

WSL Rigid Core Luxury Vinyl Installation Instructions

Please read all the instructions before you begin the installation. Improper installation will void warranty. Warranty and detailed instructions can be found online at flooranddecor.com.

Important Notice

Every application and installation is different therefore we strongly recommend the customer consult a licensed installer/contractor to verify that the conditions and application meet local requirements or industry expectations. Any installation guidelines are not intended to supersede federal, state or local regulations which may require modifying the existing installation, materials or structural components. The owner assumes responsibility for compliance with all building codes, including maintaining the required distance from heat sources such as fireplaces.

After installation, make sure to keep the room within a temperature range of 60°F to 80°F. Excessively high or low temperatures may cause this product to expand or contract and lead to visual defects of the floor that will not be warranted. For the best result, make sure to always work from 2 to 3 cartons at a time, mixing the planks during the installation.

Installation in areas with sustained direct sunlight:

In cases where the flooring is in direct sunlight for much of the day (Sunrooms, etc.) it is recommended that the planks be glued down in those areas. The planks are still clicked together as per the floating installation instructions, but an approved premium flooring adhesive should be used in areas as needed. Be sure to follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions. When employing the direct glue down installation method, DO NOT include a 6-mil poly vapor barrier in the assembly. Flooring material must be adhered directly to the subfloor.

Moisture Barrier

This product has a pre-attached underlayment and only requires a moisture barrier as described herein. A 6-mil poly-film moisture barrier is required when installed over a concrete subfloor.

Approved Underlayment

The use of an additional underlayment is not required, but optional for additional sound reduction, softness under foot and other benefits. Only Sentinel Protect brand of underlayments, including Sentinel Protect Plus and Sentinel Protect Infinity, have been approved for use under this product and are warranted for residential applications only, including multi-family housing and condominiums (residential unit only). Defects or damages related to or caused by the use of any other underlayment is not covered by this warranty. Do not use any additional underlayment in any areas subject to heavy rolling loads or in commercial applications (e.g. commercial foyers, restaurants, etc.). Using additional underlayment in commercial applications will void the warranty. Floating floors are not recommended in areas subject to heavy rolling loads.

- Non-approved Subfloors: Carpeting/Carpet pad, existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring; floating floor of any type, loose lay, and perimeter fastened sheet vinyl; hardwood flooring and wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete, or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete. Remove the floors and remove old adhesives prior to installation.
- Calculate the room surface prior to installation and plan an extra 10% of flooring for cutting waste.
- In most cases, this product does not need to be acclimated. However, if the boxes of flooring were exposed over 2 hours to extreme temperatures (under 50° F or over 100° F) within the 12 hours before the installation, acclimation is required. In this case, keep the boards at room temperature for at least 12 hours in an unopened package before starting the installation. The room temperature must be maintained between 60° to 80° F before and during the installation.
- For floor surfaces exceeding 6400ft² and or lengths exceeding 80 ft., in any direction, use expansion moldings.
- Do not install cabinets or fixed objects on top of the flooring. Proper expansion space (1/4") is required. Undercut all door jambs.
- Inspect your subfloor before you begin. It must be clean and level to 3/16" within a 10 ft span.
- Concrete subfloors must be fully cured for at least 60 days. If installing over a concrete subfloor or a pre-existing floor that has been installed over a concrete subfloor, a 6-mil poly-film moisture barrier or an underlayment with built in vapor barrier like Sentinel Protect Plus or Sentinel Protect Infinity is required. Overlap vapor barrier edges by 8" (20cm) and seal with moisture resistant adhesive tape. Run vapor barrier 3/4" (2cm) up wall and install wall base trim over it.
- Although this floor is waterproof, from the top down, it is not to be used as a moisture barrier. The subfloor must be dry. Concrete vapor emissions should not exceed 85% max (ASTM F2170) or less than 8lbs per 1000 sq.ft. per 24 hours MVER (Moisture Vapor Emission Rating) (ASTM F1869). This product is also not to be installed in areas that have a risk of flooding such as saunas or outdoor areas.
- If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wood floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before beginning the installation.
- If installing over existing tile floors, any grout line greater than 1/8" should be filled in with an approved levelling compound.
- With a floating floor you must always ensure to leave a 1/4" gap between walls and fixtures such as pipes and pillars, stairs, etc. These gaps will be covered with trim moldings after the floor is installed.
- Decide the installation direction. It is recommended to install the length direction of the planks parallel to the main light direction.
- Measure the area to be installed. The board width of the last row shall not be less than 2". If so, adjust the width of the first row to be installed. In narrow hallways, it is recommended to install the length direction of the planks parallel to the length of the hall.
- Inspect each individual plank individually before installation. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Ensure that crawl spaces have open vents year-round to ensure proper air circulation and prevent moisture build-up.

