

RATIONALE. *While preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to replace the clubhouse auditorium floor, I sought the advice of Tyson Wyatt, president of Expressions in Flooring. Below is Mr. Wyatt's opinion.*

The wood floor that exists in the auditorium is a sprung wood floor. This means that the wood is installed over battens or "sleepers" to give the floor movement to absorb shock from athletic activity, dancing, etc. While it may be imperceptible, that floor is moving and deflecting with every step you take across it. All LVP floors are designed to be installed over substrates that meet certain criteria for structural soundness and deflection; these floors click or lock together, and while some minor movement is to be expected, big deflection in the subfloor will cause eventual failure of the LVP product. You may see a locking system failure due to excessive deflection if the new floor is installed over the existing floor. Here are some excerpts from one manufacturer regarding the installation requirements for their LVP products:

"Existing Floor Coverings – Flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is fully adhered, clean, flat, dry, structurally sound, and free of deflection." "DO NOT install over sleeper construction subfloors or wood subfloors applied directly over concrete."

Each manufacturer has different requirements and language in their technical documents but nearly all of their floors exhibit similar characteristics. Couple the deflection of the floor with the more commercial-type traffic you get in that space and you will be disappointed with the results. If the space is to remain a multipurpose area, I would suggest looking at replacing it with like-kind which will last for many more decades to come.

Tyson Wyatt