HOME DECORATORS COLLECTION®

Installation Instructions
SPC Flooring
For Assistance, Call: 1-800-956-8538
www.HomeDepot.com

Product Description
Callahan Oak 5mm H x 7 3/16 in. W x 42 in. L
SPC Engineered Flooring (25.20 sq. ft.)
HD19007

Grade Levels
Above Grade / On Grade
Below Grade

Installation Method
Floating

⚠ **WARNING: CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS:** This product can create wood dust and emit formaldehyde of which are known to the State of California to cause cancer.

⚠ **CAUTION: ASBESTOS IN EXISTING FLOOR:** Home Decorators Collection product does not contain asbestos. Existing installed resilient flooring and asphaltic adhesive may contain asbestos fillers or crystalline silica. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead-blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic "cutback" adhesive or other adhesive. See "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" (rfci.com) for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

⚠ **CAUTION: WOOD DUST:** Sawing, sanding and machining this product can produce wood dust. It can cause respiratory, skin and eye irritation. Avoid prolonged exposure to wood dust. Power tools should be equipped with a dust collector. If possible, perform wood dust generating activities outdoors. If high dust levels are encountered, use an appropriate NIOSH-designated dust mask.

SAFETY AND HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

Power tools can be dangerous. Operate in strict accordance to manufacturer's operating instructions and safety precautions. Unsafe and improper use can cause serious injuries. Avoid inhalation and exposure to wood dust by mechanical means and by wearing personal protective equipment. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes NIOSH or OSHA approved dust masks, safety goggles and work gloves.

WARRANTY

Our flooring products come with a Lifetime Structural (Residential) Warranty / Lifetime Residential Finish Manufacturer Warranty / Lifetime 10-Year Light Commercial Finish Warranty. The warranty applies to the original purchaser of the flooring only and guarantees that the surface will not wear through or peel off for the duration of install. Installation of the product confirms your acceptance of the product. Failure to follow Pre-Installation and Installation guidelines will void the manufacturer's warranty. The warranty does not cover damage from improper use, care, maintenance or installation, including scratching, water-leak or flood damage, denting, telegraphing, fading, or staining. Please review our warranty coverage information for specific terms and conditions.

PRE-INSTALLATION

OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

It is the Installer's / Owner's responsibility to ensure that the conditions are acceptable prior to the installation of the flooring. The manufacturer declines any and all problems associated with the flooring that are related to or attributed to improper jobsite conditions. Any splits, cracks, grain raising, checking, edge fracturing, splintering, cupping, crowning/peaking, warping, twisting, expansion/contraction, telegraphing, buckling or chipping that occurs during or after the floor has been installed and as a result of abuse, misuse, improper maintenance or care, improper installation technique and improper environmental conditions are not covered under the manufacturer's warranty.

Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these installation instructions. All necessary accessories, including trim, must be present at the jobsite prior to beginning installation. The manufacturer is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

When purchasing flooring, we recommend adding 5%-15% to actual square footage needed for cutting allowance and to compensate for culled material. It is acceptable that up to 5% of the material be outside the range of acceptance and not be considered defective.

It shall be the responsibility of the Installer to document installation date, product SKU and lot information, subfloor moisture content, site relative humidity and site temperature. This information must be documented by the installer and a copy provided to the property owner to ensure product warranty coverage.

Failure to follow any and all of Home Decorators Collection recommended installation guidelines will void warranty coverage.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Concrete subfloors must:

- □ Have minimum rated strength of 3000 psi.
- □ Be level to within 1/8 in. in a 6 ft. span or 3/16 in. in a 10 ft. span; no bumps or low spots. High spots can be removed by grinding; depressions can be filled with patching compound formulated for use in floor installation.
- □ Be clean; no construction debris, soil, mud or any other objects should be on or adhering to the floor. If necessary, scrape and sweep away before the installation. No protrusions of nails, debris or metals should remain.
- □ New concrete slab must cure for at least 60 days. It must have a minimum 10 mil polyethylene sheet between the ground and the concrete.
- □ Be free from moisture related conditions which can damage the installed flooring.

