

# ENVEE™

Loose-Lay  
Flooring  
by Advanta

## Installation, Maintenance, and Warranty

Toll free 877-779-2454  
[AdvantaFlooring.com](http://AdvantaFlooring.com)



ADVANTA  
FLOORING



ENVEE Loose-lay flooring by Advanta is a long lasting, easy-to-maintain floor with the look and texture of real stone or wood—ideal for new construction, remodeling, renovation, interior design makeovers, and cosmetic cover-up.

## **Before you begin**

Before you begin the installation, inspect the flooring material for any obvious defects. Ensure you have the correct color, pattern, quantity, and that all the material is of the same production number. Beginning the installation means that you have accepted the conditions.

It is essential that all subfloors be rigid, smooth, flat, level, permanently dry, and free of all foreign materials. Subfloor preparation should be done with the permanent HVAC set at a minimum of 65°F (18°C).

## **Subfloor preparation**

### **Wood**

Wood floors should be double construction with a minimum thickness of 1". The floor must be rigid, free from movement and have at least 18" of well-ventilated air space below. ENVEE should not be installed over wooden subfloors built on sleepers over, on grade, or below grade concrete floors unless specific design has been undertaken to eliminate the chance of failure due to the excessive moisture vapor emissions from the concrete.

### **Underlayment**

Underlayment panels are used to correct deficiencies in the subfloor and to provide a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring. APA underlayment grade plywood, minimum ¼" thickness, with fully-sanded face is the preferred panel. Underlayment panels such as Multiply, Tee-Ply, and Ulay are recommended. The underlayment must be free of any foreign material that may cause staining, such as patching compounds, sealers, inks, solvents, etc.

The underlayment should be installed with dispersion type staples placed every 4 to 6 inches in the field and every 2 to 3 inches along the seams. Sanding is a preferred method for smoothing joints.

The American Plywood Association offers other acceptable guidelines for proper wooden subfloor installation. The above mentioned is not considered the only procedure for a successful installation. Always install and fasten underlayment panels according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

There are certain types of subfloors and underlayment that, through years of experience, are known to be prone to failure and are therefore NOT recommended underlayments for resilient floor coverings.

Tempered hardboard and Luan board are not suitable to install ENVEE over. In some cases permanent staining has occurred from chemicals used in the construction of Luan board. This is also true when using pressure treated or fire retardant wood. Regardless of which underlayment is used, failures in the performance of ENVEE due to the underlayment are not covered by Advanta's warranty.

### **Strip wood/plank flooring**

Due to expansion and contraction of the boards during seasonal changes, Advanta recommends the use of ¼" or thicker underlayment panels be installed over these types of floors.

### **Concrete floors**

Concrete floors should be prepared according to ASTM F-710, Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring.

It is essential that a permanent, effective moisture vapor retarder with a permeance of 0.1y, be installed under all on- or below-grade concrete floors. The water vapor retarder (vapor barrier) should be installed directly below the slab.

Floors shall be smooth, rigid, flat, level, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material, such as old adhesive residue. Imperfections such as chips, spalls, cracks, and/or corrective leveling shall be repaired with cementitious based patching and/or underlayment materials. The surface of the concrete must be flat to within 3/16 inches in 10 feet.

### **Expansion joints, saw cuts, control joints**

Expansion joints in the concrete are designed to allow for the expansion and contraction of the concrete. If the floor coverings are installed over the expansion joints, it more than likely will cause gapping or buckling of the flooring material. Therefore, flooring products should not be installed over expansion joints, an expansion joint cover

designed for use with resilient floorings should be used.

Isolation, construction, and control (saw cut) joints may be successfully patched once the concrete is thoroughly cured, dry, and climatized. If any movement occurs in the concrete it may also cause the patching material to telegraph.

### **Patching materials**

There are many brands available but basically there are two types of patching materials for the use of smoothing and patching subfloor irregularities. One type is referred to as calcium sulfate/plaster/gypsum base compounds. This type of patch may harbor and promote mildew growth, have low indentation resistance, and poor bond and adhesion strength.

The second type is a cement based compound usually with a polymer additive. This type of patch will not promote mildew growth; have much higher psi strength and better adhesion properties to the subfloor. Advanta Flooring recommends the use of cementitious base patching and leveling compounds only.

