INSTALLATION GUIDE

ARIA — INSTALLATION GUIDE

Applies to: Aria Performance Vinyl Plank

SPORT PRO SURFACING

PRODUCT BASICS

Aria is a performance vinyl plank with a durable PUR wear layer, installed as a non-directional plank (no need to match arrows or grain direction between planks). It is not suitable over radiant heat systems or in hot yoga applications.

01

JOB SITE CONDITIONS

1. Installation should not begin until all other trades are finished in the area. If other trades must work in the area after the floor is installed, protect the floor with an appropriate cover.
2. The installation area should be weather-tight and held at a minimum uniform temperature of 65°F (18°C) for 48 hours before, during, and after installation.

02

SUBFLOORS

1. **Permitted subfloors:** concrete, Portland-based patching/leveling materials, and wood.

   > *Gypsum-based patching and leveling compounds are not acceptable. Any Portland-based patching or self-leveling material used must be moisture-resistant and rated for the relative humidity levels on the project.*

2. **Wood subfloors** should be double-constructed, rigid, and free from movement, with a minimum of 18 inches of well-ventilated air space below. The preferred underlayment panel is APA underlayment-grade plywood, minimum 1/4" thick, with a fully sanded face.

   > *Particleboard, chipboard/OSB, Masonite, and lauan are not suitable underlayments.*

3. **Concrete floors** must have a minimum compressive strength of 3,000 psi. New slabs should cure for a minimum of 28 days and be fully cured and permanently dry before installation.
4. **Not suitable over radiant heat systems.**
5. **Not suitable for hot yoga applications.**

03

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS & PREPARATION

1. Subfloors must be dry, clean, smooth, level, and structurally sound — free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, asphalt, sealers, curing/hardening compounds, alkaline salts, and old adhesive residue.
2. Subfloors should be flat to within 3/16" in 10 ft to prevent irregularities from telegraphing through the finished floor.
3. Mechanically remove old adhesive, paint, or debris by scraping, sanding, or scarifying — do not use solvents. Grind high spots level and fill low spots with a Portland-based patching compound.
4. Fill all saw cuts, cracks, indentations, and other non-moving joints with a Portland-based patching compound.

5. Do not install directly over an expansion joint — use an expansion joint cover designed for resilient flooring, since a floor covering installed straight over one will likely fail there.
6. Allow all patching materials to dry thoroughly per that product's instructions. Excess moisture in patching material can cause bonding problems or a bubbling reaction with the adhesive.

> **Hazard notes:** Concrete, patching compounds, and leveling materials can contain crystalline silica; avoid actions that create airborne dust and use appropriate protection. Existing resilient flooring, backing, or old adhesives may contain asbestos — avoid sanding, dry sweeping, or mechanically disturbing old materials without proper testing. Older paint may contain lead. Follow applicable federal, state, and local guidance for all three hazards.

7. **Moisture testing is required.** Measure relative humidity per ASTM F2170. Moisture content must not exceed the allowable limit of the adhesive selected for the job — the fitness-rated adhesive used in Section 5 is rated to 85% RH, and the standard adhesive used in Section 6 is rated to 99% RH. If RH exceeds 99%, stop and correct the condition before proceeding.
8. If a moisture mitigation system is needed, it must conform to ASTM F3010 (Two-Component Resin-Based Membrane-Forming Moisture Mitigation Systems for Use Under Resilient Floor Coverings).
9. Test concrete pH per ASTM F3441. If it exceeds the selected adhesive's allowable limit, neutralize before installing.
10. Run adhesive bond tests in several locations: glue down 3′ x 3′ test pieces with the intended adhesive and trowel, let them set 72 hours, then attempt to remove. A proper bond requires real force to remove, and should leave adhesive residue on both the subfloor and the back of the test piece.
11. Arrange for weights (such as bricks) to keep planks flat while the adhesive cures.

04

MATERIAL STORAGE & HANDLING

1. Material should arrive in its original, unopened packaging with all labels intact.
2. Store indoors in a climate-controlled environment not exceeding 85°F (30°C).
3. Acclimate both the flooring material and the adhesive at room temperature for at least 48 hours before starting installation.
4. Store cartons flat and squared on top of each other, allowing airflow around the stack once un-palletized. Keep material away from vents and direct sunlight — sunlight exposure can prevent proper acclimation by inducing thermal expansion/contraction.
5. When palletizing on a jobsite, place 5/8″ (or thicker) plywood on the pallet first to protect the cartons and material. Do not stack pallets.
6. Inspect all material for visual defects before installing. No labor claim will be honored on material installed with visible defects — verify style, color, and quantity, and report any discrepancy immediately, before installation begins.

