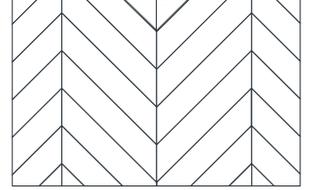


Installation instructions for Solen Chevron LVT panels.



Thank you for choosing our product. Proper installation will ensure many years of trouble-free use, which is why it is so important to read the following information.

Please note: these instructions are a set of recommendations. We recommend using the services of professional installers, as incorrect installation or poor substrate preparation will void the warranty. Installation should be carried out in accordance with good building practice in the field of flooring, current standards and these instructions. If in doubt, please contact a Multicontract technician.

Safety: always use eye and hand protection equipment and take special care when cutting and handling the panels.

The material should be stored and transported in such a way as to prevent damage, with due care. Cartons should be laid flat, never leaned on their edges or placed upright. Packages filled with the product are quite heavy, so take special care when moving them to protect your health.

Basic tools required for installation:

Expansion wedges (spacers), installation knife, measuring tape, notched trowel, angle bracket, chalk line, adhesive dedicated to vinyl panels, heavy roller (min. 50 kg), template (perfect square, e.g. plywood) or angle bracket, manual rubber pressure roller, panel cutting guillotine (optional).

Before installation

- Check that all panels have the same production batch number. The batch number is located on each package. Do not install panels from different batches in the same room or in rooms that are directly connected to each other. After unpacking, visually inspect the product for quality, colour, pattern and compliance with the order. If any defects are noticed, do not proceed with the installation and contact the point of purchase immediately. Once the floor has been installed, claims for surface defects that were present prior to installation and were not reported will not be considered.
- **Acclimatisation.** Remove all panels from their packaging and stack them evenly in the target room in stacks approximately 5 packages high. They should be acclimatised in this form for at least 48 hours at the recommended and controlled room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C. After acclimatisation, installation can begin. If the room has underfloor heating, the panels should be acclimatised in such a way that they do not come into direct contact with the floor to prevent the lower elements from overheating. In addition, during acclimatisation, it is forbidden to store the product near radiators or other point sources of heat.

Subfloor preparation

- The substrate must be free of any contaminants that may affect the adhesion of the adhesive, including oil, wax, old adhesive, paint, dust, etc. (if necessary, sweeping, vacuuming and mopping are required).
- Ensure that the area is hard, level, even, without excessive protrusions or depressions (greater than 3 mm over a 2 m section). Any unevenness should be sanded down or levelled with filler (minimum C20 F4) so that no imperfections show through the finished floor surface. In the case of a ceramic tile underlay, level the joints with filler and then smooth the entire surface with a suitable compound (minimum C20 F4).
- The substrate should be stable (substrate deflection up to 1 mm).
- The substrate should be dry:
 - cement subfloor without heating max 1.8% CM
 - cement screed with heating 1.5% CM
 - anhydrite screed without heating 0.5% CM
 - anhydrite screed with heating 0.3% CM

In the case of underfloor heating, it is always necessary to "heat" the underlay.

- Do not use products containing petroleum-based agents (solvents, oils, etc.) to prepare the subfloor, as they may cause permanent discolouration and spot deformations of the new floor.
- Despite the water resistance of the panels, they should not be used as a moisture barrier. Prolonged exposure to water (e.g. lack of horizontal insulation in the building) may damage the product's component layers.
- The requirements for substrates should comply with applicable standards and technical information.
- If necessary, it is recommended to seek the assistance of a specialist.

Climatic conditions during installation

The panels can be installed in rooms with the following climatic conditions:

- air temperature: 18–25°C
- substrate temperature without underfloor heating 18-22°C and at least 3°C above the dew point (optimal substrate temperature to prevent moisture condensation).
- substrate temperature with underfloor heating 18-22°C and at least 3°C above the dew point (in this case, the panels can be installed with the underfloor heating switched on and properly adjusted).
- Relative air humidity: 35-65%.

The above climatic conditions should be maintained in the room during panel installation and for 72 hours after completion. Sudden changes in conditions may cause deformation of the floor.