Only use the highest quality materials. Failures of similar floors have been directly attributed to the use of gypsum based toppings, leveling and patching compounds because of poor indentation resistance, poor resistance to mold and mildew and separation of the product within itself.

Regardless of which patching or leveling compound is used, any failures in the performance of the compound or ENVEE tiles due to the compound is the responsibility of the compound manufacturer and installer, not of Advanta Flooring.

### **Old adhesive residue**

If a asphaltic (cut-back) residue or other types of adhesive are present, it must be dealt with in one of two ways:

1. It must be mechanically removed by a means such as bead blasting or diamond grinding.
2. A self-leveling cementitious underlayment must be applied over it. Check with the underlayment manufacturer for suitability, application instructions, and warranties.

Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Residue left within the subfloor will affect the new adhesive and the new floor covering.

**WARNING!** Warning regarding complete adhesive removal: some solvent-based “cut-back” asphaltic adhesives may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Do not use power devices, which create asbestos dust in removing these adhesives. The inhalation of asbestos dust may cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Smoking greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm.

### **Existing resilient floors**

ENVEE may be installed over a single layer of resilient flooring such as VAT, VCT, and sheet vinyl.

**Note:** The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring or subfloor is suitable to be installed over rests solely with the installer and flooring contractor. Installations over existing resilient flooring may be more susceptible to indentation, moisture vapor emission problems and there is always a possibility the existing flooring may telegraph through.

### **Poured floors** (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless)

ENVEE tiles may be installed over most poured floors provided they meet the following conditions:

1. Concrete floors that are on, above and below grade: Conduct moisture tests according to ASTM F-1869, Calcium Chloride Moisture Vapor Emission and ASTM F-2170, In-Situ Relative Humidity of the Concrete. Conduct one test for every 1000 square feet of flooring. The test results should not exceed 5 pounds per 1000 square feet per 24 hours for the calcium chloride test and 85% for the in-situ relative humidity. The existing flooring and adhesive must be removed where the test is conducted.
2. It must be totally cured and well bonded to the concrete. It must be free of any residual solvents and petroleum derivatives.
3. The texture must be smooth. Sand or wet stone the surface to remove any grit and texture.

**Note:** The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring is suitable to be installed over rests solely with the installer and the flooring contractor.

**WARNING!** Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, saw, bead-blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt or asphaltic “cut-back” adhesives. These products may contain either asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to as-

bestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content. The RFCI'S Recommended work practices for removal of resilient floor coverings are a defined set of instructions which should be followed if you must remove existing resilient floor covering structures.

### **Radiant heated floors**

ENVEE tile may be installed over radiant heated floors provided the operating temperature does not exceed 85°F (29°C). The room temperature must be maintained at a minimum of 65°F (18°C) for 48 hours prior to, during and after installation, after which the temperature of the radiant heating system can be increased. When raising the floor temperature, do so gradually so that the substrate and the flooring material can adapt to the temperature change together. A rapid change could result in bonding problems. For more information, contact Advanta Technical Services.

### **Moisture testing**

It is essential that moisture tests be taken on all concrete floors regardless of age or grade level with a minimum of three tests for the first 1000 square feet. The test should be conducted according to ASTM F1869, Calcium Chloride Moisture Emission Test, and ASTM F2170, In-Situ Relative Humidity of the Concrete. One test should be conducted for every 1000 square feet of flooring. The test should be conducted around the perimeter of the room, near columns and where moisture may be evident. The results of F1869 Calcium Chloride moisture vapor emissions from the concrete shall not exceed 5.0 lbs. per 1000 square feet in 24 hours for all installations. For the most accurate results, the weight of the calcium chloride dish should be made on the job site at the start and end of each test. The results of F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity shall not exceed 85%. A diagram of the area showing the location and results of each test should be submitted to the architect, general contractor, or end user. If the test results exceed the limitations, the installation should not proceed until the problem has been corrected.

**Note:** It may not be the floor installer's responsibility to conduct the test. It is, however, the floor covering installer's responsibility to make sure these tests have been conducted and that the results are acceptable prior to installing the floor covering.

When moisture tests are conducted it indicates the conditions only at the time of the test. The flooring contractor cannot be held responsible if moisture appears in the future, causing a failure.