05

FITNESS & WET-AREA INSTALLATION (FITNESS-RATED ADHESIVE)

> **Use this method for:** fitness equipment areas (treadmill, elliptical, selectorized, rowing, or any equipment exerting horizontal or rolling loads) and areas adjacent to exterior entry/exit points. Does not apply to shower areas, pool areas, or similar.

This method requires an adhesive rated to 85% RH. Installations using this adhesive must be taped and weighted, due to its lower green strength.

Secure all selectorized equipment to the substrate to prevent damage to the floor from equipment movement. Do not sharply fold or crease the material — this can cause permanent visual damage to the wear layer, which isn't covered under warranty. It's important that the first row of planks is perfectly straight.

A ESTABLISHING THE FIRST ROW

1. Assume the walls you're butting against are not straight or square. Use a chalk line to mark a starting point for the first row — this line should sit where the first seam will land.
2. Mix planks from 5–6 cartons as you install, since Aria is non-directional.
3. Align the first row of planks to the chalk line. Minimum usable salvage length is 6″.
4. Always position factory edge to factory edge, and place any cut edges against a wall or similar boundary.

B ADHESIVE APPLICATION

1. Re-confirm moisture is within the 85% RH limit before proceeding — stop and correct if it isn't.
2. Apply the fitness-rated adhesive to the substrate using a 1/16″ square-notch trowel, straight from the container (do not mix).
3. Spread only as much adhesive as can be covered by flooring and rolled within 30 minutes. Open time is roughly 30–40 minutes at 70°F and 50% relative humidity — temperature and humidity affect this, so monitor site conditions and adjust accordingly.

C INSTALLING PLANKS

1. Lay planks into the wet adhesive — don't let them "flop" into place, which can trap air and cause bubbles.
2. Tape the planks: apply painter's tape across 3 or more planks, and also across the plank ends.
3. Roll the floor with a 100 lb roller, overlapping each pass by 50% of the previous one, to ensure proper adhesive transfer. Roll as installed, then again every half hour for 3 hours.
4. Clean off excess adhesive immediately with denatured alcohol — cured adhesive is very difficult to remove, so gloves are strongly recommended.
5. Weight the planks (at the ends) to keep them flat until the adhesive cures. Remove weights to roll the floor, then replace them afterward.
6. Repeat for each day's installed planks.
7. Keep all foot traffic off the floor for a minimum of 24 hours, heavy loads for 48 hours, and rolling loads for a minimum of 72 hours — premature traffic can cause permanent indentation or debonding in uncured adhesive.

06

TYPICAL INSTALLATION (STANDARD ADHESIVE)

Use this method for general installations outside the fitness/wet-area scope defined in Section 5.

A PREPARATION

1. Assume the walls you're butting against are not straight or square. Chalk a starting line where the first seam will land.
2. Mix planks from 5–6 cartons as you install.
3. Align the first row to the chalk line. Minimum usable salvage length is 6″.
4. Don't sharply fold or crease the material — this can cause permanent visual damage to the wear layer, not covered under warranty. It's important the first row is perfectly straight. Always keep a factory edge seam-to-seam, and position cut ends against a wall or similar boundary.

B ADHESIVE APPLICATION

1. Apply the standard adhesive with a 1/16″ square-notch trowel, straight from the container (do not mix).

2. Spread the adhesive and wait for it to reach full flash before laying planks — installing too early will cause the installation to fail. Fully flashed adhesive is tacky, doesn't transfer to your finger when touched, and shows ridges that are white to transparent. Don't spread more than can be covered before working time ends.

INSTALLATION TYPE	FLASH TIME	WORKING TIME*
Pressure-sensitive, 1/16" square-notch trowel	As required to reach full flash — don't start checking until 2 hours after application	Up to 4 hours

> *Working time is the maximum time the adhesive can remain exposed to air and still bond effectively.*

> *Flash and working time vary with temperature, humidity, substrate porosity, trowel size, and site conditions. Do not use fans to speed drying. Installations over plywood may see reduced flash and working times.*

C INSTALLING PLANKS

1. Lay planks into the flashed adhesive, applying hand pressure along the full length of each plank to ensure full adhesive contact. Don't drop or flop planks into place — this traps air and causes bubbles.
2. Never leave adhesive ridges or puddles, which can telegraph through the finished material.
3. Roll the floor with a 100 lb roller, overlapping each pass by 50%, rolling the width first and then the length.
4. Roll again within the first 60 minutes — this is important to keep the planks lying flat.
5. Repeat for each day's installed planks.
6. Keep traffic off the floor for a minimum of 24 hours, and free of light rolling loads for a minimum of 72 hours.