Information on the use of panels on underfloor heating

The maximum operating temperature of the heating should not exceed 27°C (the maximum substrate temperature of 27°C should not be reached faster than 45 minutes after the heating is turned on). The temperature increase should not exceed 5°C / 10 minutes. Other heat sources (radiators, stoves, etc.) must not come into direct contact with the panels. They must be at least 2 cm away from the floor. Using LVT panels in conditions where the air and subfloor temperatures are too low or too high may cause deformation of the elements.

Important: Do not lay panels on heating systems that are not embedded in the mass, including heating foils and infrared foils.

Expansion joint

During installation, remember to leave a gap (perimeter expansion joint – minimum 3 mm) around all walls and vertical partitions in the room. Expansion wedges should be left in place throughout the entire installation process. The wedges may only be removed after installation is complete. If the wall is uneven, adjust the elements to its contours. Mark the outline of the wall on the floor element and cut it out in such a way as to leave a perimeter expansion joint at the wall.

The floor does not require expansion joints in passageways to rooms and narrowings, provided that the subfloor under the panels is sufficiently stable.

Important: In areas where the floor is exposed to high levels of sunlight, the perimeter expansion joint should be increased to 5 mm.

Very large areas. In areas larger than 1000 m², threshold and contraction expansion joints are required, and the perimeter expansion joint should be at least 5 mm.

Regardless of the size of the area, all design and structural expansion joints must be transferred to all layers of the floor.

Very heavy furniture, such as kitchen islands/built-in units, built-in wardrobes, etc., must not be placed on the floor unless expansion joints are made under the cover strips (masks).

Planning the layout

Important: mix panels from different packages. This will give you the best variety of elements and a natural look.

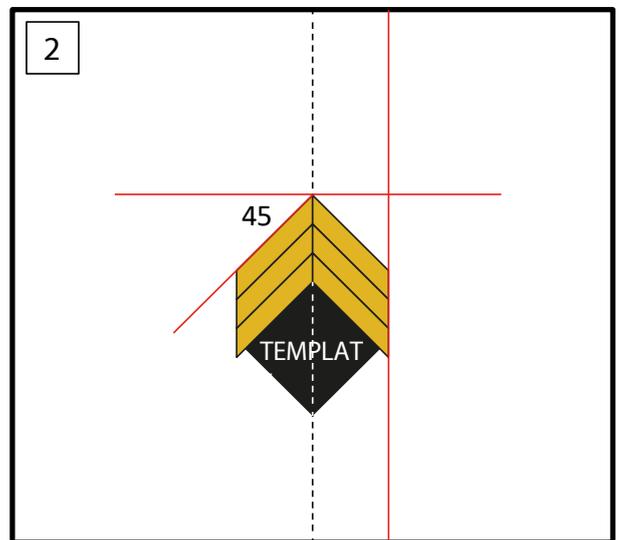
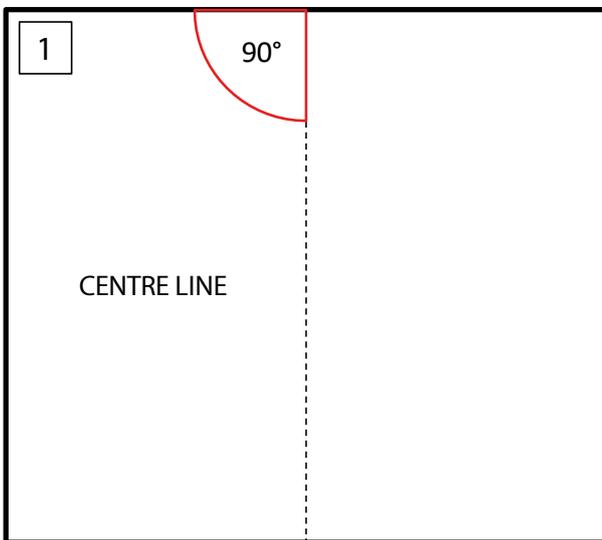
Plan the layout. The width of the outer rows at the side walls should not be less than 5 cm. When planning the installation, divide the width of the room by the width of the row. If the last rows are too narrow, you can move the centre line (starting line) to the left or right accordingly. The layout of the rows will then not be perfectly symmetrical to the room, but this will avoid excessively narrow rows near the walls.