### **Material handling**

Flooring shall be stored in a clean, dry environment, protected from the elements. Storage temperature should be between 65°F (18°C) and 85°F (29°C).

Store cartons on a smooth, level surface. Stack cartons squarely. Do not stack more than 10 cartons high. Do not store tiles and planks on their edges. Do not drop cartons. Do not double stack pallets. Storing tile at high temperatures and on uneven surfaces may cause a permanent distortion of the material.

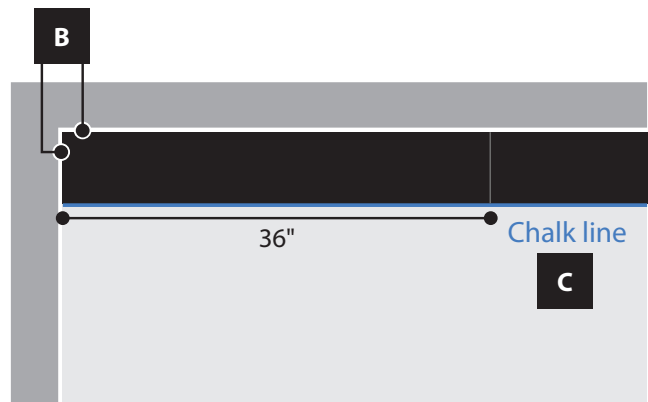
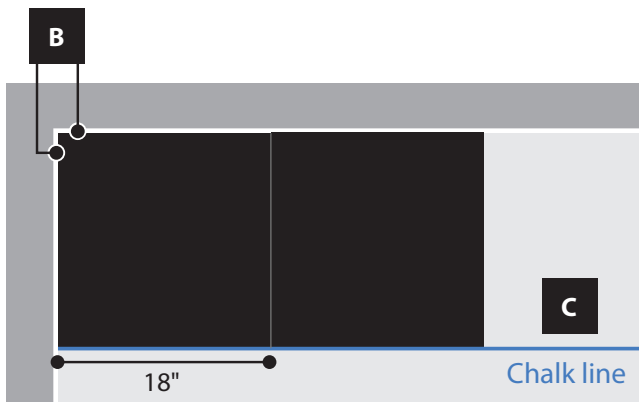
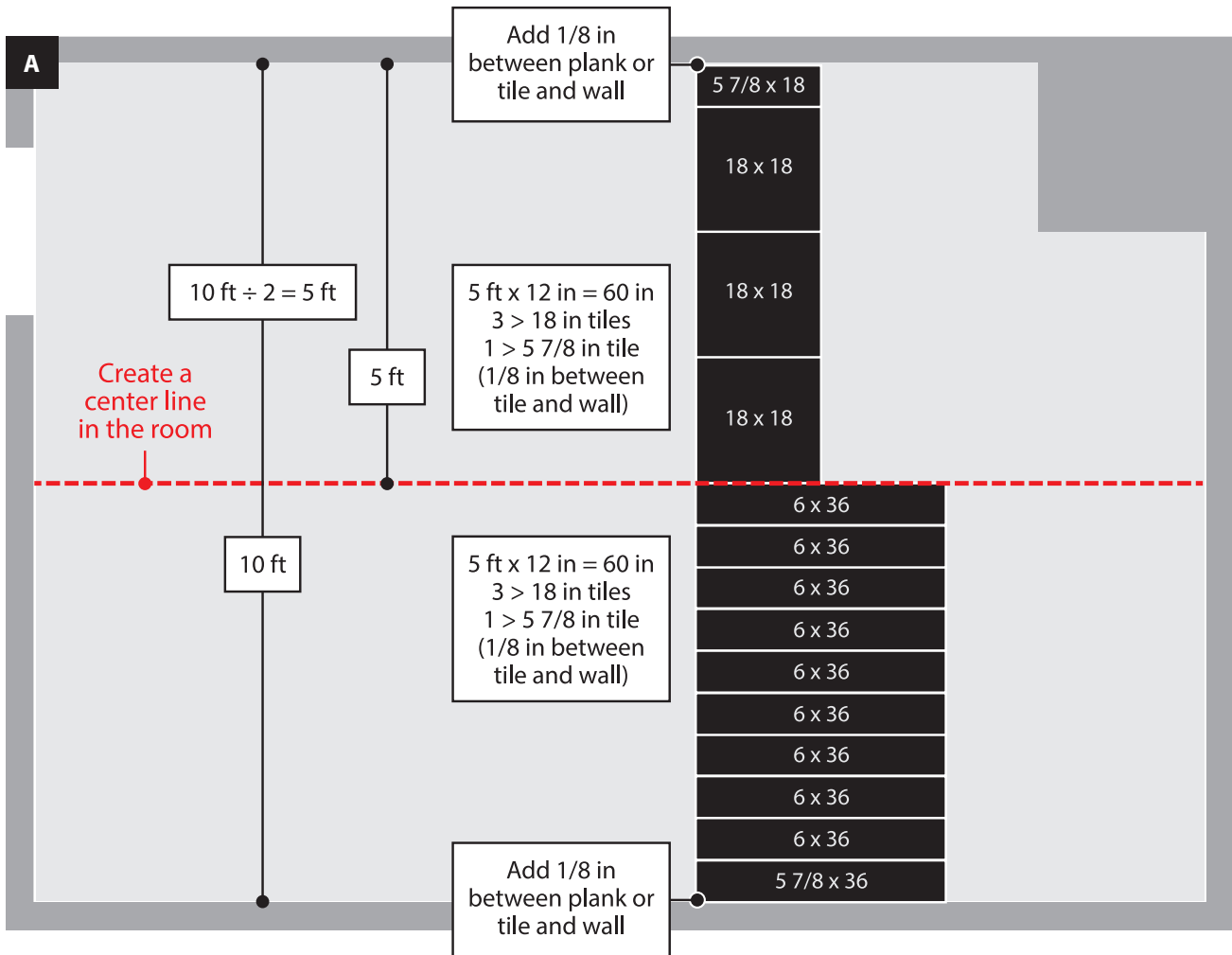
### **Jobsite conditions**

