

Transport and Storage



Floors must be transported on flat surfaces and must be stored flat in their respective boxes. Transport should be done in small neat piles, max. 5 boxes high. Boxes should not be placed down on the short side, as this can damage the locking system. Planks should undergo a 48-hour acclimatization process prior to installation. The previous temperature must be maintained for at least 24h after installation.

Subfloor Preparation



Proper subfloor installation is an essential step in flooring installation. Any unevenness or roughness on the subfloor can be telegraphed to the new floating floor. All subfloors must be level, free of potholes and indentations, and free of marks, flatness requirement tolerance of no more than 3/16" over a 10' span, preventing the new floor from having high spots, damage to the locking system, or indentation on lower spots.

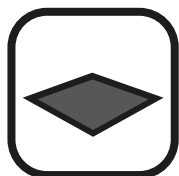
Floors can be installed on concrete, tiles, and/or wood, as long as it complies with the above-mentioned conditions; however, every subfloor must be clean, flat, dry, and stable, and all loose tiles must be removed and the space filled. In both wooden and concrete subflooring previous preparation, the floor level deviation must have a maximum of 3/16" over a 10' span. If these margins are not met, the floor must be evened out with a suitable filler or a leveling compound, and checked again after the evenness.

Tile Subfloor Preparation – Flatness Requirements.



When installing a new floor over a previous tile flooring, all tiles must be smoothed and any loose tiles must be removed and the space filled with adequate materials. joints should never be aligned with the joints from the tiles above. If the tile joints are deep, they should be pre-filled to the level of the tile. Grouts are extend to be filled when these do not exceed 6mm in width.

Concrete Subfloor Preparation



New concrete subflooring must be completely dry and the moisture part of the concrete must be less than 75 RH at min. 68°F. Max 2 % CM for cement and 0.5 % for anhydrite. Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth, and dust-free, paint, solvent, wax, oil, grease, asphalt sealing compounds, and other external materials, and a radiant heating system is acceptable, when the subfloor temperature does not exceed the 85°F at any point.

Concrete subflooring must have a moisture reading of 95% RH or less (ASTMF F2170) with a PH range between 8 and 9. A 6 Mils plastic moisture barrier or vapor barrier roll must be installed over concrete or ground floors to act as a vapor barrier and block moisture coming through the slab from underground, prior to the Coreproof floors installation. Cured concrete must be over 3000 PSI and cured gypcrete must be over 2500 PSI.

Wooden Subfloor Preparation



Wooden subflooring must be checked to prevent insect infestation. Any wood and wood composition panels should be APA-rated, approved, and intended for subfloor use. Panels should be smooth, flat, structurally sound, and free of deflection. The space where wooden subflooring is installed must be ventilated and dry.

As well as concrete subfloor installation, a moisture barrier or vapor barrier roll must be installed over wooden subflooring to prevent moisture, prior to the floors installation.

Any wooden-based subflooring must be APA rated and approved intended for subfloor use. You should use the same flatness criteria mentioned above. When installing a SPC flooring on a wood subfloor, the top plywood should be a minimum of ¾" thick. For most subfloors, you will need add an extra layer of wood.

Do not install over wood subfloors that test above 12% MC (Moisture Content).

Use wood screws, minimum of 2-1/2" lengths, fastened every 6" through the wood subfloor into the joist. Squeaks in the subfloor will not go away after the floor has been installed.

- When joists are 16" o/c or less; minimum acceptable thickness is 5/8" CDX plywood or nominal 3/4", OSB 40LB Minimum density, T&G, with a TECO or APA certification stamp.
- When joists are 16" o/c up to 19.2" o/c; minimum acceptable thickness is 3/4" plywood or nominal 3/4", OSB 40LB Minimum density, T&G, with a TECO or APA certification stamp.
- When joists are 19.2" o/c up to 24" o/c; minimum acceptable thickness is 7/8" plywood or nominal 1", OSB 40LB Minimum density, T&G, with a TECO or APA certification stamp.

Fix all squeaks coming from the wood subflooring prior to installation.

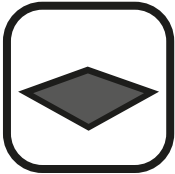
Unacceptable Substrates

Floors cannot be installed on surfaces such as carpets, cushions, or vinyl. It is worth mentioning that subflooring must be checked for moisture problems. Existing adhesive leftover must be removed and/or encapsulated. Never scrape off the adhesive leftover unless it is verified to be asbestos-free. Scrape all ridges and puddles of adhesive down to the subfloor.

Other Unacceptable Substrates

- Solid or engineered wood floors over concrete or with any texture.
- Floors that are floating, cushioned, perimeter glued, carpet, carpet pad, lumber subfloor, or subfloors that are sticky.
- ACQ treated plywood or exterior low density OSB sheathing used for general construction.

Subfloor Cooling and Heating



Floor heating is also possible, provided that the heated floor temperature does not exceed 80.6°F. A radiant heating system for concrete underlying is acceptable, provided the subfloor temperature does not exceed 84.92°F at any point. 48h before installation, underfloor heating must be switched off or lowered to 59°F. Later, the heating must be gradually increased by 4°F daily, and up to a maximum heat of 80.6°F.

For cooling the floor, the same pattern as heating must be used.

