

Installation, Care, and Maintenance

ACCLIMATION OF MATERIAL BEFORE INSTALLATION

To ensure a problem free installation, all areas where flooring will be installed should have a working heat and air conditioning source operational a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation and remain in operation during and after installation. Conditions should be at the same temperature and humidity level expected during normal use (between 60-80 degrees Fahrenheit with a relative humidity no greater than 65%). Ensure subfloor and flooring are fully acclimated to these conditions for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. For best results, open the cartons at the beginning of the acclimation period.

Our rigid core products are designed to require less acclimation time when compared to traditional PVC based floating floor. However, extreme differences in temperature and humidity between the flooring product and job site may result in gapping, buckling, or joints which are difficult to properly engage. Improper locking of the flooring may cause joints to be distressed resulting in a “peaked” appearance, delamination due to ledging, separation of joints from normal environmental changes, cupping, or side joints failures.

PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Distributor cannot be held responsible for site conditions that do not conform to requirements as indicated in these instructions. Including but exclusive to vapor transmission, moisture permeation, contaminated or damaged subfloors, etc.

Floating vinyl floors should be protected from direct sunlight and not exposed to direct sunlight for extended periods of time. Excessive temperature will cause the products to expand and buckle. Distributor recommends blinds, drapes, window films, or suitable window coverings in areas where there is a large exposure to direct sunlight.

It is the installer’s responsibility to examine the flooring prior to installation for color, finish, sheen, and quality, to ensure that jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these instructions. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. If flooring is not deemed acceptable, contact your supplier immediately for a resolution. Distributor cannot be held responsible for flooring installed with visible defects.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Warning: If the existing resilient floor covering is being removed, see current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute publications recommended work practices for removal of resilient floor coverings for instructions on removing all resilient floor covering structures.

Note: All subfloors must be clean, smooth, and level within 1/8” in 10 ft., and dry. Dust, scale, and loose particles must be removed. The surface must be free of solvents, paint, grease, oil, wax, alkali, sealing or curing compounds, and any other foreign material.

** Failure to properly level the subfloor to manufacturer specifications can cause additional stress on tongue and groove resulting in plank separation.*

This click floating floor is designed to “float” over the subfloor. Although this rigid plank product is more forgiving when installed over uneven subfloors, proper preparation of the subfloor is a critical

part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through to the flooring product resulting in an unsightly surface and can cause excessive wear on high spots.

**This product has a pre-attached underlayment. Do not install over carpet or any additional underlayment (except a 6 mil poly-film moisture barrier over concrete). The use of the Sentinel Protect Plus Underlayment under the product is warranted for residential applications only, including multi-family housing and condominiums (residential unit only). Do not use any additional underlayment in commercial applications (e.g. industrial areas, commercial foyers, restaurants, etc. or any areas with heavy rolling loads). Using additional underlayment in commercial applications such as these will void the warranty.*

If installing over existing wood floors: Wood floors must be solid, flat, and smooth with little flexibility. All loose boards must be firmly fastened.

If installing over existing resilient floors: Existing resilient tile and sheet vinyl flooring must be in good condition and thoroughly bonded to the structural floor. The exception is that any tile or sheet that is of a soft cushion construction must be removed.

If installing over an existing ceramic tile: Grout lines must be skim coated with a floor leveler. If you install the flooring over an existing floor that has an embossing or grout line, we recommend that you skim coat with a floor leveler. Check for any dips or humps in the subfloor that can create a void or peak underneath the floor. If found, please fill in and level the subfloor with embossing leveler. For high spots, grind down the peak or simply knock them off with a hammer and chisel and fill in the holes.

