

## INSTALLATION GUIDE

May 2023

Thank you for choosing our flooring. When properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged period of time. During peak sunlight hours, use drapes or blinds to minimize the direct sunlight on the floor. Most types of flooring will be affected by continuous strong sunlight. To avoid uneven appearance, please consider relocating any area rugs from time to time. In addition, excessive temperatures are not good for resilient floors. Some natural ventilation or intermittent air conditioning in vacant homes should be considered. Long term continuous inside temperature over 30°C combined with strong direct sunlight will damage your floor and cause installation fail.

Please read all the instructions before you begin the installation. Improper installation will void the warranty.

## I. GENERAL PREPARATIONS

**TOOLS REQUIRED:** Spacers, rubber mallet, ruler, pencil, tape measure, utility knife.

- Prior to installation, inspect the material in daylight for visible faults/damage, including defects or discrepancies in colour or shine; check the edges of the flooring for straightness and any damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.

- It is preferable to lay boards perpendicular to the window, following the direction of the main source of light. For the best result, always work from 3 to 4 cartons at a time, mixing the planks during the installation.

- Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied, do not install, and contact your supplier.

- Flooring products can be damaged by rough handling before installation. Exercise care when handling and transporting these products. Store, transport, and handle the flooring planks in a manner to prevent any damage. Store cartons flat, never on edge.

- Flooring products can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper lifting techniques when handling these products. Whenever possible, make use of material-handling equipment such as dollies or material carts. Never lift more than you can safely handle; get assistance.

- Calculate the room surface prior to installation and plan an extra 5-10% of flooring for cutting waste.

- The environment where the flooring is to be installed is critically important with regard to successful installation and continued performance of the flooring products. The flooring is intended to be installed in interior locations only. These interior locations must meet climatic and structural requirements as well.

- In most cases, this product does not need to be acclimatised. However, if the boxes of flooring were exposed over 2 hours to extreme temperatures under 15°C or over 35°C within the 12 hours before the installation, acclimation is required. In this case, keep the boards in room temperature for at least 12 hours in unopened package before you start the installation. The room temperature must be maintained consistently between 15-30°C before and during the installation.

- Flooring should only be installed in temperature-controlled environments. It is necessary to maintain a constant temperature of 15-30°C before and during the installation. Portable heaters are not recommended as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.

- After installation, make sure that the flooring is not exposed to temperatures less than 10°C or greater than 50°C.

- For floor surfaces exceeding 400 m2 and/or lengths exceeding 20 m, use expansion mouldings.

## II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

- The flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat, dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 5mm within 3m.

- The substrate should not slope more than 25mm per 2m in any direction.

- Depressions, deep grooves, expansion joints and other subfloor imperfections must be filled with patching & levelling compound.

- Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, and any foreign matter and contaminants.

- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.

- Although this floor is waterproof, it is not aimed to be used as a moisture barrier. The subfloor must be dry, concrete moisture vapour emissions should not exceed 8lb / 3.63 kg (ASTM F1869) / 90 % RH (ASTM F2170) with a PH limit of 9 / max. 2.5 % moisture content (CM method).

- This product is also not to be installed in areas with a risk of flooding, such as saunas or outdoor areas.

- Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will diminish the product's inherent strength in resisting indentations.

## WOOD SUBFLOORS

- If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wooden floor, repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation.

- Nail or screw every 15cm along joists to avoid squeaking.

- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. A 0.15 mm poly-film is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth.

- We recommend laying 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.

## CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Existing concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. Curing agents and hardeners could cause bonding failure and should not be used.

- A minimum 0.15 mm poly-film as a moisture barrier is required between the concrete subfloor and the flooring.

## DO NOT INSTALL OVER

- Any type of carpet.

- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring.

- Floating floor of any type, loose lay, and perimeter fastened sheet vinyl.

- Hardwood flooring/wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

In-floor Radiant Heat: Flooring can be installed over 12mm embedded radiant heat using the floating method. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 30°C. The use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

- Turn the heat off 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installing over radiant heated subfloors.

- 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.