All areas should be fully enclosed, weather-tight with the permanent HVAC system in operation. The temperature should be maintained at a minimum of 65°F (18°C) and a maximum of 85°F (29°C) for 48 hours prior to, during, and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter, maintain a room temperature between 55°F (13°C) and 85°F (29°C).

# Installation

1. Ensure the subfloor is clean and dust free, particularly around the perimeter of the room.
2. Measure the room to determine the center line (figure **A**), adjust that center line in either direction to give a balanced width of planks/tiles on each side of the room and to prevent narrow pieces along the wall.

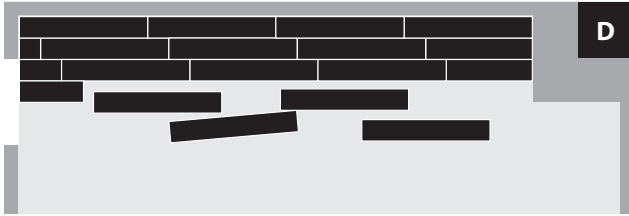
On the starting wall, measure the width of the plank or tile plus 1/8 inch (**B**) and snap a chalk line along the entire length of the room (**C**) (if you are using a partial plank or tile, measure that width plus 1/8 inch). The 1/8 inch space around the perimeter of the room allows the loose lay floor to expand and contract as temperatures change.



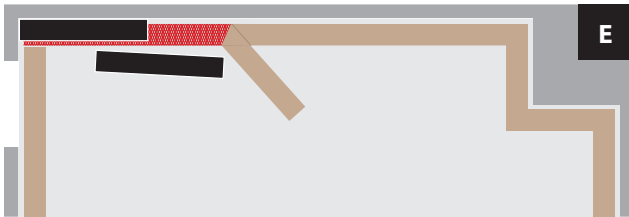
- For plank installations:

Lay the long dimension of the plank parallel to the long dimension of the room (**D**).

Stagger plank ends randomly (at least 4 inches apart). Usually the left over piece from one row can be used as the starter piece on the next row.



3. Test to be certain all pieces are cut to the proper width and length by laying them down along the chalk line. Then pull them 1 foot away from the wall.
4. Install the ENVEE Double-faced Perimeter Tape around the perimeter of the entire room including cabinets and doorways (roughly 1/4 to 1/2 inches from the wall) (**E**). Do not remove the paper backing.



