

# INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

## WITH ATTACHED PAD

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

All instructions and recommendations should be followed for a satisfactory installation.

- The floor covering should be stored and installed in a climate controlled location with a temperature between 55° - 85°F - 13°-29°C or average temp. of 70 degrees (21. 1°). If product is stored in temperatures outside this range prior to installation it is recommended to acclimate the material for 48 hours prior to installation.
- Post installation temperature range is between -25 and 155 degrees F (31.6°- 68.3°C).
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, doing so may result in discoloration. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the drapes or blinds is recommended. Excess temperature due to direct sunlight can result in thermal expansion.
- Regardless of new construction or remodeling projects, keep flooring stored in rooms that are not being worked in and only install product after all other trades have completed work that could damage the flooring.
- To minimize shade variation, mix and install planks from several cartons. Inspect all planks for damage before installing. If you have any concerns about the product fit or finish, please contact us. Claims will not be accepted for flooring that has been cut to size and/or installed.
- Use cementitious patching and leveling compounds that meet or exceed maximum moisture level and pH requirements. Use of gypsum-based patching and/or leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3,000 psi are acceptable.
- Installation – Floating only - installed on, above, or below grade.

Use transitional moldings on egress doorways and any spans greater than 40ft in these installations.

**Moisture:** Vinyl Rigid flooring is not a vapor barrier. A moisture barrier of 6-8 mil poly sheeting under the flooring is required over all concrete installations and recommended on other subfloors if there is a potential for subfloor moisture. Care should be exercised in order to ensure that there is not a moisture issue within the structure or any moisture intrusion from any source prior to installation. Manufacturer does not warrant against damage, environmental, or structural from the effects of moisture intrusion from any source. All Concrete, masonry, plastering, and other “wet” work must be complete and thoroughly dry. Concrete must be cured and tested for moisture. Painting of walls should be complete. Moisture content of the subfloor should not vary more than 2% MC from the top of the subfloor to the bottom. The moisture content of a wood subfloor must not exceed 12%.

Tools: Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Jigsaw, Tapping Block or Rubber Mallet, Pull Bar, ¼" Spacers, T-Square, Safety Glasses, Broom or Vacuum and, if necessary, tools for subfloor repair.

### II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Subfloor must be flat – 3/ 16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.

Underlayments – Do NOT add an additional underlayment. Product has an attached pad and the use of an additional underlayment is NOT approved.

\*Product without attached pad is NOT approved for use with a resilient underlayment.

**CAUTION:** Some types of nails, such as common steel nails, may cause discoloration of the vinyl floor covering. Recommendations for attaching underlayment panels are not included. Solvent based construction adhesives are known to stain vinyl floor coverings.

#### A. Wood Subfloors

Do not install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.

1. Do not apply sheet plastic over wood subfloors.
2. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist is to be no less than 18" and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
3. All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance.
4. The flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood.

#### B. Concrete Subfloors

1. Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
2. New concrete slabs must be dry. Maximum moisture level per CaCl test method is 8 lbs. per 1000 in 24 hr. Maximum level for ASTM 2170 In-situ Relative humidity test method - 85%.
3. Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions.

4. Ph level of concrete should be between 5- 9

5. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.

**Radiant Heat: Hydronic only** - Radiant heat components must have a minimum of 1/2" separation from the product. This is the only type of radiant heat system that is approved. Radiant heat system must be on and operational for at least 2 weeks prior to installation to reduce residual moisture within the concrete. Three days prior to installation lower the temperature to 65 degrees, after installation gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5° F to avoid overheating. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

### C. Existing Floor Coverings

- The flooring can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat dry and structurally sound.
- Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will compromise the product's locking ability as well as diminish its indentation resistance.
- Installation is NOT allowed over any type of carpet.
- Do NOT install over wood floors adhered to concrete.
- Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.

## III. INSTALLATION

After careful completion of the pre-inspection procedures and subfloor preparation, installation of your luxury vinyl plank flooring can begin. Rigid Vinyl flooring products are designed to be installed only using the floating method. Also, a 6-8 mil poly film moisture barrier between the subfloor and the Rigid Vinyl Flooring is required for on, above and below grade concrete installations.

### Floating Installation Only

The flooring is designed to be installed utilizing the floating method. Never secure the planks to the subfloor when using the floating installation method. Do not install cabinets or fixed objects on top of the flooring. Proper expansion space (5/ 16"), 8mm is required. Undercut all doorjamb. Do not fasten wall moldings and or transition strips to the planks.

1. Before you start with the installation, it is important to determine the layout of the flooring. Proper planning and layout will prevent having narrow plank widths at wall junctures or very short length pieces at the end of rows.
2. As with all plank products, install the planks parallel to the longest exterior wall.
3. Determine if the starter row will need to be cut. If the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge shows towards the wall.
4. Installation of the product must start from the left side of the room, working to the right when working in front of the planks or facing the starting wall.
5. Install the second plank in the row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first plank. Be careful not to bend the corner of the plank. Maintain an expansion gap of approximately 5/ 16" - 8mm from the wall. Start the second row by cutting a plank to the desired length. Keep in mind that the plank must not be shorter than 6" ( 15cm) to achieve the best appearance.
6. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. This is best done with a low angle of the plank. Maintain pressure into the side seam as you rotate the plank to the subfloor. Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short end tongue into the previously installed plank groove. Align the plank so that the long side tongue tip is positioned just over the groove lip of the plank in the first row. Working from the end seam, at a low angle, insert the long tongue into the groove of the adjoining plank. Very little force is required to seat the tongue into the groove. You should feel the tongue lock into the groove.
7. Work across the length of the room installing planks along the wall in the first row and then aligning the planks in the second row. It is critical to keep these two rows straight and square, as they are the "foundation" for the rest of the installation. Check squareness and straightness often.
8. Cut the last plank in the first row and leave an expansion gap of around 5/ 16" - 8mm. Planks may be cut with a utility knife using the "score and snap" technique. The leftover of this plank may be used to start the third row if it's a minimum 6" - 15cm long.
9. Continue installing planks and make sure to achieve a random appearance with end pieces of minimum 6" - 15cm. Check that all planks are fully engaged; if a slight gapping is found, the gap can be tapped together by using a tapping block and a scrap of flooring to cover the tapping block in order to avoid damages on the planks.
10. When fitting under door casings, if necessary, a flat pull bar may be used to assist in locking the planks.
11. When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, planks can be cut easily and cleanly using a utility knife with a sharp blade. It is often beneficial to make a cardboard template of the area and transfer this pattern to the plank.
12. Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips. Make sure that no plank will be secured in any way to the sub floor.
13. For wet areas such as bathrooms caulk the perimeter of the floor with a silicone caulk.
14. Protect the finished flooring from exposure to direct sunlight to reduce fading and thermal expansion.