WOOD SUBFLOORS

- If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wood floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation.
- Timber subfloors must have no more than 12% Mc (moisture vapor content).
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly-film is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth.
- Lay the flooring crossways to the existing floorboards.
- All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.
- Double-layered APA rated plywood subfloors should be a minimum 1" / 25 mm total thickness, with at least 18" / 45 cm well ventilated air space beneath.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Existing concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 90 days old, smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue.
- The subfloor must be dry. Comply with Mc requirements and tested as per one of below methods:
 1. Concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8 lb./3.63 kg MVER (moisture vapor emission rate) per 1000 ft² / 100 m² per 24 hours. This can be measured with the calcium chloride test (ASTM F1869).
 2. 90 % RH (ASTM F2170) with a PH limit of 9.

3. Max. 2.5 % moisture content (CM method / ASTM F2659).

- A minimum 6 mil / 0.15 mm plastic poly sheeting **MUST** be used as a moisture barrier between the concrete subfloor and the flooring.

In-Floor Radiant Heat

Flooring can be installed over 1/2" (12mm) embedded radiant heat. Radiant heat systems must have a minimum of 1/2" (12mm) separation from the product. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F (30°C). Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

- Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system. Before starting the installation, turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation.
- Make sure that the temperature in the room is between 60°F (15°C) and 80°F (25°C) during installation.
- Once the installation has been completed, the heating system should be turned on and increased gradually (5-degree increments) until returning to normal operating conditions.
- Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

**Distributor cannot be held responsible for failure of the subfloor*

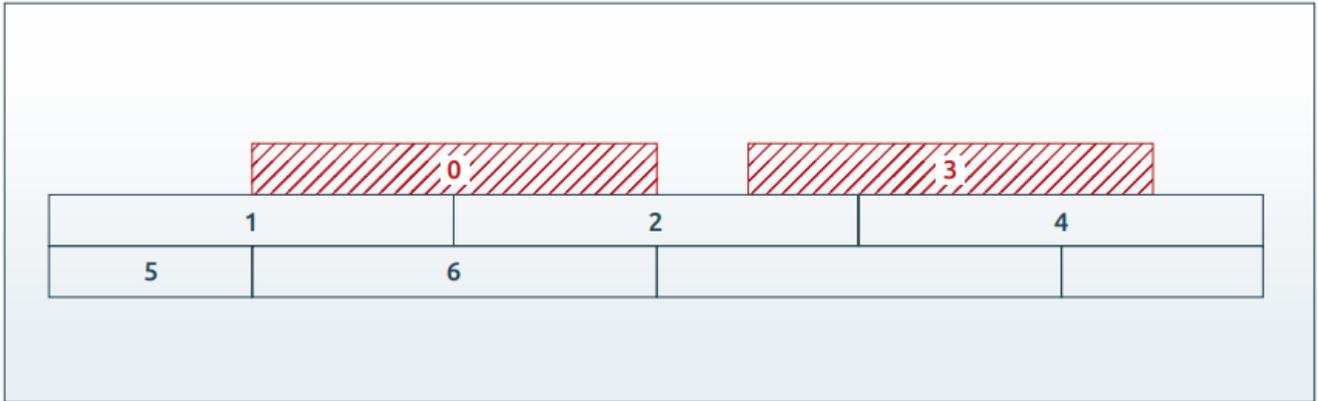
INSTALLATION

Tools: Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Jigsaw, Tapping Block or Rubber Mallet, Pull bar, Spacers, T-Square, Safety Glasses, Broom, or Vacuum, and if necessary, tools for subfloor preparation.