5. The first row is the foundation for the the entire installation—be certain it is straight and that the pieces are laid tightly, one against the next.  
Starting in the corner on the starting wall, remove the paper backing from the perimeter tape of that wall and install the first row of planks/tiles on top of the double-faced tape using the chalk line as a guide.
6. For planks, start the second row with a piece cut to approximately 2 feet so the joints will be staggered. Start the next row using the piece cut from the last plank of previous row.
7. Upon completion install base shoe to cover gap around the wall." to "Once the floor has been laid down, install a base shoe molding around the perimeter of the room to cover the 1/8 inch gap around the edges.

## Care and Maintenance

### Prevention

- The single greatest cause of damage to any flooring or floor finish is abrasion from dirt and grit. Wherever possible, use walk-off mats at entrances and doorways. Vacuum or sweep the floor often to remove any dirt and grit.
- Ensure you use non-staining mats on the floor. Rubber-backed and latex-backed mats, tires, and asphalt sealers may stain or damage the surface.
- Use non-staining floor protectors under heavy furniture.
- Chairs should have clean, smooth, non-staining floor protectors that are free of nicks or burrs.
- When moving heavy furniture and appliances such as cabinets and refrigerators, roll or slide the objects on strips of plywood or Masonite.

### General

The key to properly maintaining most flooring types is the removal of all dirt and soil. Mopping with a sponge or string mop alone removes very little soil—it just dissolves the dirt and spreads it out evenly across the floor resulting in a dull film. Advanta recommends the use of microfiber mops and pads for dust mopping and scrubbing. Rinsing with clean water and a clean pad is a good way to minimize a dull/ dirty film build-up.

### Initial maintenance

1. Remove all surface soil, dirt, sand, and grit by vacuuming or dust mopping.
2. Scrub the floor with a microfiber mop (microfiber pads) using a neutral pH detergent such as Hilway Direct neutral cleaner or 2 ounces of ammonia per gallon of water (mix the solution in a spray bottle and spray it onto floor as needed).
3. Rinse with clean water and a clean pad..

## Routine maintenance

- Wipe up spills promptly.
- Vacuum or dust mop to remove all surface soil, sand, and grit.
- Scrub the floor with a microfiber mop (microfiber pads) using a neutral pH detergent such as Hilway Direct neutral cleaner or 2 ounces of ammonia per gallon of water (mix the solution in a spray bottle and spray it onto floor as needed). Rinse with clean water and a clean pad.

## Long-term maintenance

Over time floors may begin to lose their luster and may require an application of polish.

1. Scrub the floor with a microfiber mop (microfiber pads) using a neutral pH detergent such as Hilway Direct neutral cleaner or 2 ounces of ammonia per gallon of water (mix the solution in a spray bottle and spray it onto floor as needed). Rinse with clean water and a clean pad."
2. Apply 2-3 coats of matte or satin acrylic floor finish such as Hilway Direct Floor Finish (Maintenance products may be purchased directly online from:

Hilway Direct  
12 McCullough Drive, Suite 10,  
New Castle, DE 19720

[www.hilway.com](http://www.hilway.com)

877-356-6748

## Questions?

If you feel your situation is not covered by these guidelines, please contact Advanta technical services for advice before beginning your maintenance procedures.

Advanta Flooring Inc.  
670 HP Way, Chester, VA 23836

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**ADVANTA**  
FLOORING



## Limited 25-Year Residential Warranty Limited 10-Year Commercial Warranty

### FLOOR COVERING LIMITED WARRANTY

Limited Warranty. Advanta Flooring, Inc. warrants that its floor covering products, when installed using Advanta Flooring recommended procedures, shall perform in accordance with their published specifications and shall be free from manufacturing defects under normal use for a period of ten (10) years commercial, twenty-five (25) years residential, from the date of original installation. THIS IS THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE WARRANTY PROVIDED BY ADVANTA FLOORING, INC, AND ADVANTA FLOORING MAKES NO OTHER WARRANTY, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OR ANY OTHER KIND INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. This limited warranty shall extend only to the original purchaser or original end-user and is not assignable.