Installation

- Draw a line marking the centre of the room. You can use a chalk line or chalk for this. It is extremely important that the line is perfectly straight and forms a 90° angle with the perpendicular wall (Figure 1).
- Place the first few elements so that their tops are perfectly aligned with the centre line. Use a perfectly square template (e.g. made of plywood) or a set square for this. In the case of a square template, its opposite corners should pass through the centre line of the room. The sides of the panels should form a perfectly straight line. The correct arrangement is shown in figure 2.

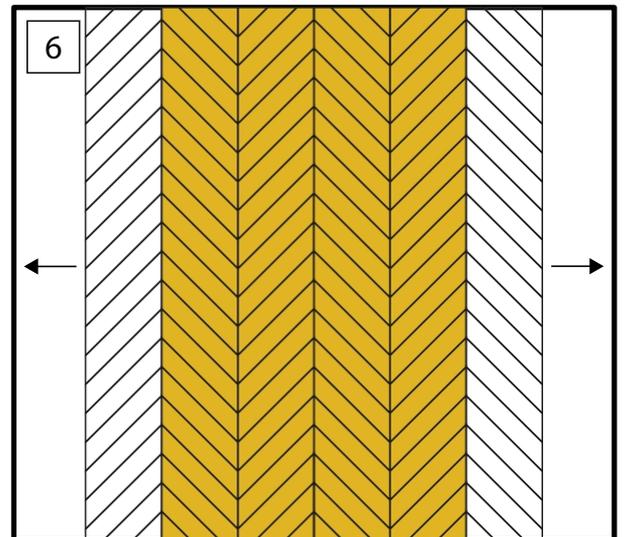
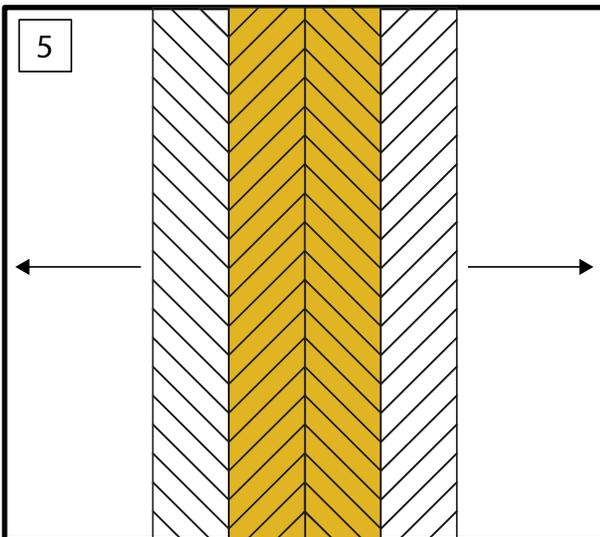
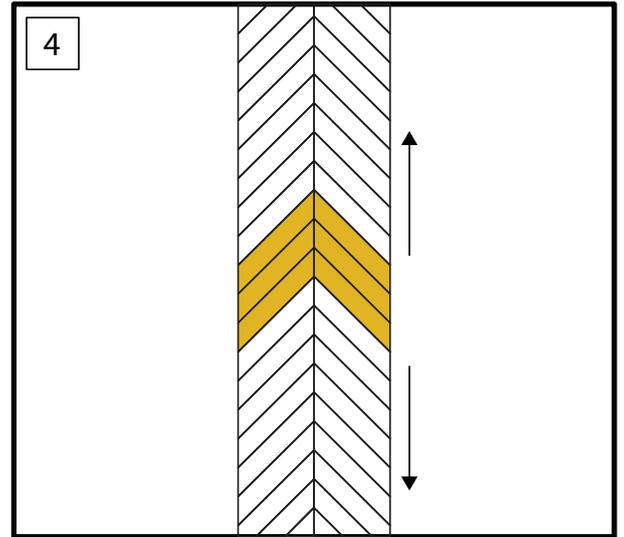
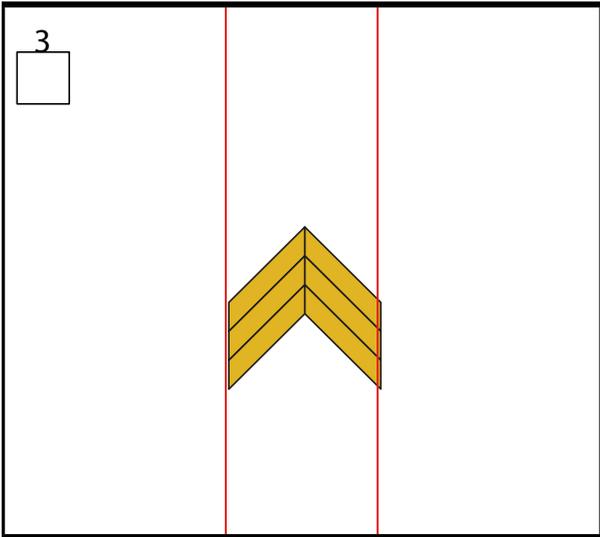
NOTE:

