



SPC (RIGID CORE) VINYL PLANK FLOORING

Installation and Maintenance

IMPORTANT

READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY PRIOR TO INSTALLATION. This flooring is intended for indoor use only. Residential installation does not require acclimation, as long as the floor is allowed to sit and brought up to room temperature prior to installation. Commercial installation requires a 24-hour minimum acclimation period. Make sure the subfloor is clean, dry and flat. Inspect ALL material carefully for color, finish, sheen and defects PRIOR to installation. Material with visible defects found after installation are not covered under warranty.

Installation implies acceptance of the quality, dimensions, and appearance of the flooring. Should there be any doubts regarding the aforementioned aspects, please contact your dealer/distributor and do not proceed with installation until you are satisfied with your flooring.

OTHER THINGS TO NOTE

Samples are designed to be a representation of the actual product. Your finished flooring may contain a varying ratio of knots, saw marks, splits, cracks, streaks, and/or color contrast. Samples under varying light sources including sunlight and room lighting may result in a difference of appearance of the flooring under each condition.

While Rigid Core Vinyl (SPC) flooring is a 100% waterproof and fire-resistant material, it is not meant to act as a moisture barrier for the home. It is best practice to test for moisture and take action promptly and accordingly.

Store product boxes flat and ensure they are fully supported during shipping, handling, and storage. Rough handling can cause damage to the flooring prior to installation.

Rigid Core Vinyl (SPC) flooring can be heavier than expected. Always use proper lifting techniques with handling. Whenever possible, use material handling equipment and/or have assistance from shipping and handling professionals.

Avoid direct sunlight exposure to minimize the effects of fading of the flooring. Prolonged UV exposure will likely have a uniform fading effect on building materials.

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Power Saw
- Tape Measure
- Spacers
- Rubber Mallet
- Pencil
- Straight Edge

Things to note: Do not use tape or adhesive products of any kind on the surface of the flooring. Doing so may discolor and/or damage its finish.

Door jambs are recommended to be undercut.

Cabinets cannot be installed on top of flooring.

Wall moldings and transition accessories cannot be fastened to the planks.

Mix boards from several boxes to ensure a suitable variation of color and shade.

JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Rigid Core Vinyl (SPC) Flooring has been designed to float over an existing floor without glue or adhesive, and can be installed on, above, or below grade level. It is the sole responsibility of the installer or homeowner to determine whether or not jobsite and subfloor conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for vinyl floor installation. The distributor and manufacturer do not assume responsibility for vinyl floor failure to perform due to ill-suited or ill-prepared subfloor, subsurface, or other jobsite damages or deficiencies after vinyl flooring has been installed.

Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" from the ground to the underside of joists. Adequate cross ventilation must be provided (1.5% of crawl space sD A Ground cover of 6-20 mil polyethylene film must be provided as a moisture barrier with a 6" overlap at the joints (sealed with moisture resistant tape). Moisture prevention inhibits the potential growth of harmful bacteria and stain-causing mold and mildew from the subfloor.

All installed areas must have a working heater & air conditioner to provide normal living conditions beginning at least 48 hours prior to installation and throughout the duration of flooring's lifespan. Normal living conditions include indoor temperature of 65-80°F and relative humidity of 35-55%. Portable & kerosene heaters are not recommended.

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring can be installed over concrete, wood subfloors and most other existing hard-surface floor coverings. All subfloors must be dry, clean (swept of any debris), structurally sound and level within 1/4" per 10-foot radius.

Wood subfloors must be suspended minimum of 18" above ground. Check if well secured; nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If subfloor is not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland cement-based leveling compound.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured for a minimum of 60 days and tested for moisture. Concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed Bibs (ASTM F1869) or 90%RH (ASTM F2170) with a pH limit of 9. For floors outside of this range a minimum 6 mil polyfilm required between concrete and ground. Subfloor moisture prevention limits the potential growth of harmful bacteria and mold. If not level, grind down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland cement-based leveling compound.

To install over existing hard-surface flooring, check to see if the existing floor is well bonded and level to the subfloor. Apply cement based leveling compound to level out uneven areas. Heavily cushioned vinyl flooring or vinyl flooring consisting of multiple layers are NOT suitable subfloors for installation. Do not sand existing vinyl as it may contain asbestos. Take proper precaution and contact an asbestos abatement company to remove old vinyl.

