



## WPC LUXURY VINYL FLOORING

### *Installation and Maintenance*

#### **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE INSTALLATION**

##### FOR BEST RESULTS:

Because this flooring is made to replicate the look of a natural product with natural variations in color and texture – for the best results, shuffle planks from different cartons and avoid installing similar boards next to one another.

##### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION:

The subfloor must be level, dry, and free of imperfections. An uneven subfloor will cause instability throughout the flooring and premature damage.

#### **PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS**

Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for color, finish, and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection of the product prior to installation. If the flooring is deemed unacceptable by the purchaser, contact your nearest dealer immediately to arrange for replacement parts. The manufacturer does not accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects. Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements previously mentioned. The manufacturer is not responsible for flooring defects caused by unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18” (46 cm) from the ground to the underside of the joists. A black polyethylene film ground cover of 6-20 mm is to be used as a vapor barrier with joints lapped 6” (16 cm) and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have a perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations take precedent.

Room temperature and humidity of installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week prior to installation. Maintaining an optimum room temperature of 70° F and a humidity range of 30-50% is recommended.

PLEASE NOTE: The flooring should be one of the last items installed in any construction or remodel projects.

#### **PRE-INSTALLATION SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS**

##### Acceptable subfloor types:

- CDX underlayment grade plywood (at least ½” thick)
- Underlayment grade particleboard
- OSB (at least ¾” thick)

- Concrete Slab
- Existing wood flooring
- Ceramic tile
- Resilient tile and sheet vinyl

All subfloors must be:

- Dry
- Structurally Sound
- Clean: thoroughly swept and free of debris
- Level: flat to 4.7mm (3/16”) per 3.3m (10-ft) radius

Wood subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 6” along joists to avoid squeaking. If the subfloor is not level, sand down the higher sections and fill lower sections with a Portland Based leveling patch.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, and have a minimum 6mm polyfilm between the concrete and the ground. The subfloor should be flat and level within 3/16 inch per 10 foot radius. If necessary, grind down the higher sections and level the low sections with a Portland leveling compound.

Ceramic Tile, resilient tile, and sheet vinyl must be clean, level, in good condition, and well-bonded to the subfloor. Do not sand existing vinyl floors as they may contain asbestos.

## **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### TOOLS REQUIRED (for all installation methods)

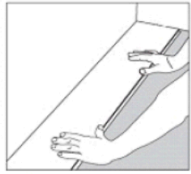
- Tape measure
- Tapping block (typically a trimmed piece of flooring)
- Pencil
- Pry bar or pull bar
- Chalk line
- Crosscut power saw
- 3M Scotch-blue™ 2080 tape
- Rubber mallet
- Flooring adhesive (optional)

### STARTING YOUR INSTALLATION

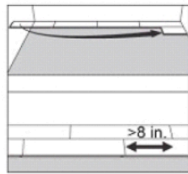
Work from several open boxes of WPC flooring and lay the floor completely flat and dry prior to installing. This will allow you to view and select the planks with varying textures and colors, in order to arrange them in a harmonious pattern that you most prefer. It is the installer’s responsibility to set expectations for the finished flooring with the end user prior to installation, culling out pieces that do not meet his or her expectations.

Begin installation next to an outside wall, typically the most straight and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is not completely straight.

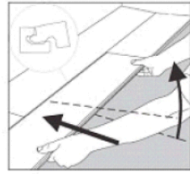
Position a few rows prior to installation to view and confirm your layout and working line. When laying the flooring, stagger the end joints from row to row by at least 8". When cutting the last plank in a row to fit the room, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row. If the cut-off end is 8" in length or less, discard that piece and instead cut a new plank at a random length to start the next row. Always begin each row from the same side of the room. When near a wall, use a pry bar to close the side and end joints.



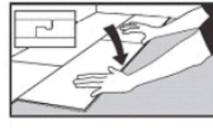
**Figure 1**



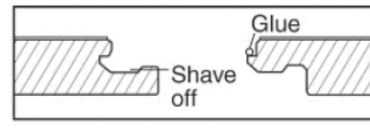
**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**

### INSTALLING THE FIRST ROW

1. Starting from the RIGHT side in relation to the installation room, with the tongue facing the wall, carefully place the first board in place (Figure 1)
2. Align the next piece by overlapping the end of the first board. Press down firmly to lock the short end by tapping on the joint with a rubber mallet. Continue in this manner until reaching the final plank in the first row.
3. Cut the final board piece to length.