Limitation of Remedies. Advanta Floorings' only obligation hereunder will be to deliver to the original purchaser or original end-user, free of charge, sufficient material of same or similar quality to replace the defective product. Provided, however, if a warranty claim is made within one (1) year after installation and the defect could not be visible before installation or reasonably discovered prior to installation, then Advanta Flooring will assume reasonable installation costs of the replacement product. No labor cost will be covered on claims made later than one (1) year after date of original installation under any circumstances. Except for warranty claims asserted within one (1) year and which are based on defects that could not be visually seen or reasonably discovered prior to installation, ADVANTA FLOORING INC. SHALL HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO REMOVE ANY DEFECTIVE PRODUCT OR INSTALL ANY REPLACEMENT PRODUCT OR PAY ANY COSTS OF REMOVAL OR INSTALLATION. ANY REMOVAL OR REPLACEMENT SHALL BE THE SOLE-RESPONSIBILITY OF PURCHASER OR END-USER. Replacement will be provided only after Advanta Floorings' inspection of the defective product. Advanta Flooring and its representatives must be permitted reasonable access to facilities for the inspection and testing of the product. All claims for defect shall be deemed waived unless made in writing, delivered to Advanta Flooring during the warranty period and not later than thirty days after discovery of the defect. Purchaser and end-user have the sole responsibility to properly install and maintain the products. Advanta Flooring shall have no obligation to replace any product which has been subjected to misuse, neglect, accident or abuse, or which has not been installed or maintained in accordance with Advanta Flooring's written instructions, or which has been exposed to undue wear and tear, excessive moisture, solvents, alkali or acids. In addition to the foregoing limitations, Advanta Flooring's limited replacement warranty shall not cover surface stains including asphalt, driveway sealer and rubber wheels, dissatisfaction due to improper maintenance or installation, damage from improper maintenance or usage or general misuse including, without limitation, burns, cuts, tears, scratches, scuffs, indentation damage from rolling loads, improperly casted carts, damage or discoloration from adhesive or floor care products not recommended by Advanta Flooring, extended direct exposure to sunlight, excessive moisture, alkaline, hydrostatic pressure damage from the subfloor, mold

or mildew, installation of tile over gypsum based patching and leveling compounds or difference in color between samples or photographs and the actual flooring. THE REPLACEMENT (AND REASONABLE INSTALLATION COSTS ONLY UNDER CONDITIONS SET FORTH ABOVE) OF ANY COVERED DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS IN THE MANNER SET FORTH ABOVE SHALL CONSTITUTE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY HEREUNDER AND FULFILLMENT OF ALL THE OBLIGATIONS OF ADVANTA FLOORING WITH RESPECT TO THE LIMITED WARRANTY GIVEN HEREIN. This exclusive and limited remedy shall not fail of its essential purpose by reason of timeliness, causes beyond Advanta Floorings' reasonable control or the general concerns of purchaser or end-user.

Limitation of Liability. Except for the payment for reasonable installation costs under the limited conditions set forth above, Advanta Floorings' total, complete and exclusive liability hereunder shall be limited to replacement of defective product as provided herein and shall not exceed the value of the defective product furnished. Purchaser and end-user waive all other remedies, warranties and liabilities of any kind, express or implied, whether arising by operation of law or otherwise. ADVANTA FLOORING SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR LOSS OF PROFITS, DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR OTHER DAMAGES UNDER THIS LIMITED WARRANTY OR FROM ANY CAUSE OF ACTION WHATSOEVER, WHETHER BASED UPON WARRANTY, NEGLIGENCE, STRICT LIABILITY OR OTHERWISE.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

If you experience any problem with Advanta Flooring floor covering, please contact the contractor who installed the flooring to help identify whether the problem is related to manufacturing, installation or maintenance. However, Advanta Flooring is not bound by any opinion or recommendation of the contractor and the contractor is not an agent or representative of Advanta Flooring. Retain all information and documents until the problem is resolved.

If the problem is manufacturing related and you are not satisfied with the contractor's response, please notify Advanta Flooring in writing and explain the problem thoroughly:

Advanta Flooring Inc.  
670 HP Way, Chester, VA 23836  
877-779-2454

This limited warranty may not be extended, altered or waived except in writing signed by any authorized officer of Advanta Flooring. Any action for breach hereunder must be commenced within one year after the cause of action has accrued. This limited warranty shall be construed and enforced under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia without regard to conflicts of laws.