CONCRETE MOISTURE

Test all concrete subfloors for moisture content and document the results. Visual checks are not reliable. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near walls containing plumbing, near foundation walls and in the center of the room. Minimum sample size is 3 samples per 1000 sq. ft. of area and one test for every additional 1000 sq. ft. thereafter. Moisture content should meet one of the following criteria:

- □ 4.5% when tested using Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter.
- □ Less than 3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. per 24 hours when using Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F1869).
- □ 75% when using Relative Humidity Testing (ASTM F2170).

NOTE: Concrete moisture content may be acceptable the time of the test. These tests do not guarantee a perpetual "dry" concrete slab. The concrete slab moisture content can vary at other times of the year. We are not responsible for moisture-related damage to installed flooring.

LIGHT WEIGHT CONCRETE

Light weight concrete is concrete with a rated strength that is less than 3000 psi. Perform a quick check by drawing a nail across the top; if it leaves an indentation, it is probably light concrete. For glue-down applications, the concrete must possess shear strength greater than the glue. If concrete rated psi is unknown, contact the adhesive manufacturer for guidance.

WOOD SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

The subfloor should be clean. There should be no presence of construction debris, soil, mud, or any other objects on or adhering to the floor. No protrusions of nails, debris, or metals should remain. If necessary, scrape and sweep the subfloor before the installation. The subfloor must be structurally sound and stable. There should be no movements or squeaks; no loose panels or loose nails; and no signs of ply de-lamination or other damages. Repair all shortcomings before installation. The subfloor must be flat, with no visible bumps or low spots; the subfloor should be flat to within 1/8 in. in 6 ft. span or 3/16 in. in 10 ft. Test for moisture using a reliable moisture meter. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near foundation walls, near walls containing plumbing lines and in the center of the room. Measure 20 locations per 1000 sq. ft. Moisture content of the subfloor should be less than 12%. Moisture content difference between the subfloor and flooring should be 2% or less.

PLYWOOD OR ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB) SPECIFICATIONS

On truss / joist spacing of 16 in. (406 mm) O/C or less, the industry standard for single-panel subflooring is a minimum 5/8 in. (19/32 in., 15.1 mm) CD Exposure 1 plywood subfloor panels (CD Exposure 1) or 23/32 in. OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4 ft. x 8 ft. sheets. Expansion gap between panels should be 1/8 in. (3 mm). If panels are not tongued and grooved and there is not sufficient spacing or spacing is inadequate, cut in the required spacing with a circular saw. Do not cut in expansion space on tongue and groove panels.

PARTICLE BOARD OR FIBER BOARD

Only for floating installation.

EXISTING FLOORS

Installation over existing floor requires the installer to consider potential issues related to moisture damage, adhesive failure and fastener failure. Contact the adhesive and fastener manufacturers respectively for their specific instructions, recommendations and requirements.

Acceptable floor coverings include: Solid wood, linoleum (1 layer only), terrazzo, ceramic, and stone tile. Tiled floors with grout lines will require a cementitious leveling compound to fill any grout lines, voids, or cracks.

Unacceptable floor coverings include: Carpet (any type), cushioned-back vinyl, laminates, and free-floating floors.

JOB SITE CONDITION

Prior to installation, the installer must ensure that at the time of installation, the job site conditions including subfloor/substrate, ambient temperature and relative humidity, and all impacting variables will not negatively affect the floor. The manufacturer will decline responsibility for damages associated with improper installation or poor site conditions.

RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION AREA

This product is not suitable for any outside use, sunrooms/solariums, showers, saunas, seasonal porches, camping trailers, boats, RVs or rooms that have a potential of flooding. Do not install in rooms or homes that are not temperature controlled.

Exposure to long term direct sunlight can cause damage to your floor. Failure to properly shade or UV tint windows can discolor, fade, or buckle vinyl planks. Use window treatments or UV tinting on windows. Vinyl planks are not intended for use on stairs or vertical surfaces. Do not glue, nail, screw or fasten to substrate. Install cabinetry, island and peninsula counters, vanities, tubs, and showers first. Then install vinyl planks around them.