Important Notice

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. The maximum moisture content should be 2.5% (CM method). Before starting the installation, turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.
- 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 condition.
- Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath the flooring. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath the flooring will void the warranty.

Tools and supplies required: Spacers, Rubber Mallet, Ruler, Pencil, Tape Measure, Utility Knife

1. After thoroughly cleaning the subfloor, you should begin laying in the left-hand corner. Place the floorboard ¼" from the left wall. Use spacers between the wall and the floorboard.
2. Second plank, first row. Drop the plank and gently press down the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are at the same height. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned. NOTE: If you notice both planks aren't at the same height or are not well locked together, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble and check if any debris stuck inside the lock is obstructing. **WARNING: FAILURE TO PROPERLY LINE UP THE END JOINT AND ATTEMPTING TO FORCE IT IN WHILE OUT OF ALIGNMENT COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT DAMAGE TO THE END JOINT.**
3. At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of 1/4" to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.
4. To cut the plank, use a simple utility knife and ruler, and with the top side facing up, cut heavily and several times on the same axis. The knife will not go through the surface but make a deep cut. You can then lift one half of the plank using your other hand to hold down the second placing it very close to the cut. The plank will split naturally.
5. Start the second row with the leftover cut part of the last plank of the previous row. This small plank should measure at least 12". Otherwise, use another plank that should be cut in two. The end joints of each adjoining row should not be closer than 8" to each other.
6. Lock the long side of the plank into the previous row and place it tight to the short end of the previous plank with an angle of 30 degrees. Drop the plank and gently press down the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are at the same height. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned. NOTE: If you notice both planks aren't at the same height or are not well locked together, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble and check if any debris stuck inside the lock is obstructing.
7. After finishing the installation of the row, use scrap pieces and a small hammer or rubber mallet to gently tap the planks into the click of the previous row to make sure they are tightly clicked together and make sure there is no gap between the long side of the planks installed. **ANY GAPPING CAN COMPROMISE THE WHOLE INSTALLATION.**
8. After 2-3 rows, adjust the distance to the front wall by leaving an expansion gap of 1/4". Always ensure that the end joints are staggered at least 8", both when in the same row as when from one row to the next one.
9. To lay the last row: position a loose plank exactly on top of the last row laid. Place another plank on top, with the tongue side touching the wall. Draw a line along the edge of this plank, to mark the first plank. Cut along this line to obtain the required width. Insert the cut plank against the wall. The last row must be at least 2" wide. The expansion gap spacers can now be removed from the perimeter of the room.
10. Holes for pipes: measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 3/4" larger. Saw off a piece and lay the board in place on the floor. Then lay the sawed-off piece in place.
11. Door Molding and Skirting: If a plank must fit under a door molding or skirting, lay a scrap piece of plank next to the door molding or skirting and draw a line against the molding or skirting to set the cut height. With the scrap plank still in place as a guide use a hand saw, or equivalent, to cut the molding or skirting. Then slide the new plank under the molding.
12. Cover the expansion gaps around the perimeter of the room with base and quarter-round moldings. Coordinating moldings are available to finish the job where transition trims are needed. When installing moldings, leave slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface, not through the flooring.

Maintenance

- Sweep or vacuum daily using soft bristle attachments.
- Never drag or slide heavy objects or furniture across the floor.
- Clean up spills and excessive liquids immediately.
- Damp mop as needed. Use recommended vinyl floor cleaners that do not contain wax or oil.
- The use of residential steam mops on this product is allowed. Use at lowest power with a suitable soft pad, and do not hold a steam mop on one spot for an extended period of time. Refer to the steam mop's manufacturer instructions for proper usage.
- Protect the floor from constant direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours.
- Use proper floor protection devices such as felt protectors under furniture. Use protecting mats under rolling chairs.
- Use a mat at entrance ways. Ensure the mat does not have a rubber backing as the rubber backing may cause discoloration.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, bleach or wax to maintain the floor.

Disassembling

Separate the whole row by lifting it up delicately at an angle. To separate the plank end-joints, leave them flat on the ground and slide them apart. If planks do not separate easily, you can slightly lift up the planks (5°angle) when sliding them apart.