The success of the entire installation process depends on the correct positioning of the first elements.



- The adhesive should be applied with a suitable notched trowel (the size of the notches should be specified in the adhesive manufacturer's instructions) to a surface that will allow the panels to be covered before it dries (usually about 20-30 minutes, depending on the conditions in a given location). Always follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions.
- When the adhesive becomes sticky (it will feel like chewing gum to the touch), you can start gluing the panels. It may take 10-15 minutes to achieve the right viscosity; the higher the ambient temperature, the faster the adhesive will become sticky. The time required to achieve the right viscosity also depends on the porosity of the substrate. If the elements are laid on a non-porous surface, use a pressure-sensitive adhesive. If in doubt, contact the adhesive manufacturer for further information. Remember that any doubts should be resolved before applying the adhesive and, consequently, before gluing the panels.

- After gluing the first elements (Figure 3), continue gluing the panels in the indicated directions (Figures 4, 5, 6).



- An assembly knife and a rigid ruler can be used to trim elements along walls. Make the cut along the ruler on the side of the wear layer (the side with the pattern). Then break the panel, preferably by placing it on a flat, raised surface (e.g. a worktop) close to the edge so that one part can be broken under pressure along the previously made cut. Remember about the perimeter expansion gap! The panels must not be directly adjacent to the wall.
- During the installation process, pay special attention to ensuring that each subsequent row is even and that there are no deviations or gaps between the panels. After finishing gluing a larger section, roll it with a heavy roller (min. 50 kg). Once the entire floor has been laid, repeat the rolling process.
- Do not walk on the panels until the adhesive has completely dried. Never cover the floor with plastic sheeting after installation, as this may adversely affect the drying of the adhesive and cause condensation.

Installation on an adhesive underlay for LVT panels

Only underlays with an adhesive layer dedicated to LVT panels may be used. The recommended underlay is **Smart Lay-VT by Multicontact**, which guarantees full compatibility, high performance and the highest quality. It is forbidden to use several layers of underlay.

Underlay rolls should be stored and transported with due care to prevent damage. They should be laid flat, never rested on their edges or placed upright. Before installation, the rolls should be placed in the target room for at least 48 hours. Do not store rolls on underfloor heating (unless the underlay temperature does not exceed 20°C). In addition, during acclimatisation, it is forbidden to store rolls near radiators or other point sources of heat.

Before unrolling the underlay, make sure that the subfloor is: dry, clean, even (without excessive bumps or depressions greater than 3 mm over a 2 m section), levelled and hard! Although the underlay compensates for very minor unevenness, any defects (by filling or sanding) that could deform the panels after rolling out the floor should be removed.

When installing on ceramic tiles, grout lines and other irregularities should be filled and levelled with special acrylic (washable/removable) fillers. If you do not intend to recover the floor in the future, you can use a permanent/non-washable filler.

Important! Follow all guidelines regarding substrate requirements, climatic conditions, underfloor heating, expansion joints, etc. as indicated in the relevant sections of this manual!

NOTE: It is unacceptable to leave gaps between the underlay strips, both along the long edges and at the short joints. The strips must not overlap!

Plan the layout of the panels in accordance with the rules indicated in the text above regarding the centre line, the width of rows along walls, the maintenance of angles, perimeter expansion joints, etc.

