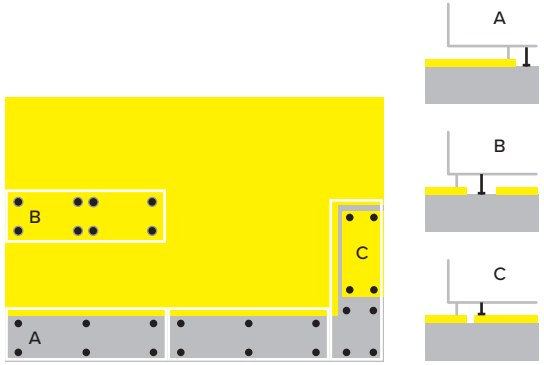
SUBFLOOR SURVEY AND PREPARATION MATRIX

LOCAL REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS REGARDING INSTALLATION OR SITE CONDITIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED IF THEY ARE STRICTER.

SUBFLOOR FLATNESS		LVT				PARQUET		LAMINATE
		Rigid click vinyl floating with[6] or without[7] attached pad	Flex LVT click: floating on suitable LVT Unilin underlay	Glue down flexible LVT(Dryback) or Looselay: **on Unilin self adhesive underlay**	Glue down flexible LVT (Dryback) or Looselay: **glued down** or Looselay: **with tackifier** ***!!! Special care on flatness is needed => mostly primer + levelling compound will be necessary.***	Floating on suitable Unilin underlay	Glued down with MS polymer parquet glue	Floating on suitable Unilin underlay
FLATNESS RULES / TOLERANCES	Under 2 m ruler	4 mm	2 mm	3 mm	2 mm	4 mm	4 mm	4 mm
	Under 20 cm ruler	1 mm		0,2 mm	0,2 mm	1 mm	1 mm	1 mm
	Tile grouting	5 mm width	4 mm width 1 mm depth	Apply leveling compound	Apply leveling compound			

SUBFLOOR HUMIDITY		LVT + PARQUET + LAMINATE	
		Unheated	Heated
FLOATING / GLUED DOWN STALLATION	Cement-based subfloor	2,5% CM - 75% RH	1,5 % CM - 65% RH
	Anhydrite-based subfloor	0,5% CM - 75% RH	0,3% CM - 65% RH
	Wood-based subfloor	< 10% moisture content	



PRELIMINARY REMARKS

(1) For intensive cleaning of the subfloor before applying a leveling compound, use an alkaline stripping detergent. Warning: Rinse the subfloor thoroughly after applying the detergent.
(2) In case of underfloor heating/cooling, when installing a new floor covering over an existing one, the sum of the R-values of all individual layers in the build-up which are situated on top of the floor heating system, must remain below 0.15 $m^2 \cdot K/W$.
(3) Avoid blocking the movement of the floating floor with heavy and fixed objects (such as kitchen base units, central island, stove, wardrobe, or other cupboards). Heavy and/or fixed objects must rest directly on the subfloor. If the objects must absolutely be placed or fixed on the floor covering, a fully glued installation over the entire surface should be considered for Parquet and Flex LVT Dryback/ Looselay.
(4) For full-surface gluing, always check the compatibility of the adhesive with the subfloor or the existing covering (compatibility test).
(5) On ground floor slabs, check for the presence of a moisture barrier. If not present, provide an approved barrier system. For any glued installation, this barrier system must be an adherent two-component epoxy type.
(6) If the underlay is integrated into the LVT rigid floor covering, it is **not allowed** to add an additional underlay.
(7) If the underlay is not integrated into the LVT rigid floor covering, then an Unilin suitable LVT underlay must be used.