RADIANT HEAT

Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring is compatible with a concrete subfloor with an in-floor (embedded) radiant heating system. The heating system must be 1 1/2" below the surface layer of the concrete slab. Prior to flooring installation, the heating system must be operated at normal living temperatures for 14 days. Additionally, for 24 hours before, during, and after installation, the heating unit must be turned off. Radiant Heat systems must have failsafe capabilities to ensure surface temperatures do not exceed 80°F.

USE OF ELECTRIC HEATING MATS AND OTHER HEATING UNITS DIRECTLY UNDERNEATH RIGID CORE VINYL FLOORING CAN VOID WARRANTY.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Decide which direction to lay the flooring. Measure the width and length of the room and calculate plank width of the last row. For the best aesthetic, we do not recommend plank width narrower than 2.5 inches

Large spans in excess of 80' require expansion breaks.

1. **Using spacers, leave a 1/4" expansion gap between walls and edges of the flooring.**
2. **Installing the first row:**

From left to right, with the tongue-side facing the longest wall in the room, place the first board. Note that if the first row does not need to be trimmed in width, cut off the “tongue” so a solid straight edge is placed along the wall. Align and angle the second board to place the end joint tongue into the end joint groove of first board and connect the two into place. To ensure a secure fit, gently tap the joint with a rubber mallet in a downward angled motion towards the adjoining board. Continue installing additional boards in this manner until reaching the final board in the first row. Measure and cut the final board to fit the room.

3. Installing the second row onwards:

You may use any left-over planks from the first row if greater than 8" in length. If not, cut a new board at least 8" in length and allow 8" between end joints of the previous row to the current row that is being installed. Position the first board into place by angling and interlocking the side tongue (long end) into the previous row. Ensure fit and lay down gently into place. Position the next board using the same angling technique, interlocking motion on side tongue (long end) laying down gently, leaving a 1mm gap on the adjoining board. Tap the joint with a rubber mallet in a downward angled motion towards adjoining board until tongue and groove lock. Continue installing additional boards in each row in this manner. When you reach final board in each row, measure and cut the final board in each row to its proper length.

CONTINUALLY CHECK FOR GAPS BETWEEN BOARDS BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE NEXT.

4. Installing the final row:

Follow step 3. The final row and all corresponding boards may need to be cut lengthwise (ripped).

5. Final step - accessories:

Replace the molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface not through the flooring. At doorways and other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a T-Molding, or something similar, to cover exposed edges. Check for clearance and do not pinch planks.

POST INSTALLATION CARE & MAINTENANCE

Use rosin paper and cover installed flooring area to prevent damage from other trade work. Do not use plastic film or any other type of non-breathing material.

Follow these simple steps to keep your Rigid Core Vinyl (SPC) flooring looking its best:

1. Although Rigid Core Vinyl (SPC) flooring is 100% waterproof, it is best practice to clean up spills immediately. Routinely vacuum, sweep and / or dust floors using standard cleaning equipment. DO NOT use treated dust mops. For heavier duty cleaning, use a damp mop with clean water or a neutral pH-based cleaner. DO NOT use harsh cleaners or chemicals on your flooring. Oil and petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. DO NOT use abrasive scrubbing tools nor vacuums with a beater bar. DO NOT use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms without padding.
2. Protect your floor surface. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Excessive heat and light will subject flooring to fading effects and potential adverse effects. Place mats at all entrances to keep dirt and debris out of space. Use non-staining, breathable mats. Rubber mats may discolor the floor. Use floor protectors for furniture. Non-staining felt pads can be used provided they are changed on a regular basis to prevent dirt, debris, and sand buildup. Wide, non-staining casters at least 2" in diameter or floor protectors should be used on rolling furniture such as office chairs, dining chairs, armchairs, etc. To prevent point loads on heavy furniture, use non-staining surface floor protectors. Do not use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.

3. When moving heavy furniture or appliances, place a sheet of Masonite or plywood under the piece being moved to distribute the weight and reduce denting or scratching. For light pieces, use a clean blanket or piece of carpet face down under the piece to be moved.
4. Be aware of sharp edges as they can scratch and gouge your floor's surface.

Please contact your dealer/distributor with additional questions and concerns.