INSPECT THE FLOORING

Inspect material for color, finish, milling, texture and grade. Set aside pieces that may not be acceptable once installed. A maximum of four boxes may be opened for inspection prior to installation. The floors have been thoroughly inspected during the manufacturing process, but it is the responsibility of the installer/homeowner to do final inspection and cull out boards that are not acceptable before installation.

BLENDING OF CARTONS

To achieve a uniform appearance across the entire floor, we require that you open and work from a minimum of four cartons at a time and lay out the flooring ahead of time. Be sure to mix the planks for the best aesthetic appearance. Make certain the room is well lit to ensure color is consistent and that any visual defects can be seen and removed prior to installation. "Racking the Floor" is essential to achieve a random appearance. Start by cutting several boards in random lengths, differing the lengths by at least six inches. As you continue working across the floor, remember to maintain a six-inch minimum space between the end joints. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance. Never waste materials; the end cuts from starter rows should be used at the opposite side of the room to complete rows or may be used to start the next row.

UNDERCUT DOOR CASINGS

Undercut all door casings 1/16" higher than the thickness of the flooring being installed. To do this, use a scrap piece of flooring as a guide. Lay it on the substrate and cut the casing with a handsaw or use a power jamb saw set at the correct height. Failure to undercut casings will result in automatic void in warranty coverage.

COORDINATING TRANSITION MOLDINGS

Always have all necessary transition moldings on site prior to beginning installation. Make sure all transitions and moldings have been coordinated with planks that have similar color and graining. Set them aside for use when a transitioning is necessary. The Vendor cannot be held liable for color variations that may exist between flooring and coordinating trim accessories under any circumstances.

UNDERLAYMENT

Underlayment should be used in any floating installation and be no more than 3mm in thickness (cork products up to ½"). We approve the use of 2-in-1 underlayments with attached poly-backings for moisture protection. Foam, Cork, Rubber, EVA and similar underlayments are acceptable.

We require any installation of this floor that is installed in the floating method to use a T-Molding once the installation has gone more than 35 feet in any single direction. Installations of the flooring beyond this distance must use a T-Molding to release stress from the floor and allow the floating installation to properly expand and contract. T-moldings are also required in narrow flooring areas 36" or less in width; floor areas interrupted by wall sections extending out of the wall, including cabinets; floor areas which are not rectangular; and wall openings with or without a door. L-shaped rooms or otherwise not rectangular rooms will require T-moldings to split into rectangular sections. Failure to use appropriate T-moldings will void warranty coverage.

FLOOR PROTECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

Always protect the surface of the installed flooring during construction. Cover the floor with quality rosin paper or other paper that will allow the floor to breathe and secure it to the baseboards; never tape directly to flooring. Do not use plastic or polyethylene sheeting to cover the floor. The flooring must be cleaned and completely free of any and all debris to minimize damage.

If you have any questions regarding installation of flooring not addressed in our guidelines, please contact our technical department.

STORAGE AND CONDITIONS

Do not store flooring in uncontrolled environmental conditions. For example, garages and exterior patios are not acceptable areas to store flooring. Handle and unload flooring with care and store within the environmentally controlled site in which it is expected to perform. Flooring stored on a concrete slab should be elevated at least 4 in. to allow air circulation under cartons.

EXISTING HOME

An existing home should have a consistent room temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 35%-55%. Continual deviation from these conditions will affect the dimensions of flooring. When using a heater during winter months, humidity may be much lower than the acceptable range. A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage in flooring due to low humidity levels. During the warmer months, maintain humidity levels using an air conditioner or dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically.

NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REMODEL

All work involving water, such as pouring basement concrete floors, drywall and plasterwork, plumbing, etc. must be completed well in advance of the floor delivery. Ensure that the building is enclosed. Where building codes allow, permanent heating and/or air conditioning systems should be operating at least five days preceding installation and should be maintained during and after installation. If it is not possible for the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system to be operating before, during and after installation, a temporary heating and/or dehumidification system that simulates normal living (occupied) conditions can enable the installation to proceed until the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system is fully operational. Your job site should have a consistent temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 35%-55%, which should be maintained continuously thereafter.