UNILIN

EXISTING SUBFLOOR (with a prescribed flatness and moisture content)		LVT				PARQUET		LAMINATE
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MINERAL	Anhydrite/calcium sulfate $CaSO_4$, **porous**	OK	OK	OK	< 0.5% CM + adhesion (crosscut) test sanding (°) + vacuuming + primer + suitable leveling compound (°) For glued installation, sanding the anhydrite surface is often mandatory	OK	< 0.5% CM + adhesion (crosscut) test sanding (°) + vacuuming + primer (°) For glued installation, sanding the anhydrite surface is often mandatory	OK
	Waxed or polished concrete, **non-porous**	OK	OK	OK	OK after sanding + vacuuming + surface primer + levelling compound	OK	OK	OK
	Leveling compound (min 3 to 4 mm), **porous**	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Cement-based concrete screed, **porous**	OK	OK	OK	OK after deep primer + levelling compound	OK	OK	OK
	Mineral tiles / ceramic tiles / marble, **non porous**	OK	OK	OK	OK after cleaning with coustic soda, primer, levelling compound	OK	OK	OK
	Asbestos tiles. Well adhered to the subfloor and in good condition - Covering asbestos-containing flooring is only permitted if local regulations explicitly allow it.Encapsulation or covering is not a substitute for removal when the material is damaged or friable.If removal is required, it must be performed by certified professionals trained and accredited under national regulations. Encapsulation is only acceptable when the asbestos is in good condition and undisturbed, and the risk of fiber release is minimal.	OK	OK	OK	NOT ALLOWED	OK	NOT ALLOWED	OK
	Cast resin (epoxy, polyurethane, polyester), polished stone, **non-porous**	OK	OK	OK	OK after surface primer + levelling compound	OK	OK	OK

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WOOD-BASED Direct installation on joists is prohibited WARNING: 1. If there is moisture in the wood-based subfloor or if there is no adequate moisture barrier system under the wood-based subfloor, it must first be removed. The wood-based subfloor may rot over time if moisture is trapped by the new floor covering and/or its underlay. 2. If a crawl space exists underneath the wood-based subfloor, this space must be well ventilated (4 cm^2 per m^2 of floor). 3. If an adequate moisture barrier system against rising damp is present under the wood-based subfloor, you can install a floor covering on top. Use an underlay without vapor barrier. 4. Install the new floor perpendicularly to the existing subfloor.	Nailed parquet (for ex. patterned nailed parquet)	OK	OK	OK while monitoring flatness and joint width to avoid subfloor telegraphing	OK after usually sanding + vacuuming + primer + fiber containing levelling compound	OK	Adhesion test, otherwise sand the finish to the barewood	OK
	Floating parquet / floating laminate flooring	1) always remove floating floor systems 2) check and potentially prepare the discovered subfloor						
	Oiled glued parquet **(non-porous)**	OK with a 200 µm PE anti-migration film interposition			OK after sanding + vacuuming + primer + levelling compound	OK	OK after subfloor sanding	OK
	Glued Lacquered parquet or glued laminate flooring **(non-porous)**	OK	OK	OK	OK after usually sanding + vacuuming + primer + levelling compound	OK	OK	OK
	Cork, OSB **(non-porous)**	OK	OK	OK	OK after sanding + vacuuming + primer + levelling compound OR remove cork, OSB (non porous)	OK	Adhesion test, otherwise sand the finish to the barewood	OK
	Cork, OSB, particle board (uncoated), **porous**	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK

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RESILIENT AND OTHER FLOOR COVERINGS	Textile floor coverings	1) always remove textile floor coverings 2) check and potentially prepare the discovered subfloor						
	Vinyl on foam (acoustic) = sheet vinyl (welded and non-welded)	1) always remove foamed vinyl floor coverings 2) check and potentially prepare the discovered subfloor				OK	OK after removal of the existing floor covering	OK
	Glued compact vinyl	OK with a 200 µm PE anti-migration film interposition			Remove existing covering + appropriate subfloor preparation OR OK after apply liquid vapor barrier + primer (+ levelling compound)	OK	OK after removal of the existing floor covering	OK
	Glued compact linoleum	OK with a 200 µm PE anti-migration film interposition			Remove existing covering + appropriate subfloor preparation OR OK after apply liquid vapor barrier + primer (+ levelling compound)	OK	OK after removal of the existing floor covering	OK
	Glued compact rubber	OK with a 200 µm PE anti-migration film interposition			Remove existing covering + appropriate subfloor preparation	OK	OK after removal of the existing floor covering	OK
	Floating LVT	1) always remove floating floor systems 2) check and potentially prepare the discovered subfloor						

Other subfloors: please ask technical advices at technical.services@unilin.com