Unroll the underlay on the ground with the film facing upwards. When laying the underlay in the same direction as the rows of panels, ensure that the joints between sheets do not coincide with the joints between rows (see illustration below).

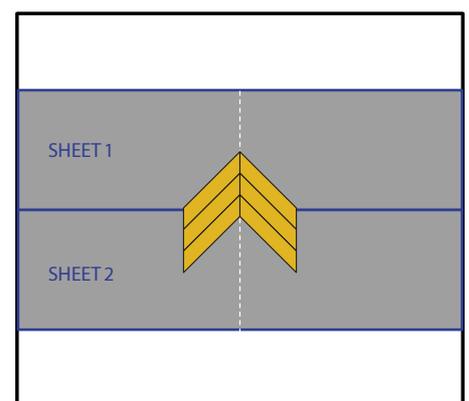
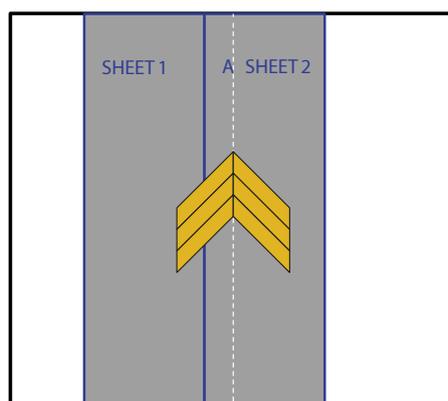
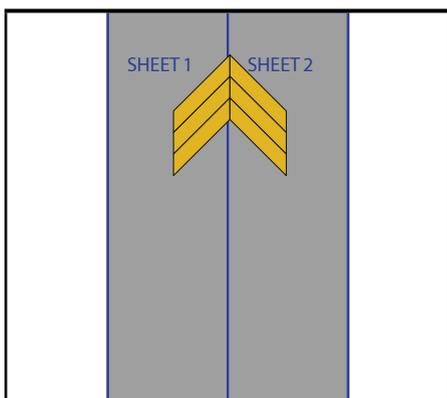
Remove the foil gradually as you proceed with the installation. Do not remove the foil from the entire surface at the beginning of the installation.

After removing the film, do not walk on the surface of the mat and be careful not to contaminate it. Remove the film from the surface so that you can lay the floor section in time and the adhesive on the mat does not lose its 100% adhesion. Once the element has been correctly positioned, each panel should be rolled with a hand roller. After completing the installation of all panels, the entire floor should be thoroughly rolled with a heavy roller (min. 50 kg).

 **WR
ON
G**

 **WRONG**

 **RIGHT**



NOTE: When installing on a mat designed for LVT panels, remember that each element installed must overlap the next mat sheet joint by at least 15 cm when gluing! Never glue elements in such a way that the joint of the underlayment overlaps the joint of the elements placed on it.

Remember about perimeter expansion joints and to transfer structural and design expansion joints to all layers of the floor. **You can read more about expansion joints in the "Expansion joints" section.** Additionally, when installing on a mat in rooms with underfloor heating larger than 100 m², threshold and shrinkage expansion joints are required. In rooms with underfloor heating larger than 40 m², the perimeter expansion joint should be increased to 5 mm.

After installation is complete, normal traffic can begin after 24 hours. Furniture can be placed 48 hours after installation is complete.

Important instructions

- Skirting boards should be fixed to the wall, never to the floor.
- Ensure that all furniture, other heavy items and appliances have felt pads to prevent scratches. Damage caused by failure to secure these items is not covered by the warranty.
- When moving heavy furniture, it is recommended to use special "blankets" used during removals. This will prevent scratches and dents.
- Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-marking, large-area covers/pads to prevent dents. As a general rule, the heavier the item, the wider the pad should be.
- Furniture on castors should rotate easily so as not to cause scratches when changing direction. Castors should be made of a material that does not discolour and is suitable for this type of flexible flooring. Do not use ball castors as they can permanently damage the floor.
- Protective mats should be used under office chairs.
- Do not use rubber mats or other materials that may react chemically with the wear layer of the panels on the outside of the floor.
- Read the cleaning and maintenance instructions.



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