floor. This will reduce damages, the maintenance requirement and extend the life of your floor.
- Please note that prolonged contact with some rubber types can cause a permanent stain.

5
Do not allow cigarettes, matches or other very hot items to contact the floor as this may cause permanent damage.

6
Ensure that the indoor climate conditions are always kept > 0°C (32°F) and preferably between 18 - 30°C (64 - 86°F).It is also important to keep the subfloor in the above mentioned temperature range.

FLOOR HEATING

All Elka LVT floors can be used in conjunction with “low temperature” floor heating, under the conditions mentioned below. This is true for floor heating systems with heating components – hot water or electric – embedded in the floor. Heating films or other “new” systems that are placed ON the screed or wooden sub–floor are not suitable for Elka vinyl flooring.

The maximum allowed heat resistance (R) of the floor covering in combination with floor heating is 0.15 m²K/W. The respective values for Elka LVT are as follows:

Product (+ underlay)	Thickness	Total Heat resistance (R)
4,5mm (NO underlay)	4,5mm	0,020 m² K/W
4,5mm (Elka LVT Lay)	4,5mm	0,077 m² K/W

Floor heating and subfloor conditions
The type of cement screed and the installation method, combined with the floor heating, must comply with the instructions of the suppliers of the screed and the floor heating system.

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To obtain a homogeneous heat distribution across the entire floor, the distance between the heating elements must not be greater than 30 cm. The depth of the elements is determined by the fitter of the floor heating (> 4 cm).
The subfloor must be sufficiently DRY across its complete thickness when installing the floor covering. This is maximum 1.5% according to the CM method for cement-bound floors and maximum 0.3% for anhydrite-bound screed. This can only be guaranteed, when installed in new buildings, by starting up the floor heating. Start up the floor heating gradually at least two weeks before laying your vinyl, and minimum 21 days AFTER laying the screed (max. 5°C per day):

- • At 50% of the capacity for 2 weeks
- • At 100% for the last two days

If you can leave the floor heating on for longer, this is even better. For newly spread screed, follow the guidelines of your installer for drying and start-up period. A heating protocol should be presented. Ask for it if necessary.

Installation instructions

The temperature for laying Elka vinyl flooring must be minimum 18°C. So if the room temperature is not 18°C, the floor heating has to be switched ON at 50% until 18°C in the room is reached. If the room temperature is 18°C, you can turn off the heating completely.

Of course, the general installation instructions for Elka LVT flooring without floor heating also applys, unless explicitly mentioned below.

For LVT floating installation we strongly recommend to have 5mm expansion gaps and foresee a transition profile from areas with floor heating towards areas without floor heating. This because the movement of subfloors with floor heating is bigger than without.

AFTER installation of the floor you must wait at least 48 hours before restarting the heating. This should be done gradually (5°C/day).

The maximum permitted contact temperature on Elka Vinyl floor is 27°C. The maximum hot water temperature at the exit of the heating furnace is 45°C.

ALWAYS change the temperature gradually at the start and end of a heating period.

Preferably the climate conditions in the rooms are kept between 18-30°C:

- Always avoid heat accumulation by carpets or rugs, put on the floor, or by leaving insufficient space between furniture and the floor.
- Changing temperatures during different seasons can cause changing in dimensions.

If you have further questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact our technical department:

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