### CONTINUING THE INSTALLATION

1. Begin the second row with the cut piece left over from the first row (Figure 3). If the cut piece is shorter than 8" (20cm), do not use it. Begin with a new board that is at least 8" in length and allows 8" of plank space between the end joints of adjacent planks for best visual results.
2. Position the first board into place by angling it up slightly, pushing forward and interlocking the side tongue (Figure 2). Slide the board to the left as necessary to align the edges the end joint.
3. Carefully push the board down until the tongue and groove lock together on the sides and ends.
4. Press down firmly on the end joint, preferably tapping on it with a rubber mallet in order to fully engage the short end.
5. Install the remaining boards and rows in the same manner (Figures 3 & 4).
6. Cut the last board in the row to size. Complete the tight fit by tapping the board into place with a pull bar, if necessary.
7. In order to maximize the use of product and reduce waste, use cut pieces from previous rows as starter boards when practical.

### INSTALLING THE FINAL ROW

1. The last row may need to be cut lengthwise (ripped).
2. Place the last row of planks on top of the last row of installed planks. Use a piece of plank as a scribe to trace the contour of the wall.
3. Mark where the board will be cut. If the fit of the wall is straight, measure and cut the proper fit.
4. After boards are cut, position the planks and tighten the fit using a pull bar.

### INSTALLING UNDER A DOOR JAMB

1. Installation under moldings (such as door jambs) may require the top lip of the groove on the end to be reduced in size.

2. In this case, using a small plane or knife plane, carefully shave off the ledge of the groove (Figure 5).
3. After the groove has been trimmed, place the board in place and tighten with a pull bar to test for fit, The installer must be certain that the required expansion gap has been maintained and that the flooring is not pinched,
4. If the fit is off, re-trim as necessary.
5. Place a bead of wood glue on the bottom lip of the groove.
6. Insert the tongue into the groove and tighten the fit with a pull bar. Hold the board in place with painter's tape (do not use masking tape or duct tape as they may damage the floor's finishing) until the glue is dry.

## IN-FLOOR RADIANT HEAT

Use only recommended flooring adhesive over manufacturer's recommended plywood substrate.

- Turn off the heat for 24 hours before, during, and after installation when installing over radiant-heated subfloors. Failure to turn off the heat may result in less effective adhesive.
- Floor temperature must not exceed 85°F (30°C).
- Failure to strictly follow the guideline's for manufacturer's adhesive may result in flawed installation and consequentially void the warranty.

**WARNING: Heating mats work very well under carpet, tile, and stone, however, we do not recommend having them placed directly underneath Vinyl WPC flooring. It is best to install Vinyl WPC flooring over an embedded floor heating system.**

## AFTER INSTALLATION

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed during a construction project. To fully protect the flooring while other trades are completing their portion of the construction project, doing a final cleanup and turnover with the owner, use rosin paper and 3M Scotch-blue™ 2080 tape to hold the rosin paper to the flooring (other blue tapes may damage the flooring's finishing). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. **DO NOT USE** plastic film or other non-breathable coverings as this can cause damage to the flooring from a buildup of humidity.
- Dust, mop, or vacuum your flooring to remove any dirt or debris.
- Buffing the flooring with lamb's wool pads is recommended in order to remove any loose splinters, residue, footprints, etc.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, nosing, etc).

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- Purchase a quality floor covering and provide on-going maintenance
- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed flooring using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- Avoid long periods of exposure to direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Flooring subjected to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Use appropriate pre-cautions to minimize potential effects on the floor covering.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile-oil drips onto the vinyl floor covering.
  
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the flooring.
- Use floor protectors under furniture. Furniture that is frequently being moved should be equipped with felt pads on its feet to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy-swivel, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. **DO NOT** use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- Place mats at entryways to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked onto the floor.

*WPC Flooring – Installation and Maintenance*  
*Please contact your local dealer for questions and further information*

- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. DO NOT use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off.
- DO NOT use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- A damp mop with clean water and a diluted floor cleaner should be used as needed. DO NOT use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor. DO NOT use abrasive scrubbing tools, detergents, abrasive cleaners, or “mop and shine” products.
- Vinyl flooring, like other types of smooth floors, may become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after cleaning. Immediately wipe up spills and wet areas.

***Please contact your dealer with any questions and concerns.***