- Make sure that the temperature in the room is maintained consistently between 15-30°C before and during the installation.

- Floor temperature must not exceed 30°C.

- 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.

Warning: Electric heating mats not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath the floors. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath the floors could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install the flooring over embedded radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the abovementioned guidelines.

## III. INSTALLATION

- Remove the baseboard, quarter-round mouldings, wall base, appliances, and furniture from the room. For best results, the door trim should be under-cut to allow the flooring to move freely without being pinched. After preparation, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.

- With a floating floor, you must always leave a minimum 6mm expansion gap between walls and fixtures such as pillars, stairs, etc. These gaps will be covered with trim mouldings after the floor is installed. Important notice: When installing in areas that are exposed to temperatures over 40°C and significant temperature fluctuations, the expansion joint may be increased to 10 mm to secure the installation on the entire periphery and from all fixtures in the room.

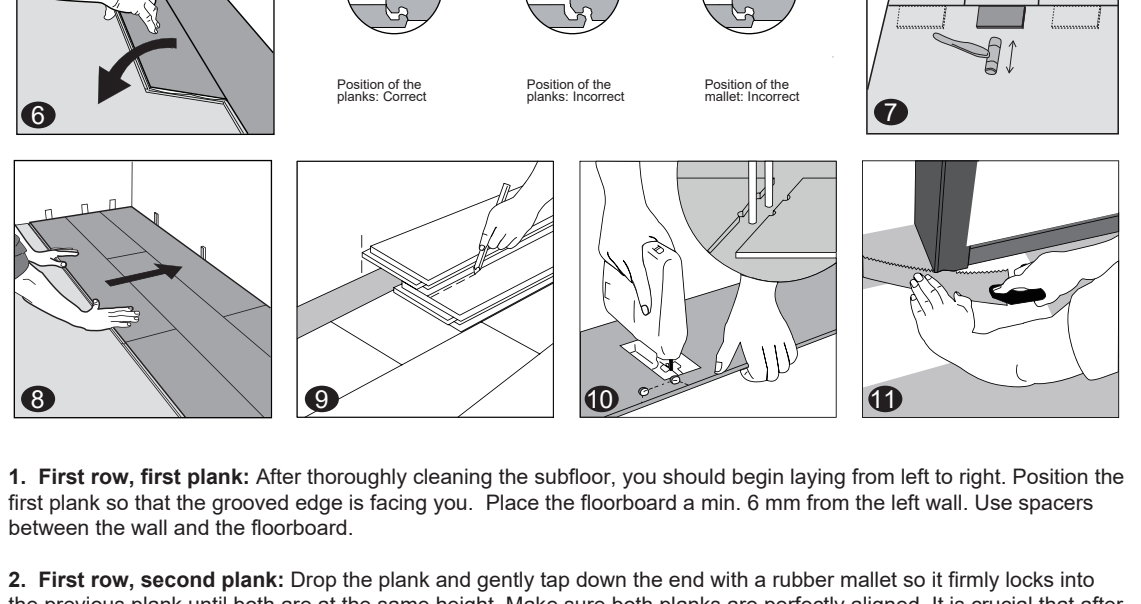
- Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. The end joints of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 20 cm apart. Do not install over expansion joints. Do not install pieces shorter than 30cm at the beginning or end of rows.

- Do not install your kitchen cabinets directly over your floor. The floor's quality can be guaranteed as long as the floor can move freely.

- Decide the installation direction. It is recommended to install the boards perpendicular to the window following the direction of the main light source.

- Measure the area to be installed: The board width of the last row shall not be less than 50mm. If so, adjust the width of the first row to be installed. In narrow hallways, it is recommended to install the floor parallel to the length of the hall.

- UNDERLAY: Since the floor has a pre-attached underlayment, the use of an additional underlayment could damage the locking mechanism and will void the warranty. If the flooring is to be installed over concrete, please see the Concrete Subfloor section.



**1. First row, first plank:** After thoroughly cleaning the subfloor, you should begin laying from left to right. Position the first plank so that the grooved edge is facing you. Place the floorboard a min. 6 mm from the left wall. Use spacers between the wall and the floorboard.

