Inspiring Great Spaces®

Armstrong® FLOORING

RIGID CORE VANTAGE™ INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

FLOATING AND GLUE DOWN

WARNING: EXISTING IN-PLACE RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING AND ASPHALTIC ADHESIVES. DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST, OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVE, OR OTHER ADHESIVE.

These existing in-place products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the existing in-place product is a non- asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern removal and disposal of material.

See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for instructions on removing all resilient floor covering structures or contact your retailer or Armstrong Flooring Inc. 1 800 233 3823.

The floor covering or adhesive in this package does NOT contain asbestos.

INSTALLATION:

Location: All grade levels

TOOLS:

- Tapping Block
- Pull Bar
- Rubber Mallet
- Utility Knife
- Saw (optional)
- Spacers

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Rigid Core Vantage features a one-piece drop lock system that can be installed using either floating (no adhesive required) or glue-down methods. Floating installation is typically used for residential and light commercial applications, while glue-down may be desired in commercial applications with heavy rolling loads. In either case, the planks should be installed 1/4″ away from all vertical surfaces such as walls, cabinets, pipes, etc. When installed in bathrooms, the gap should be filled and sealed with a good quality siliconized or acrylic caulk. The gap can then be covered with molding or wall base. Base cabinets should not be installed on top of the planks. Please refer to the Armstrong Flooring Commercial Application Guide for specific installation recommendations in various commercial spaces.

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL LOCKING INSTALLATION:

- Most installations will need approximately a 10% cutting allowance added to the square footage of the room.
- Proper conditioning of the job site is necessary. Flooring planks should not be exposed to sudden changes in temperature.
- Store, transport and handle the flooring planks in a manner to prevent any distortions. Distortions will not disappear over time. Store cartons flat, never on edge. Ensure that the flooring planks are lying flat at time of installation.
- Installations of carpet, metal strips and other transition moldings should not push fully into the flooring and should allow for some slight movement wherever practical.
- Protect the floor from heavy-rolling loads, other trades, and movement of appliances by using sheets of plywood or similar.

SUITABLE SUBSTRATES:

All substrates listed below must be properly prepared and meet certain requirements. There may be other exceptions and special conditions (as noted below) for these substrates to be suitable for the locking installation system.

- Concrete – dry and smooth on all grade levels
- Suspended wood subfloors with approved wood underlayments – must have minimum of 18″ well-ventilated crawl space underneath
- Suspended hardwood flooring that is fully adhered, smooth and square edge without texture
- Single-layer, fully-adhered, existing resilient floors – must not be foam-backed or cushionbacked
- Ceramic tile, Terrazzo, Marble
- Polymeric Poured (seamless) Floors
- OSB-3/4″
- Particleboard 40lb. density or wafer board

For additional information relative to installation and subfloor preparation please refer to the Subfloors and Underlayments section of the Armstrong Guaranteed Installation System manual, F-5061, or the Subfloors and Underlayments subsection of the Resilient section on www.floorexpert.com.

DO NOT INSTALL OVER:

- Existing resilient tile floors that are below grade
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring
- Carpet
- Hardwood flooring that has been installed directly over concrete
- In rooms with sloping floors or floor drains

JOB CONDITIONS/PREPARATION:

- The area to receive resilient flooring materials and adhesives should be maintained between 65°F (18°C) and 85°F (29°C) for 48 hours before installation, during installation, and 48 hours after completion. Maintain temperatures between 32°F (13°C) and 100°F (29°C) thereafter.
- Portable heaters are not recommended as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.
- All substrates must be structurally sound, dry, clean, flat, and smooth with minimal deflection. Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, other foreign matter and contaminates.
- High spots on the substrate should be leveled and low areas filled with appropriate underlayments.
- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.
- For renovation or remodel work, remove any existing adhesive residue so that 100% of the overall area of the original substrate is exposed.
- Ceramic tile floors, ceramic and marble grout joints, and irregularities in concrete should be filled and leveled using S-194 Patch, Underlayment & Embossing Leveler mixed with S-195 Underlayment Additive.
- Please refer to Subfloors and Underlayments Section found on www.floorexpert.com for details.
- Radiant heated substrates must not exceed a maximum surface temperature of 85°F (29°C).
- The subfloor panels must have a smooth, sanded face and show no swelling of edges or surface due to exposure to weather conditions or construction traffic.
- There are numerous products available for use as floor fills, patches, self-leveling underlayments, and trowelable underlayments. They include proprietary blends of compounds such as portland cement, calcium aluminates, and gypsum-based products. These are recommended by their manufacturers for smoothing rough or uneven subfloors, enhancing acoustical and fire characteristics of structures or as substrates to receive floor covering for otherwise unsuitable subfloor conditions. If the subfloor surface appears to be dusty then apply S-185 to the surface.

