



**CERAMIX** is the first loose lay LVT flooring which incorporates Built in Grout. Ceramix is composed of ceramic particles and features our proprietary solid fiberglass sheet and our G88 Advanced Ceramic Coating for easy maintenance. Ceramix also provides a built-in sound barrier for better acoustical benefits and comfort than ceramic tile. Ceramix is Waterproof, Quiet and Warm Underfoot and is Stain Resistant. Because of this, it can be installed using one of several different methods over all types of subfloors. Approved surfaces including natural wood, concrete, one layer of existing vinyl, real ceramic and uneven subfloors within tolerance limits. All Subfloor preparation instructions on the following pages must be followed to ensure a proper installation. **CERAMIX** is waterproof so it can be installed in moisture prone areas that other flooring and laminate products would not be suitable.

### **What you need to get started**

1. Tools: Utility knife & straight edge, depending on application a small amount of vinyl adhesive or tape specified below.
2. Material Needed: Measure the length & width of your room. If the room has alcoves or offsets, measure these separately. This will give you the square footage of the room. Have a minimum of 10% extra to cover mistakes, trimming and for future needs and or replacement.
3. Check what the amount of Square Footage is for the package carton and divide it by the room dimensions factoring in the alcoves and offsets and adding in your overage to determine the correct number of cartons for your installation.
4. CERAMIX must be conditioned prior to installation: CERAMIX must be stored at room temperature of at least 65 degrees Fahrenheit. For 24 to 48 hours before installation. Stack cartons no more than 3 high with at least 4" of airflow around not next to and heat or cooling ducts and direct sunlight.

When installing tiles and planks you should work out of a minimum of 3 boxes and mix planks or tiles when installing.

### **Subfloor Preparation**

While CERAMIX is suitable for situations where many other types of flooring should not be used, certain precautions should be observed including and not limited to:

1. Make sure you have a sound, solid subfloor with little flexibility.
2. Evaluate your concrete floor if it has a moisture problem, Fix It! Hydrostatic pressure and/or High PH need to be addressed. It can create a highly corrosive substance that no flooring product can tolerate. There are many products on the market that can seal the concrete and protect CERAMIX from this issue. Polyurethane sheets can be used, as a precaution once the concrete floor has been tested not a solution for a problem. Our limits for the best precautions are as follows:



- a. 8 lbs. using a Calcium Chloride Dome test using ASTM test methods or a RH reading of 85%, using ASTM RH relativity test methods and/or a PH higher than 9
3. Fill any large cracks, nail holes or voids, which must be filled with a Portland base patching compound. Concrete and wood subfloors should be flat within 3/16" in 10FT.
4. Check environment! Keep clean and dust free work conditions during installation. The room temperature and the sub floor temperature should be between 65° and 85 ° Fahrenheit. Maintain proper temperature for 48 hours before, during and after installation. The building's heating and air-conditioning system should be turned on at least one to two weeks before installation. CERAMIX is an interior product only, and must be installed in a temperature controlled environment, maintained between 65 and 85 degrees F. Please keep in mind a concrete floor can be up to ten degrees colder than the actual room temperature.

### **Subfloor Compatibility**

All Levels of Concrete: Lightweight concretes are approved and Wood Subfloors. All other subfloors, i.e. particleboard, OSB, chipboard, wafer board, Gypsum Underlayment and Floor Toppings etc. must be sturdy, flat, and have little flexibility and manufacturers installation specifications need to be followed.

### **Caution: Soft underlayment and substrates can diminish CERAMIX inherent strength in resisting indentations.**

Quarry tile, terrazzo, and ceramic tile need to be floated and grout joints filled with a high-quality Portland base cement leveling or patching compound product.

For Radiant heat components must be a minimum of 1/2" separated from CERAMIX. This is the only type of radiant heat that is approved.