**2. First row, second plank:** Drop the plank and gently tap 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. It is crucial that after the short edges of two connecting planks are correctly aligned, the rubber mallet contacts the plank in the area directly above the short edge, allowing for correct locking.

**Note:** To ensure correct engagement of the locking system, use the mallet to tap directly above the short edge of both adjoining boards. Tapping only one board may result in permanent damage to the joint. Continue installing the first row until you reach the wall on the right.

**IMPORTANT:** 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. Failure to properly line up the end joint and attempting to force it in while it is out of alignment could result in permanent damage to the end joint.

**3. First row, last plank:** At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of a minimum of 6 mm 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. Second row, first plank:** Start the second row with the leftover cut part of the last plank of the previous row. This small plank should measure at least 30cm. Otherwise, cut a new plank in half and use it to begin the second row. The end joints of each adjoining row should not be closer than 20cm to each other. Whenever practical, use the piece cut from the preceding row to start the next row.

**6. Second row, second plank:** Click 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 25-30 degrees. Drop the plank and gently tap on 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.

**7. After finishing the installation of every 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. Tip:** After installing the first 2-3 rows of planks, they should be checked with a string line to ensure that rows are still running straight. If they are not, it could be that the starting wall has some irregularities that caused bowing in the installation. If so, the starting row of planks may have to be scribed and re-trimmed to account for any unevenness in the wall. This can be done without having to disassemble the beginning rows.

**9. To lay the last row:** Position a loose board exactly on top of the last row laid. Place another board on top, with the tongue side touching the wall. Draw a line along the edge of this board to mark the first board. Cut along the edge of this board to mark the first board. Cut along this line to obtain the required width. Insert this cut board against the wall. The last row should be at least 50 mm wide. The spacers can then be removed.

**10. Holes for pipes:** Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole 12mm larger. Saw off a piece, as shown in the figure, and lay the board in place on the floor. Then lay the sawed-off piece in place.

**11. Door moulding and skirting:** Lay a board (with the decorative side down) next to the door moulding and saw, as shown in the figure. Then slide the floorboard under the moulding.

**BATHROOM / WET AREAS / SPLASH AREAS INSTALLATION (including kitchens)**

**Check your local State Building code to ensure that the product is suitable for use**

- **bathtubs for installation in areas where floor drains are required, or where free-standing bathtubs will be installed.**
- **Expansion trims should be installed between all wet areas and the remaining flooring to ensure that the remaining floor can float**
- **Wet towels/Floor mats should not be left on the flooring to dry**

Fill the expansion spaces with a 10mm compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with a flexible 100% silicone sealant to the entire installation perimeter. Do not use an acrylic sealant.

- Before installing mouldings, apply silicone sealant to the moulding portion or transition that will come into contact directly with the flooring surface.
- Install mouldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant.
- Apply silicone sealant at connections to doorframes or any other fixed objects.
- Branded and generic silicone tubes are available in any local home center or hardware location.
- If a watertight installation is required, apply a silicone bead across the bottom of the tongue on both long and short sides before installing the floorboard. Wipe off any excess silicone immediately.

## IV. FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

Replace moulding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the moulding and the planks. Nail the moulding to the wall surface, not through the flooring. At doorways and at other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a "T" moulding, or similar, to cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks. Leave a small gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.

## V. MAINTENANCE

- Sweep or vacuum daily using soft bristle attachments.
- Clean up spills and excessive liquids immediately.
- Damp mop as needed and use cleaners recommended for vinyl flooring.
- Do not use steam mops on this product.
- Use proper floor protection devices such as felt protectors under furniture.
- Place a water-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the dirt brought into your home. Do not use mats with latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discolouration.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, bleach, or wax to maintain the floor.
- Do not drag or slide heavy objects across the floor.
- Use appropriate window coverings, such as drapes, window treatments or UV-tinting on windows, to protect the product from direct sunlight, as long-term exposure to direct sunlight can lead to discolouration or buckling.

## VI. DISASSEMBLING

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