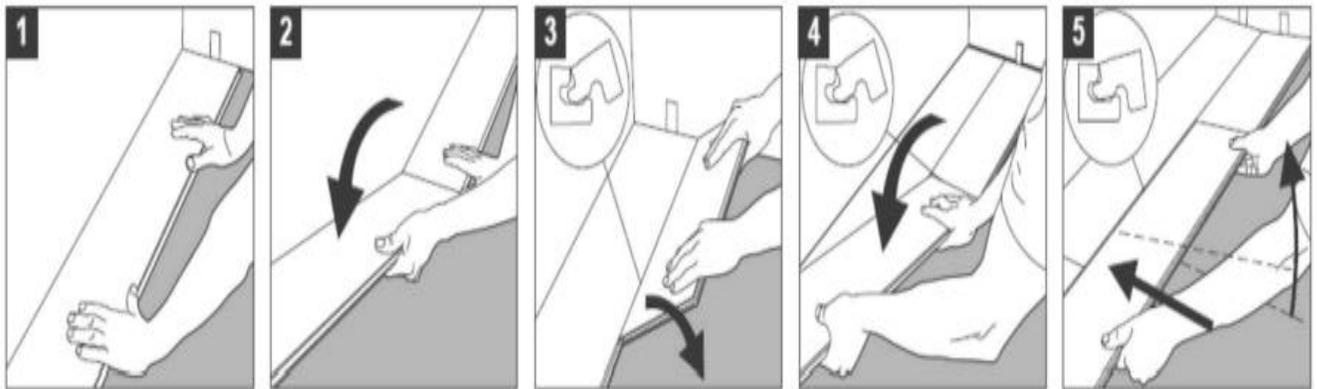
1. Start in the corner. Turn the tongue side of the plank to the wall. Maintain a gap of 10 mm (3/8") on the short side.
2. Hold the next plank at an angle against the first one and lay it flat on the floor. Complete first row in the same way. Cut the final plank of the first row to correct length. Start the next row with the piece leftover [must be at least 300mm (12") long]. Ensure that end joints are staggered at least 300mm.
3. Place the first plank of the new row with the tongue side at an angle against the groove side of the plank in the previous row. Press forward and lay it flat at the same time.
4. Place the short end of the plank at an angle against the previous installed plank and fold down. Ensure that the plank is positioned on the integral locking strip of the plank in the previous row.
5. Lift planks (together with the previous laid in the same row) lightly up [about 30 mm (1-1/8")], push it against the row in front and then put it down. Adjust the distance to the wall to 10mm (3/8") when three rows are completed. Proceed installation as described above until reaching the opposite wall

**This product is also not to be installed in areas that have a risk of flooding such as saunas or outdoor areas.*

**Do not install this flooring over expansion joints*

**Installation pattern**

The installation process outlined here includes the use of 2 planks as an alignment guide (planks 0 & 3 shown above). Make sure plank 0 is centered across planks 1 and 2. Planks should be staggered in a brick laying pattern. The length of a plank must be at least 30cm/11.8 inches.

**REPAIRS**

In the unlikely event that a plank is damaged for whatever reason, the simplest method is to disconnect the planks carefully (protecting the tongue and groove edges) until the damaged plank can be removed. Then place the damaged plank with a new one and reassemble the disconnected planks. This typically works for planks that are closest to the two long walls of a room. For damaged planks that are not close

to the perimeter, you may have to remove the damaged planks and insert new pieces without the short and long end grooves.

FLOOR MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION

- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways. Never drag furniture or appliances over this flooring.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Floor covering subjected to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Use appropriate precautions to minimize potential effects on the floor covering.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile oil drips onto the vinyl floor covering.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Protective mats are required under office chairs.
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the floor.
- This flooring is scratch and dent resistant. Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface, non-staining, and suitable for resilient floors. Do not use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- Use floor protectors under furniture.
- Use walk-off mats at entrances to prevent dirt, grit, asphalt, oil, etc. from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep, vacuum, or dust mop the floor daily to remove loose dirt and grit. Do not use vacuums that use a beater bar.
- Do not use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
- Clean up spills immediately
- Damp mop (Do not flood floor) as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner suitable for Luxury Vinyl. Do not use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor. Do not use abrasive scrubbing tools. Do not use detergents, abrasive cleaners or “mop and shine” products. Any additional floor finishes are not required and not approved. The application of any additional floor finishes will void all warranties.
- Vinyl flooring like other types of smooth floors, may become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after cleaning. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substances, or wet feet.