

# Installation Instructions Solid Drop Loc

Wood floors are suitable for all rooms other than those that are subject to excessive moisture and high levels of humidity.

### Important notice

All wood is hygroscopic (it will react to the moisture in the environment) and as a result will expand or contract accordingly. All sources of moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor, and moisture levels in rooms fitted with wood flooring should be maintained at a stable level, in line with normal living conditions. Any construction dampness must be completely dry. It is important that you check each plank for any manufacturing defects. Any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate refund or replacement prior to the flooring being installed. The boards in this pack are of random lengths and should be laid randomly across the floor to create the best effect. It is advisable to open a few packs at a time to mix boards from each pack as they are installed.

## I. Before You Start

- Calculate the total square meters or square footage of the room(s) and add 10% for cutting and waste.
- The boxes should be placed in the room where wood is to be installed to acclimate for 72 hours. Open all boxes to allow air to circulate. The boards should be stored and laid in a relative humidity between 45%-60% and at a room temperature of between 18°C and 21°C (65 degrees to 70 degrees Fahrenheit).
- Wood flooring is a natural product which will mature with age. The boards will change shade over time through exposure to sunlight.
- All substrates must be structurally sound, flat and dry. The surface should be free of all contaminants and loose material. All potential sources of moisture e.g. walls, drains, damp proof courses, plumbing, refrigerators, washing machines etc. MUST be thoroughly checked and rectified if found to be an issue.
- The boards should be installed lengthways to towards the main incoming light source and, where possible, down the length of the room.

### If installing onto a concrete or screed base

- In good drying conditions allow one day per 1mm of new screed/concrete to ensure it is dry. Further time may be necessary depending on site conditions.
- Existing screeds/concrete must be checked for moisture. This can easily be carried out using a moisture meter, or alternatively sheets of polythene approximately 1 meter\* 1 meter square can be taped on to the screed and a heavy weight placed on top for 24 hours. Presence of moisture in the screed will be confirmed if the screed is discolored, or moisture is apparent on the underside of the polythene. If moisture is present, i.e. over 12%, wood floors must not be fitted until the problem has been rectified. Please seek a professional installer's advice for options to resolve.
- For Floating installations on any concrete subfloor, a 6 mil plastic sheeting is required.

### If installing onto a wood subfloor

Wood flooring can be installed directly onto prepared floorboards. If the existing floorboards are sufficiently flat, the new boards can be laid directly on to them at 90°. If the existing floor is not suitably flat then it must be made flat and level by overlaying with Exterior Grade plywood. Loose boards must be secured or the new floor may squeak. Please note: If nails/staples/screws are being used, care must be taken not to damage pipes or electrical cables beneath. If the new boards are to be laid in the same direction as the old, plywood sheets (minimum depth 6mm) should be nailed, stapled or screwed to cover the existing floor, allowing a 15mm perimeter gap for expansion.

### Subfloors with radiant heat

It is not recommended to install this product over subfloors with radiant heat and will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

**IMPORTANT:** This flooring may be installed below grade only via the Floating method, and below grade installations will always require that a 6 mil plastic sheeting be used prior to installing the underlayment. Many underlayments have the plastic sheeting already attached.

## II. Installation Methods

There are a number of methods for installing wood floors, floating or stapling. Apart from where specified in the following sections most existing floor finishes e.g. lino, carpet etc., and should be removed prior to installation of a new wood floor.

**NOTE:** If room wider than 22ft(7m), we recommend to split installation in two for expansion gap. The expansion gap can be hidden with a T-molding.

### 1. Floating installations

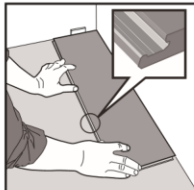
Before floating installation of the flooring begins, install a foam underlay. Run the foam underlay in the same direction as the flooring planks. The underlay should be butted side-by-side with no overlap. Tape seams together.

Your floor is made to be installed floating without glue:

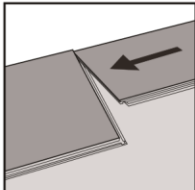
Leave an open expansion gap of min 6/16" (10mm) around the whole perimeter (use the distance wedges), i.e. also at pipes, stairs, columns, doorframes and thresholds. In large rooms, calculate 1/16" (1.5mm) / m floor around. Install maximum 22ft(7m) length / width; over this: allow for an expansion gap, to cover with a profile of wood or metal. The floor must be able to move free - do not connect or install tight to any construction part. Rooms with off square areas like for example L-, F-, T-, U- shapes, separate the areas with an expansion joint and especially always in door openings. At any question contact Floor & Decor for further information, installation at doors, glue down, etc

Claims regarding visible defective floor panels must be made prior to installation. Each board should be inspected to ensure that the quality is acceptable. No claims relating to surface defects can be accepted after installation.