Subfloors should have been operational for at least 3 weeks prior to installation to drive out moisture and calibrate temperature settings. All radiant heat floors should be turned down so subfloor temperature is maintained at 65 degrees for 3 days prior to installation and kept at 65 degrees for at least 48 hours after installation to allow the adhesive to fully cure. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F.

Existing resilient tile and sheet vinyl floors are ok but must be in good condition and fully bonded to the structural floor. All existing vinyl needs to be stripped and cleaned of all wax and heavily embossed vinyl should be floated with a high quality Portland based cement. Any tile or sheet that is of a soft cushion construction must be removed. For all removal of any resilient glue down product follow RFCI's recommended Work Practices for removal of resilient floor covering. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Do not sand or bead blast during removal. Please visit [RFCI.com](http://RFCI.com) for advice on vinyl installations if needed. Note: A layer of resilient or soft underlayment, such as lauan, can compromise the inherent strength of any flooring product including CERAMIX. Do not install over more than one layer of existing flooring, or foam backed resilient flooring to prevent indentations.



CERAMIX is water/moisture resistant, and does not support mold or mildew. However, excessive moisture in the subfloor can cause mold, mildew, and other moisture related issues like the trapping of moisture emissions under CERAMIX. This will cause an adverse effect on existing glue down substrates causing it to release.

Check for any dips in the subfloor that can create a void underneath the floor that will cause stress on the plank seams when walking on it. CERAMIX is water resistant so it can be installed directly over concrete floors in the basement, (Refer to Subfloor preparation on page 1). If your concrete floor has any bumps or burrs of concrete sticking up, simply knock them off with a hammer and chisel and fill in the holes.

#### **INSTALLATION of CERAMIX:**

- Measure out your room and determine the length and width of the perimeter plank or tile keeping a balanced perimeter row on each side of the room. CERAMIX is very easy to cut by scoring with a sharp blade and snapping or a vinyl cutter. Avoid small perimeter pieces less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in width. No starting row piece or end piece should be less than 6 inches and a brick pattern or staggered method of a half tile plank is best method. However, if otherwise specified for design, you must get alternative design confirmation based on each individual project.
- Check the walls and make sure it is square to the opposite wall. If wall is not square to opposing wall, measure and scribe the plank or tile on the edge that goes against the wall to create a straight square-starting row.
- Once the starting perimeter row is in place, just lay your plank or tiles down and adjust all side and end seams tight and square to each other.
- The best part to a CERAMIX installation is that you can just pull up and reposition a tile plank if it does not look right.
- Avoid walking on tile planks as much as possible until all the perimeter tiles planks are in place to lock in the installation.
- Never expose scribe or cut ends they should always be covered by molding.

For 18"x36" tile offset method is best. Start first perimeter row with a full tile then next row with a half tile then alternating though out installation A Point-to-Point installation with each corner of the tile together is warranted but not the preferred method.

For your typical residential installations only you can use a heavy-duty double face tape for Vinyl Floor installations to secure the perimeter plank 7.08"x47.24"and center of the grid for 18"x36" and 36"x36" from moving. First remove the paper from one side and secure tape to the back of the tile or plank. Then remove paper and place tile plank to floor. The acceptable amount of tape is 3 rows running length wise down plank using 2-inch wide tape and 5 rows for tile.

*For installations in large rooms reinforce perimeter of the specified adhesive row width should be sprayed or spread every 10 Feet creating a grid pattern on the floor.*

For cutting around irregular objects make a pattern out of heavy paper to fit around the object then place and trace the pattern upon the plank and cut along the lines with a utility knife or heavy-duty scissors and lay the plank.

If for any reason, you need to replace a plank that is damaged just pull up the plank and put another in its place it's that easy. Rolling the floor in both directions using a 75-100lb roller is required in areas where adhesive, whether perimeter or full spread method is used. It is also a suggested to roll any residential tape installation with a hand roller to insure a good mechanical bond.