BASEMENTS AND CRAWL SPACES

Concrete slab or ground must be dry. The ground in the crawl spaces must be completely covered using 6 mil black polyethylene. Crawl space clearance between the earth and underside of joists should be no less than 18 in., and the perimeter vent area should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space or as mandated by code.

MOISTURE BARRIER AND MOISTURE RETARDER

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR

For floating installation, use 6 mil polyethylene film or other means with equivalent permeability. Overlap the edge seams and tape them together. Extend moisture barrier up to the wall about 1 in. high.

WOOD SUBFLOOR

Use asphalt-saturated kraft paper or #15 or #30 felt that meets ASTM Standard D4869 or UU-B-790, Grade D. Overlap along the edge seams 2 in.- 4 in. wide. This retards moisture movement from below. Extend the moisture retarder to about 1 in. from the walls. Secure to the subfloor as necessary.

SOUND CONTROL UNDERLAYMENT

Check with the sound control manufacturer for application guidelines. Generally, the less compressive underlayment is preferred.

EXPANSION GAP

An expansion space of ¼" must be left around the perimeter of the room and at all vertical obstructions. More or less spacing may be needed depending on the geographical region, interior climate, and/or time of the year. Your SPC flooring WILL move/shrink/expand. This is a normal occurrence of flooring products.

TRANSITION MOLDING

Floating installation, transition T-molding is required in the following cases: floor spanning greater than 35 ft. in length or width; floor areas interrupted by wall sections extending out of the wall; floor areas which are not rectangular; and wall openings with or without doors. L-shaped rooms or otherwise not rectangular rooms require T-molding to split it into rectangular sections.

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GENERAL INSTALLATION TOOLS

- □ Moisture Meter
- □ Tape Measure
- □ Pencil
- □ Chalk Line
- □ Hand Saw or Power Saw
- □ Utility Knife
- □ Tapping Block
- □ Crow Bar or Pry Bar
- □ Wood or Plastic Spacers (¼")
- □ Rubber Mallet

PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION

SPC flooring should be one of the last items installed for any new construction or remodel project. All Home Decorators Collection products must be installed per the manufacturer's guidelines. For any questions or specifications not specifically outlined herein, please contact Home Decorators Collection technical department.

- □ All "wet" work, i.e. paint, drywall, concrete, masonry, and plumbing must be complete and dry prior to the delivery of SPC flooring.
- □ Gutters and downspouts should be in place and the exterior grade complete to allow for proper drainage of water away from the building's exterior perimeter.
- □ HVAC should be on, operational and maintained between 60 – 80 degrees with a relative humidity of 35%- 55% range a minimum of 5 days prior to delivery, during and after installation of the flooring.
- □ If HVAC is not possible at time of installation, the environmental conditions must be at or near normal living conditions between 60 – 80 degrees and at the average yearly relative humidity for the area.
- □ We recommend using a hydrometer to monitor interior climate, and the use of a humidifier/dehumidifier may be required.
- □ Test wood subfloors for moisture content using a moisture meter recommended for wood flooring, such as Lignomat SDM or comparable. Take readings of the subfloor – minimum of 20 readings per 1,000 sq. ft. – and average the results. In most regions, a "dry" subfloor that is ready to work on has a moisture content of 8% or less.
- □ Test the concrete subfloor moisture content by calcium chloride testing or by using an appropriate moisture meter. The moisture content for concrete subfloors registered after a calcium chloride test should not be greater than 3 pounds per 1000 square feet of area. If it exceeds these limits, DO NOT install the flooring. Before moisture testing begins, the slab must be cured for a minimum of 30 days. The moisture vapor emission rate for concrete subfloors must not exceed 75% RH using ASTM F2170 or 3 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours using Calcium Chloride test ASTM F1869. If using a moisture meter, please refer to the recommended guidelines set forth for by that moisture meter's manufacturer.
- □ Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6-mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist should 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 in accordance with local regulations.