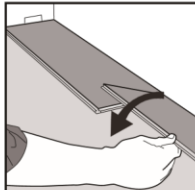
#### Installation method of floorpanels



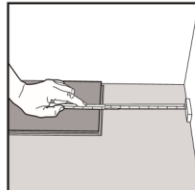
1. First plank, first row. Place a distance ca 3/8" (10mm) width to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring on the front wall with 3/8" (10mm) expansion gap



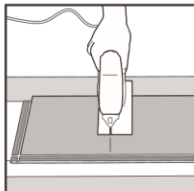
2. Second plank, first row. Place this plank tight to the short end of the first one.



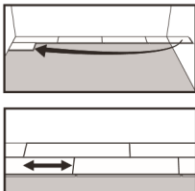
3. Fold down with a single action movement.



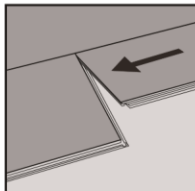
4. At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of 3/8" (10mm), to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.



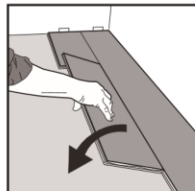
5. Cut with a jig saw – hardwood turned down or with a hand saw with the hardwood visible.



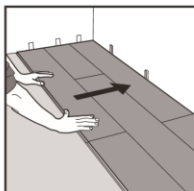
6. Second row. First plank min length 1ft 7 11/16" (500mm). Leave an expansion gap of 3/8" (10mm) against the wall. Generally minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 6" (150mm).



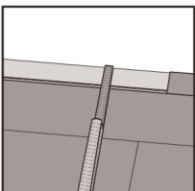
7. Second plank second row.



8. Place the panel tight to the short end of the previous panel and fold down in a single action movement.



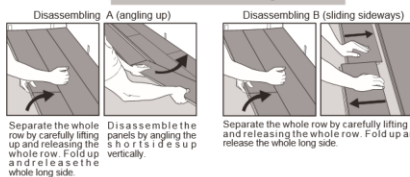
9. After 2-3 rows. Adjust the distance between the front wall and the flooring by leaving an expansion gap of 3/8" (10mm).



10. Last row (and perhaps also first row). Minimum width 2" (50mm). Remember expansion gap of 3/8" (10mm).

Tip! Put a distance before measuring. Cut the panels lengthwise and glue the short ends.

#### Disassembling



Separate the whole row by carefully lifting up and releasing the whole row. Fold up and release the whole long side.

Disassemble the panels by angling the whole row. Fold up and release the whole long side.

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No polymer tongue on the short side, first and/or last row. Joining at short ends length cut panels, glue the joint with white PVAc D3 glue. (or premium wood flooring glue). Cut off the locking element with a chisel, put PVAc D3 white glue (or premium wood flooring glue) on the adjusted strip and push the planks horizontally together. If necessary, place some distances between the last panel and the wall to keep the planks together during the curing time of the glue. Cut off the locking element with a chisel, put PVAc D3 white glue (or premium wood flooring glue) on the adjusted strip and push the planks horizontally together. If necessary, place some distances between the last panel and the wall to keep the planks together during the curing time of the glue.

**Attention: Please take care to ensure that the subfloor is smooth, flat, and clear of debris. There should be no more than 3/16" (5mm) difference over an 8" (2.4m) span in any direction. Please use an 8" (20cm) straight-edge to check. Prep subfloor as needed. It is critical that the home humidity levels remain no lower than 45% and no higher than 60%."**

### 2. Staple-Down Installation

#### Tools Required (not supplied)

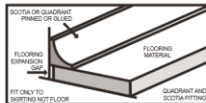
Instead of the hammer or the nailing gun, use an air pressure stapler of 74.5PSI and staples of 1cm (6/16") wide, legs of 2cm (3/4" to 1") long

Follow the same instructions as the nail-down installation. Set pressure at 70-75 PSI to begin and adjust until proper fastener setting occurs. Put one staple every 30cm (1ft) on the long side.

## III. FINISHING OFF

Once the flooring is installed, whichever method you have used, the expansion gap can be covered by re-fitting the skirting boards.

Alternatively, if the skirting has been kept in place attaching some molding trims to the skirting using glue or panel pins will also achieve the desired results. At doorways a door threshold strip should be used to protect the edges of the floor and provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.



## IV. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- It is recommended that you use felt pads under chairs and furniture (a plastic mat should be used with office chairs on wheels) wood floors will mark with use, which adds to its character.
- Rubber based castor cups should be used for heavy load furniture such as armchairs and pianos.
- Doormats should be used inside and outside of all external doorways to prevent grit from being carried across the floor, protecting the surface from excessive wear and tear. Be sure that the backing of the mat is not rubber.
- For regular cleaning a dry or damp cloth is advised. (we recommend that cloths be rung until no more drips are present before wiping the floor)
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool or scouring powder as this may damage the surface of your floor. Do not use wood oil soap products.