PROCEDURE: GLUE DOWN OPTION

ARMSTRONG S-288 FLOORING ADHESIVE

Apply S-288 adhesive to 1/2 of the area at a time so that you can start the installation along the center starting line. Begin laying planks along the center starting line and install row by row including the cut pieces at the perimeter until 1/2 of the installation is complete. Stagger the end joints by at least 6 inches (15.2 cm). Apply adhesive to the remaining portion of the room, allow the adhesive to dry to touch and complete the installation of planks in similar fashion.

Dry to Touch - Approximately 30 minutes (tacky to touch with no transfer to fingers).

Use S-891 Fine Notch Trowel (1/32″ (0.8 mm deep, 1/16″ (1.6 mm) wide and 5/64″ (2 mm) apart.)

After the planks are installed, immediately roll the entire floor with a 100 lb. roller. Use a hand roller in confined areas where the large floor roller will not reach, such as under toe kicks.

The planks may be walked on immediately; however, the floor should not be exposed to heavy rolling load traffic for 72 hours after the installation. Use pieces of hardboard or underlayment panels to protect the floor when moving heavy furniture and appliances back into the room.

SAFETY AND CLEAN UP:

Wet adhesive should be cleaned up immediately with soap and water on a clean cloth. Dried adhesive may require the use of a solvent adhesive cleaner.

INSTALLATION PREPARATION:

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

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 6″ apart. Do not install over expansion joints. Avoid installing pieces shorter than 8″ (20.32 cm).

Determine which direction the plank will run. Find the center of each of the end walls (the walls perpendicular to the long dimension of the planks and place a pencil mark on the floor. Connect these points by striking a chalk line down the center of the room. Do a dry layout of planks from the center line to the wall running parallel to the long direction of the planks to determine the width of the last row of planks (refer to Figure 1).

RIGID CORE VANTAGE™ INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

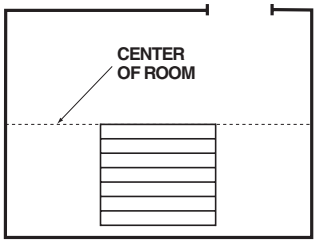


Fig. 1 – Dry layout to determine width of border plank.

Avoid having border pieces less than 3˝ (7.6 cm) wide. If you find the border planks will be less than 1/2 the width of the plank, the center starting line should be shifted a distance equal to 1/2 the plank width. This will "balance" the room and provide for a larger cut piece at the wall.

INSTALLATION:

Note: The subfloor must be thoroughly free from dust and debris. If the subfloor is dusty this may affect the product performance.

Note: Stagger end joints by 6˝. Cut pieces at the ends of rows should be 8˝ long or longer.

Position the first plank so that grooved edge is facing you. Install the product from left to right in the room. See Figure 2 for position of initial plank in the room.

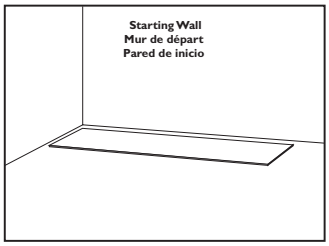


Fig. 2 – Left corner of starting wall.

Occasionally, it may be necessary to install backwards. This may be done by sliding the grooves under the tongues and working them right to left, but this is more difficult.