## **Plank 7.08" x 47.24" Installation**

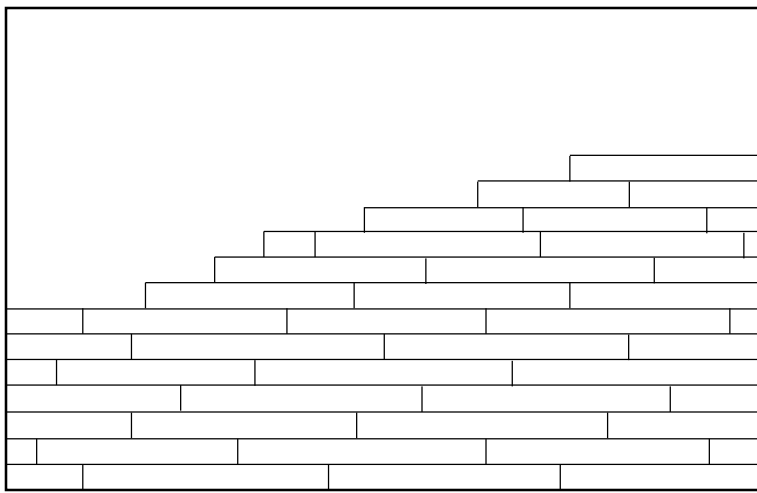
### **RANDOM INSTALLATION**

Installation should start at corner of the room and work your way out. If using the perimeter adherence method, all material measuring a minimum of 2 tile plank widths out from the walls need to be secured using the recommended Casabella© Vinyl Flooring R88 spray locking pressure sensitive adhesive for installations to lock remainder of floor in place. Glue the whole perimeter using R88 adhesive under all walkway entrances and under heavy appliances and furniture.

Leave an expansion space from wall at least 1/8th inch covered by molding. Start first perimeter row with a full plank then next row with a half plank then alternating though out installation (Figure 1). Glue the whole perimeter using R88 adhesive under all walkway entrances and under heavy appliances and furniture. Leave an expansion space from wall at least 1/8th inch covered by molding. Start first perimeter row with a full tile then next row with a half tile then alternating though out installation.

**CERAMIX Luxury Vinyl Plank is manufactured with a 2-sided grout. During installation, make sure planks are installed in the same direction.**

Figure 1



## **Tile 36" x 36" / 18"x36" – SUGGESTED INSTALLATION METHODS**

To square the area to be covered, first find the center of one end of the main rectangle. Locate the same point at the other end wall. Snap a chalk line between these points. Measure this center line to find the middle of the room and mark. A right angle must be established off this center mark. Use one of the following methods to establish a right angle.

**CERAMIX Luxury Vinyl Tile is manufactured with a 2-sided grout. During installation, make sure tiles are installed in the same direction.**

If using the perimeter adherence method, all material measuring a minimum of 2 tile widths out from the center perimeter grid need to be secured using the recommended Casabella® Vinyl Flooring R88 spray locking pressure sensitive adhesive for installations to lock remainder of floor in place. Glue the whole perimeter using R88 adhesive under all walkway entrances and under heavy appliances and furniture. Leave an expansion space from wall at least 1/8th inch covered by molding.

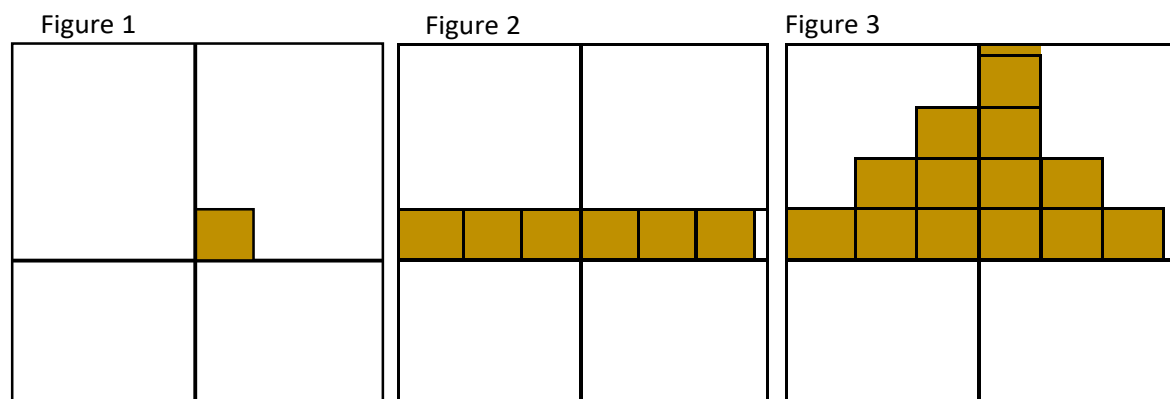
**Spray glue in a perimeter of 10 feet x 10 feet grid.**