Lacquered floors have a surface layer protecting the wood from damage, which is durable and easily maintained. Once the lacquer has been damaged it is advisable to sand a re-lacquer the entire floor to maintain an even finish rather than spot lacquering. This is a procedure which is best carried out by a professional. Please note that repeated sanding will remove some of the textured finish.

## TIMBERCLICK Solid Glue-Down Installation (Optional)

Timberclick Solid may also be glued down via a full spread Premium wood adhesive. This glue-down installation is only allowed over proper plywood subfloors (minimum  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood). It is not recommended over OSB, and should only be glued to concrete subfloor with a Premium Urethane Adhesive is used and the concrete is completely dry.

With this system use a premium wood flooring adhesive that is specifically made for wood flooring installations. Apply the glue as recommended by glue manufacturer, and ensure to use the recommended trowel size.

1. When installing the floor in the Glue-Down manner, remember to leave an expansion space of approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " between the first row of planks and the starter wall. HELPFUL HINT: You can measure adequate space from the starter wall, then use a chalk-line to mark your first row.
2. Once the first row of boards is correctly aligned and glued in place, weight them down while the glue sets (or use wedges against wall). HELPFUL HINTS: Any surplus glue that may get on the surface of the planks must be removed immediately with a damp cloth. The glue should not be applied in the groove or the tongue of the flooring.
3. Continue to fit the boards from left to the right. Always stagger the end joins by a minimum of 6" from row to row. . Measure and trim the last board to fit, allowing for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " expansion gap. Where possible, use cut-offs to start the next row.
4. The expansion gap of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " must be maintained during installation around the perimeter of the room.
5. Read the glue manufacturer's recommendation as for how long to stay off the floor following installation.

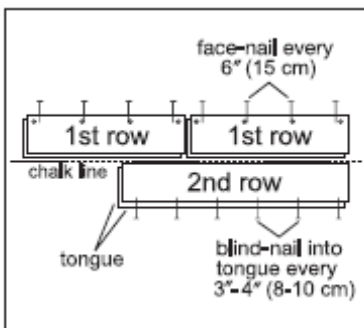
## TimberClick Staple-Down Installation (Optional)

### **Tools Required (not supplied)**

Safety gear- mask, goggles, square, tape measure, spacer wedges, pencil, saw, utility knife, a general-construction air pressure stapler of 75 PSI, and staples of 3/8" wide x 1" long.

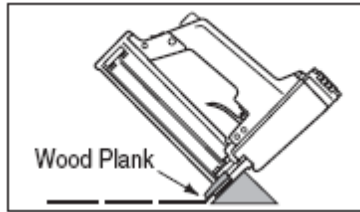
While the preferred method is floating installation, TimberClick Solid wood flooring can be stapled over existing wood subfloors provided they are dry, firm and level.

1. When installing the floor in the Staple-Down manner, you will need to "face-nail" the first row to hold in place. Remember to leave an expansion space of approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " between the first row of planks and the starter wall. HELPFUL HINT: You can measure adequate space from the starter wall, then use a chalk-line to mark your first row.
2. For the entire first row, the tongue extension is facing away from the start wall (see picture below). Pre-drill holes 1" away from the back starting edge of the first row of planks, as seen in the picture below. These holes will be used to face-nail 4D or 6D finishing nails. You want to drill approximate 1"-2" from each end of the planks, and at 6" intervals between holes. HELPFUL HINT: Open several cartons and use the longer planks available for the first two rows.



4. Fasten the first row using either 4D or 6D finishing nails. Be sure to countersink the nails (they need to be slightly recessed into the face of the plank).
5. For remaining rows, continue to work from left to right by blind-nailing (stapling) at 45° angle through the tongue of every plank approximately 1" to 2" from each of the ends of every plank, and then in 3"-4" intervals in between. Countersink the staples (into the tongue) to ensure flush engagement of groove with the following rows. Continue blind-nailing using this method with following rows.

(HELPFUL HINT: To ensure a good visual as well as ensuring the structural integrity of the installation, do not install the planks in such a way that the end joints from one row to the other are closer than 6" apart).



6. To effectively countersink the staples, your air pressure must be correct. HELPFUL HINT: Set the compressor at 70 PSI. If tongue damage occurs, lower air pressure. You can test this before beginning. Check for surface damage, air pressure setting, tongue damage, edge blistering, etc, before proceeding. Make all adjustments and corrections before installation begins. Once proper adjustments have been made, remove and destroy the test boards.
8. Install the remainder of the floor working from several cartons. The last 1-2 rows will need to be face-nailed when clearance does not permit blind nailing with the stapler. Pre-drill and face-nail just as described in the starting first row.