Install First Row:

1. Inspect each piece prior to installation for damaged planks.
2. To minimize pattern repeats, always pull from at least 3 cartons while installing.
3. Lay first row of boards with tongue side facing the wall.
4. If the starting wall is crooked, trace the contour of the wall on the first row of planks and trim as needed.
5. Use spacers along all sides that butt up against walls to maintain 1/4˝ (6.35 mm) to 1/2˝ (12.7 mm) expansion zone. Where the room is larger than 40´ (12.19 m) but less than 80´ (24.38 m) in plank length or wider than 26´ (7.92 m) but less than 52´ (15.85 m) in plank width, a minimum of 1/2˝ (12.7 mm) expansion zone is required around the perimeter of the room as well as against any fixed objects.
6. Lay pieces from left to right. Lock the end joints by aligning the end tongue with the end groove of the previous board then tapping the joints together. See Figure 3.

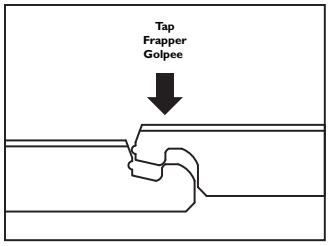


Fig. 3 – Tap end joints.

7. When measuring the last piece in the row, subtract 1/4˝ (6.35 mm) from the end of the board to maintain expansion zone.
8. Cut decorative side up if using a hand saw or decorative side down if using a power saw to minimize chipping. A utility knife may also be used.
9. If the cut-off piece from the first row is 8˝ (20.32 mm) or longer, use it to start the second row. If it is less than 8˝ (20.32 mm), cut a full board in half and use that.

Install Remaining Rows:

1. Continue laying planks, one row at a time and staggering the end joints.
2. Install the long end of the first board in the second row at an angle to the board in the first row. Press flat to subfloor to lock into place.
3. Angle the long end of the next board in the second row to lock into the first row while positioning the short end of the board over the groove from the previous board. Lock the end joints by aligning the end tongue with the end groove of the previous board then tapping the joints together.
4. Follow the order described above to continue laying the boards in the second and additional rows.
5. Use of a rubber mallet may be necessary to tighten joints.

Continue installing planks. Maintain a random appearance by offsetting the end joints by least 6 inches. Always be certain that the planks are fully engaged. If slight gapping is noticed, place a cut piece of flooring (bridge piece) in the side groove that spans the ends of two adjacent planks within a row. Then tap the side of the plank with a tapping block.

When fitting in areas such as door casings it may be necessary to use a flat pull bar to engage the lock.

Continue installing the remaining rows in similar fashion. For planks, maintain the 6˝ minimum staggered end joints between rows and for planks maintain the 1/4˝ gap at perimeter and vertical surfaces.

FINISHING THE INSTALLATION:

Replace 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 at other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a "T" molding, or similar, to cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks. Leave a small gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.

PROACTIVE PROTECTION FOR YOUR FLOOR:

- When moving appliances or heavy furniture it is always wise to lay a plywood panel, or similar, on your floor and "walk" the item across it. This protects your floor from scuffing, gouging and tears.
- Use floor protectors under furniture to reduce indentation. As a general rule of thumb, the heavier the item, the wider the floor protector needed.
- Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. We strongly recommend mats without a latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration.
- All Armstrong floor care products have been specifically developed to care for Armstrong floors.

CARING FOR YOUR FLOOR:

- Sweep or vacuum regularly, to remove loose dirt which can scratch your floor. Note: We do not recommend vacuums that have a beater bar since it can visibly damage your flooring surface. Additionally, we do not recommend electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding as use may result in discoloration and deglossing.
- Wipe up spills as soon as possible. Never use highly abrasive scrubbing tools on any resilient floor.
- Wash your floor regularly with a vinyl floor cleaner such as Armstrong Once 'n Done® Floor Cleaner.
- Do NOT use detergents, abrasive cleaners, or "mop and shine" products. These products may leave a dull film on your floor.
- Over time, if the shine on your floor begins to dull, apply Armstrong SatinKeeper® Resilient Low Gloss Floor Finish to restore the appearance of your Rigid Core Vantage™ floor. Do NOT use paste wax or solvent based polishes.
- Vinyl flooring, like other types of smooth floors, can become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after washing. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substance, or wet feet.

REPAIR PROCEDURE:

- For detailed repairs, please log on to Armstrong's www.floorexpert.com.

PLEASE SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
customerservice@armstrongflooring.com

Armstrong and the Armstrong logo are trademarks of AWI Licensing LLC. All other trademarks are owned by Armstrong Flooring, Inc. or its subsidiaries. © 2018 AFI Licensing LLC.