### **METHOD 1 - POINT TO POINT INSTALLATION 36" x 36"**

Begin laying the tile from the right angle formed in the center of the room by the intersecting lines. Lay the first few tiles perfectly on the guidelines as this will affect the entire installation. Lay tile toward the two corners of the room laying the field area first. Install tile in a stair step (pyramid) fashion, placing the tile firmly into the adhesive. (Figure 1, 2, 3 below)

Complete the first half of the room laying all full tiles first. It may be necessary at times to compromise on the alignment of the joints to make allowances for unevenness of the subfloor.

Apply adhesive over the second half and complete installation as described above.



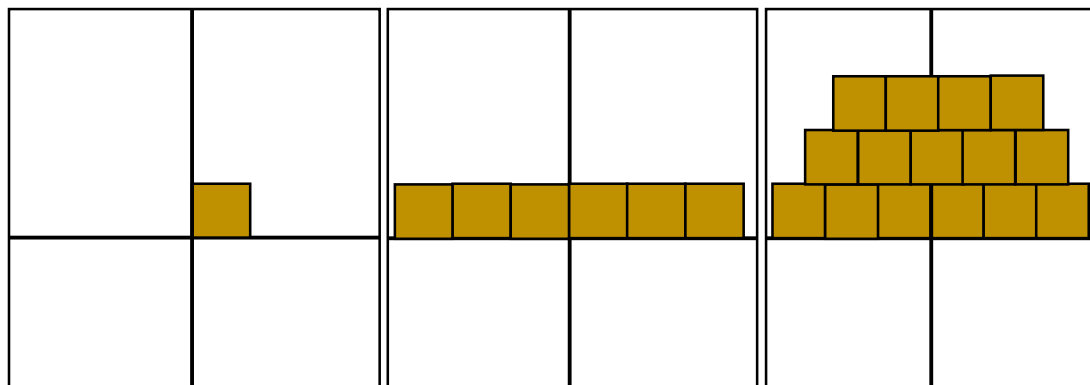
**METHOD 2 – BRICK INSTALLATION 18” x 36”**

Begin laying the tile from the right angle formed in the center of the room by the intersecting lines. Lay the first few tiles perfectly on the guidelines as this will affect the entire installation. Lay tile toward the two corners of the room laying the field area first. Install tile in a brick (pyramid) fashion (Figures 1, 2, 3 below), placing the tile firmly into the adhesive.

Complete the entire room laying all full tiles first. It may be necessary at times to compromise on the alignment of the joints to make allowances for unevenness of the subfloor.

Apply adhesive over the second half and complete installation as described above.

Figure 1



**ADHESIVE USE FOR HIGH TRAFFIC INSTALLATIONS:** Casabella® Vinyl Flooring considers “high traffic” to include interior environments such as airports, schools, restaurants, hospitals, athletic facilities or any area subject to heavy rolling traffic or other excessive abuse. In these situations, Casabella® Vinyl Flooring R88 should be fully sprayed over the entire floor versus the perimeter method. For end-use areas requiring superior non-releasable bond strength adhesive, spread the entire floor using Casabella® Vinyl Flooring R99 premium LVT troweled adhesive. Follow all instructions on can or bucket. Please contact your CERAMIX provider for adhesive details.