

## **VINYL PLANK CARE & MAINTENANCE**

Although La Dole Luxury Vinyl Flooring (LVF) is durable, all floor coverings require some care to look their best; many problems can be prevented before they occur. The type and frequency of traffic on your floor will determine the frequency of maintenance needed. The type of floor and even the color will also have some bearing on how much care may be necessary. For example, solid color floors will show scuffs, scratches, dirt and general wear to a greater degree than multi-colors of chips or patterns. Of course, white colors will show staining to a greater degree than black colors. For this reason, solid color and white floors should receive special attention in regard to preventative maintenance and the amount of care provided. Proper selection when choosing the type and style of floor will help prevent maintenance related problems after installation.

### **INITIAL MAINTENANCE (within 24 hours of installation)**

For dry back (glue-down) vinyl products:

- Adhesive should be given ample time to cure and create a bond between the substrate and the vinyl flooring. Ensure that the post-installation room temperature is properly set and allow proper drying time according to the adhesive manufacturer's instructions before walking or placing furniture and appliances on your new floor.
- Sweep or vacuum thoroughly and remove any adhesive residue from surface. Mineral spirits is fine for this.
- Do not wash/mop the floor for at least 48 hours after installation. After this time has passed, the floor can be damp mopped with a solution of a pH neutral resilient floor cleaner. Remove any scuffs and excessive soil by careful scrubbing with recommended solution and a soft absorbent cloth.

For all types of vinyl products:

- Sweep or vacuum thoroughly.
- Be careful when placing furniture and appliances over your new floor. For heavy items, it is recommended to use smooth furniture sliders or move furniture over sheets of plywood or hardboard to prevent damage to your new flooring.
- Check the condition of all the casters or rollers on your furniture before setting them on your floor. Replace any worn ones.
- Protect your vinyl floor by covering furniture legs with felt protectors.

### **PROPER STEPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR LA DOLE LUXURY VINYL FLOORING**

1. Regular adherence to an effective maintenance program should include thorough dirt and grit removal by sweeping, dust mopping or vacuuming daily. It should be noted that the use of brush roller agitation on vacuums is not recommended.
2. Promptly remove spills. Regular damp mopping using a pH neutral resilient floor cleaner is recommended. Always test cleaners in an inconspicuous area or an unused sample before

using on flooring. Abrasive cleaners should never be used on La dole LVF products. **Do not use vinegar, one-step cleaner/polishes or oil soaps on La dole LVF products.**

3. Do not flood the floor or subject to frequent standing water, or use in high moisture areas. Flood mopping, hosing and frequent spills can loosen adhesive.
4. Protect your floor against burns. Burns from the glowing end of a cigarette, matches, or other extremely hot items can damage La dole LVF floors.
5. In order to prevent indentations and scratches, provide plastic or other non-staining cups with flat under surfaces not less than 2" (5 cm) width for the legs of all furniture or appliances. On smaller diameter chair legs, use non-staining protectors that are the same size as the chair leg. Furniture with casters should have three (3) to five (5) wheels. The casters should be made of a non-staining surface and be a minimum of 3/4" (1.9 cm) wide. Chair pad protectors are required.
6. Protect your floor from tracked-in-dirt and grit particles by using non-staining mats at all entryways/entrances. This will collect tracked-in dirt, sand and pebbles, as well as to absorb moisture. Take time to remove any imbedded grit particles from shoe soles before entering the room. Avoid the use of rubber-backed mats, as certain rubber compounds can permanently stain vinyl. Avoid tracking in tar or asphalt from driveways, as this can also discolor vinyl. Avoid the use of stiletto heels on your floor as they can cause permanent damage. All La Dole LVF has a good resistance to stains, and is not affected by most common household spills; however, any spill should be cleaned up immediately. The longer the spilled materials are left on the floor, the greater the risk of permanently staining the floor. Please refer to the stain removal chart below.
7. **Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. La Dole requires the use of UV protective film, blinds, curtains or shades to assure that LVF products are protected from sun and are not overheated due to this exposure.** This type of exposure can induce expansion which may cause buckling. Floor covering exposed to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. **Flooring that cannot be protected from direct sunlight is required to be installed with adhesive.** Failure to install this LVF with La Dole approved adhesive when such flooring will be exposed to direct sunlight voids all warranties, express or implied; the end user shall assume full responsibility for any failure of the flooring, and La Dole shall be released from any claims, damages, or liabilities whatsoever arising out of or related to the failure to install the flooring with approved adhesive when the flooring is exposed to direct sunlight.
8. Post-installation temperatures should be maintained between 65 °F – 85 °F (18.3 °C – 29.4 °C).

#### STAIN REMOVAL CHART

- **Ink, iodine, mercurochrome, coffee, alcohol, fruit juice, ketchup, vinegar, mustard, blood, urine, vomit, excrement, povidone-iodine.** Immediately rub stain with a white cloth dampened in solution of bleach and water (20 parts water and one (1) part bleach) or use water and ammonia (four (4) parts water to one (1) part ammonia). Let set for one (1) minute. Rinse with cold/clean water.
- **Burns (cigarettes, matches, etc.).** Remove charred/blackened area with small stiff putty knife or spatula; once removed, apply vinyl seaming liquid to repair.

- **Asphalt, tar, grease, oil, wax, chewing gum, nail polish, alkalis, lacquer, paint, rubber.** If needed, remove soiled material with a plastic spatula. Immediately wipe with a white cloth dampened in full strength resilient pH neutral floor cleaner or mineral spirits. Thoroughly rinse with cold/clean water.
- **Diluted acids, drain cleaner, harsh soaps or detergents.** Immediately remove spill with a clean damp cloth folding frequently. Thoroughly rinse with cold/clean water. After removing liquid spills, use a full strength resilient pH neutral cleaner.
- **Rust, grass, dye.** Immediately rub stain with soft nylon cleaning sponge dampened in alcohol (isopropyl). Thoroughly rinse with cold/clean water.

## **HOMEOWNER OBLIGATIONS**

To maintain the coverage under the terms of these warranties and ensure fast and easy warranty service, the homeowner is responsible for the following:

- Keep five (5) planks/tiles of the LVF product after installation for testing purposes.
- Keep and be able to provide the original sales receipt or documentation illustrating proof of purchase and installation date of the product.
- Make sure the flooring is installed according to La Dole Installation Instructions.
- Keep a list of products used to clean your floor.