NOTE: ALWAYS CHECK MOISTURE LEVELS BEFORE INSTALLING.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- □ The sub-floor needs to be structurally sound.
- □ The sub-floor should be free of any surface defect. If it is not, fill gaps with a Portland-based leveling cement (for concrete floors only) or sand/grind down any uneven areas. For wood floors, use a wood leveling patch or skim coat as needed.
- □ The sub-floor must be level and flat to 3/16" (5mm) per 10' radius or 1/8" (3.2mm) per 6-foot radius.
- □ Any gaps in the sub-floor should not exceed 3/16" (5mm).
- □ Use flooring screws into floor joists if necessary to minimize squeaks in subfloor.
- □ The surface must be clean and free of any contaminants such as wax, paint, grease, dust, oil, nails, staples, old adhesive, etc. and thoroughly swept and free of all debris.
- □ For concrete installation, ensure that the concrete is not low-density (below 3000 psi) or gypsum based.
- □ Plywood must be CDX-rated at least 3/4" thick. OSB must be 3/4", PS2 rated, and installed sealed-side down. We require wood substrates as previously described to be affixed directly to joists and a max of 16" on center.
- □ Moisture content should not exceed 12%.

FLOATING INSTALLATION

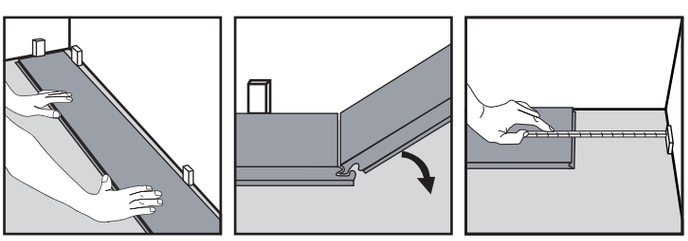
STEP ONE: ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT

1.1. Remove any existing wall base, shoe molding, quarter round or doorway threshold.

1.2. If installation is above or at grade, poly-film is recommended but not necessary.

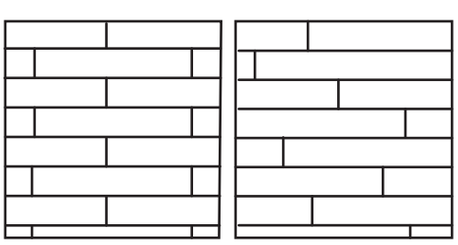
1.3. Determine the longest, straightest wall to begin installation; this is usually an exterior wall.

1.4. Measure the total width of the flooring (including the tongue), plus ¼" for expansion. Measure out this distance in at least 2 places from the starting wall and 12" from the corners. Then, snap a chalk line parallel to the starting wall.



STEP TWO: LAY OUT

2.1. Choose the longest and straightest boards and align the plank tongues with the working line. Cut the last plank to the proper length leaving a ¼" from the end wall. Repeat this step for the second row, making sure to stagger the joints. The minimum end stagger is 6 inches.



AVOID "H" JOINTS

STAGGER END JOINTS

STEP THREE: RACK THE FLOOR

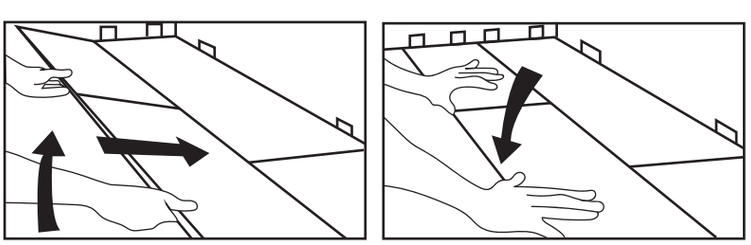
3.1. Once the first row is in place, continue to lay out the planks. Be sure to blend the planks and stagger the end joints a minimum of 6" apart to ensure a favorable appearance.

