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## Vinyl Flooring

Luxury vinyl tile and plank flooring are some of the most popular flooring products on the market today and the use of these products is growing exponentially in the commercial market. There are a few factors that make LVT and LVP unique: they are very realistic looking with embossed or textured surfaces that make them appear to look like wood, ceramic or stone, they are typically thicker than traditional vinyl flooring materials, they come in an array of shapes and sizes, and they incorporate varying installation systems that hook, snap, or lock together, have self-adhesive methods or can be glued to the substrate. There is no doubt that these products make for a beautiful floor but there are a few things to keep in mind to ensure these products meet expectations.

Substrate preparation is of utmost importance for a successful flooring installation of any kind, but even more critical for a vinyl flooring installation, particularly sheet vinyl. It is important to make sure the substrate is flat and level. Since vinyl flooring materials have "drape" they will conform to the surface in which they are being applied. If the substrate is not level and smooth, any irregularity will show through on the face of the material. Sheet vinyl is more susceptible to this because it typically does not have a pattern or texture. Most often LVT or LVP has a pattern such as wood, stone or ceramic and does a better job of hiding irregularities.

Moisture in the substrate can also effect vinyl flooring. Concrete substrates on or below grade will contain moisture and can affect the performance of vinyl flooring materials. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, if the flooring material is permeable, moisture vapor can move through the material and bring with it the alkalinity of the concrete. High alkalinity levels can destroy the tackifiers (sticky part) of adhesives, causing them to fail. If moisture is trapped beneath non-permeable flooring materials, it can cause the edges of the material to curl or the adhesive under the tile to turn to mush. The substrate must also be clean and free of any old adhesives, contaminants, oil, grease, and any other residual agents or chemicals before the flooring material is installed.

Sheet vinyl and vinyl tiles are usually installed with an adhesive material. The adhesive used and the application of the adhesive should be done in strict conformance with the manufactures guidelines. Applying the floor too soon or too late can cause adhesion and bonding problems as well as ridges from the trowel telegraphing through the floor. Luxury vinyl plank have an array of click or lock systems that are used in their installation. Adhesives can be used to keep the material flat, but it will not prevent or correct curling edges.

Appearance issues also need to be taken into consideration, as vinyl flooring is vulnerable to indentations, scratching, and gouging. Make sure to account for high levels of foot traffic, and weighted loads that will go across the floor as it could cause the floor not to preform to your expectations. Also remember that the floor color, pattern, maintenance, and finish will have a great deal of influence on how the floor looks and preforms. Be aware that the shinier the flooring surface is the more you will see everything glaring back at you. Vinyl flooring is not indestructible and like any other flooring you have to put the right product in the right place.

Vinyl flooring is extremely popular and there is a reason why it is the fastest growing floor covering market segment. If you have any questions on vinyl flooring or would like to take a look at some samples, please feel free to contact Gerloff Floors and Fixtures. Our team will be glad to give you more information and show you the different options that are available. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.

# July 2016

## Events

July 4: Independence Day  
 July 7: SAMA Luncheon  
 July 7: ACA Luncheon  
 July 12: CAI Luncheon  
 July 12: SACA Luncheon  
 July 13: AAFAME Luncheon  
 July 14: IREM Luncheon  
 July 20: SABOMA Social  
 July 21: Austin BOMA Luncheon  
 July 21: CAMO Luncheon  
 July 28: IWSA Luncheon  
 July 29: CE Class

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day - Office closed	5	6	7 SAMA Luncheon ACA Luncheon	8	9
10	11	12 CAI Luncheon SACA Luncheon	13 AAFAME Luncheon	14 IREM Luncheon	15	16
17	18	19	20 SABOMA Social	21 Austin BOMA Luncheon CAMO Luncheon	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28 IWSA Luncheon	29 CE Class	30

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