STEP FOUR: INSTALL THE FLOORING

4.1. Once enough of the planks have been racked out, begin installing the planks by fitting the short side of the click system into the long side of the click system. Make sure that the click system is engaged evenly; any gapping can compromise the integrity of the installation.

To ensure a tight fit, use a tapping block and rubber mallet on the long seams and tap down on the top of the plank at the short seams. Continue installing planks across the room, ending at the far wall.

4.2. It may be necessary to rip the last row to allow for the ¼" expansion. If the last row is 2" or less, click the pieces to the last full uninstalled row and install them together. If needed, use a light rubber mallet to make the remaining rows tight to the installed planks.



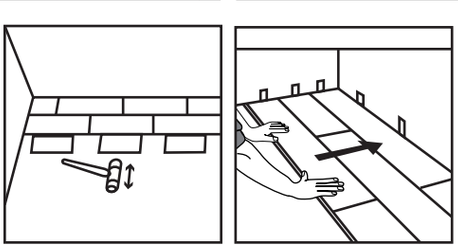
STEP FIVE: COMPLETE THE JOB

5.1. Clean the floor with any high-quality, pH-neutral vinyl cleaner.

5.2. Install transition pieces, i.e. stair nose, reducer, end cap, t-molding and base shoe. Please follow the manufacturer's installation guidelines for transitions.

5.3. Any unused material should be stored in a dry place in case future repairs are needed.

We recommend saving at least 2 boxes.



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CARE AND MAINTENANCE

With today's advances in vinyl flooring stains and finishes, cleaning vinyl has never been easier. There are other steps you can take to minimize maintenance and maintain the beauty of your vinyl floors. Regular maintenance requires little more than sweeping with a soft bristle broom if your floor includes a beveled edge that could collect debris.

- □ Clean your floors periodically with a professional vinyl floor cleanser. Home Decorators Collection recommends a pH-neutral vinyl cleanser.
- □ For moderately soiled areas, use a mild solution of isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and distilled water. Dilute the mixture by mixing 1 part alcohol and 2 parts distilled water. For tougher spots, use a higher concentration of isopropyl alcohol and distilled water.
- □ Avoid using any cleaning agents containing wax, oil or polish. Left over residue will form a dull film.
- □ Always spot test in an inconspicuous area.
- □ Do not use any wood care floor cleaning products on vinyl floors. Self-polishing acrylic waxes can cause the surface to become slippery and appear dull quickly.
- □ Do not use vinegar as a cleaning solution, as its acidic properties will harm the finish.
- □ Use area rugs both inside and outside doorways to help prevent grit, dirt and other debris from being tracked onto your floor. Please use a breathable rug pad underneath all throw rugs to prevent scratching.
- □ Place an area rug in front of the kitchen sink.
- □ Do not wet-mop the floor. Standing water can dull the finish, damage the floor and leave a discoloring residue.
- □ Do not use a steam mop of any kind. Damages associated with steam mop use will void warranty coverage.
- □ Wipe up spills immediately.
- □ Protect your floor with floor protectors that are made of non-staining felt under the legs of furniture to help prevent scuffing and scratching. Larger pads may be required on bigger objects. Scratching due to insufficient protection is not covered by the warranty.
- □ Avoid walking on your vinyl floors with cleats, sports shoes and high heels.
- □ A 125-pound woman walking in high heels has an impact of 2,000 pounds per square inch. An exposed heel nail can exert up to 8,000 pounds per square inch. This kind of impact can dent any floor surface.
- □ When moving heavy furniture, do not slide it on the flooring. It is best to pick up the furniture completely to protect the floor from damage.

FLOOR REPAIRS

- □ Very light and small surface scratches can be repaired with a staining "touch up" pen of the appropriate color or by using an almond stick. Please refer to manufacturer's recommendations on proper application.
- □ Slightly deeper scratches can be repaired by means of colored putty, acrylic and/or stains. Fill the scratches with the putty, level with putty knife and use terry cloth towel to wipe off excess.
- □ Very deep scratches or gouges may require the replacement of planks.