Expansion Requirements

- Leave a minimum of 1/4" expansion gap for all installations under 20' lengthwise or widthwise. For installations that exceed 20' lengthwise or widthwise, 1/16" shall be added per additional 5' of length or width, up to 5/8". For example: For 25 linear feet, 5/16" expansion gap must be required
- Transition strips/cuts are required on installations over 60 feet in length or width. Refer to radiant heat section for in-floor heat
- Never install cabinets, islands or other permanent accessories over a floating floor
- Never use nails to fasten anything to the floor. The floor must be able to float
- Allow the necessary expansion space around all walls, bathtubs/showers, plumbing fixtures, large Sub Zero refrigerators, exterior doors, etc.
- Once the floor installation is complete, remove all spacers used to hold the expansion joint

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Pre-installation

Previous flooring must be smooth, level, free of potholes and indentations, free of marks, and clean, and the planks shouldn't have any visible defects before installation. Each tongue and groove must be checked. There should be sufficient (1/4") space between the floor and all walls or any fixed objects (Kitchens, fireplaces, bathroom furniture, etc.) so that the floor can move in any direction. Expansion gap must have the same dimensions (1/4"). Additionally, the floor must be installed after these elements, as they are fixed, impede the natural process of expansion and contraction, which avoids future inconveniences with the click.

Installation

Except for the elements mentioned previously, the installation of the floor should be the last step in remodeling.

Measuring the room is vital to create a balanced layout. This helps also to acknowledge if the first row needs to be cut. The perimeter of the planks should be no less than 1/2 or 1.9" the width of the plank. After the measurement, a line shall be drawn where the first plank will be placed and one plank or tile should be placed at a time. This is the advantage of the click system; you can choose your own starting position and work in either direction.

It is important to leave an expansion gap of 1/4" around the total perimeter of the floor and around columns, pipes, thresholds, etc. This expansion gap should measure at least 0.3" and increase by 0.03" once the installed floor exceeds 314.961" (for example: if the room measures 590.5"x590.5", the expansion gap should be 15mm around the perimeter). It needs to be noted that the expansion gap can measure at most 0.59".

Work across the room, installing the long side joint of the board first, then sliding back to set the end board in place. Roll the ends to make a tight fit. It is very important to keep the first two rows straight and square, as they are the "base" for the rest of the installation, and there should be a maximum of 2000 sqft per area. Squareness and straightness should be checked regularly.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Step 1: Start the installation process from left to right. Add 1/4" wide spacers at each end and edges where planks touch the walls.

Step 2: Lock the short ends of the planks by inserting the tongues into the grooves at approximately 30 degrees angles and drop into place. Follow this same process along the installation.

Step 3: Use the remaining cut pieces to begin the next row (Repeat the process along the installation process) Note: Leave space end-joints by a minimum of 8 inches.

Step 4: Lock the long edge of each plank, by inserting the tongue at approximately a 15 degrees angle and drop into place. Next slide toward the end of the previously installed plank until the tongue fits.

Step 5: IMPORTANT! A hammer and a tapping block must be necessary to correctly tap the long edge of the plank and ensure a tight fit. Note: Tapping block should be a minimum of 10" to 12" long.

Step 6: Attach a scrap piece of floor to bridge gap between ends of planks.

Step 7: Tap the end of each plank with a hammer and a tapping block to ensure all planks are lock together. Remove the support bridge and continue with the installation process until the end of the row. Note: ENSURE TAPPING ONLY ONE EDGE OF THE VINYL SO THAT THE LOCKING PROFILE DO NOT SUFFER ANY DAMAGE.

Step 8: Use a hammer and a pull bar to lock the final plank of the row. Continue the process.

Step 9: Use hammer and a pull bar to lock long edges of planks on final row.

INSTALLING UNDER DOOR JAMBS

Step 1: Undercut door jamb to provide space to allow planks to slide in a perfect way.

Step 2: Use a hammer and a pull bar to draw in a lock short end of plank.

FINISHING

To allow the floating floor for necessary contraction and expansion, we advise against fixing any accessories to the floor. Never attach skirting boards directly to the installed floor. Permanent sealing products (silicone) to seal the gap between the floor covering and the skirting/profiles. Joints in fixed construction elements (door frames, heating pipes, etc.) should never be completely sealed with elastic mastic.

Recommended tools

- Reciprocating jigsaw or circular saw
- Cutting board
- Carpenter's square
- Tape measure
- Utility knife
- Flooring material (scrap piece)
- Relative Humidity (RH) meter in situ
- Small hand roller (seam roller)
- pH test kit



ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- We recommend staggering end joints a minimum of 12 inches for plank installation.
- Never put nails, screws, doorstops, etc. into the Floor or into the expansion zone around the perimeter of the floor as they will impede proper expansion and contraction of the structure and floor.
- Do not install four corners together as this will not offer a stable installation.

Precautions

Floors is not suitable for outdoor use and verandas/winter gardens. Ensure that the indoor temperature is always kept above 41°F and ideally between 64 and 77°F. Avoid long-lasting exposure to direct sunlight (direct meaning without a glass or window barrier). When the necessary expansion gaps are installed and the temperature is maintained within the temperature limits, floors can be installed in front of large windows. Check all planks for visible defects in optimal light conditions, both before and during installation. Planks with defects must not be used. Coreproof cannot be installed in shower areas.

Cleaning and Maintenance

First, all dirt and dust from the flooring must be removed with a brush or vacuum cleaner. Then cleaned with water and a neutral appropriate cleaning agent, at least twice and until the water stays clean. We strongly recommend using vinyl Planks cleaning products. Any other cleaning product may contain agents that damage resilient floor surfaces. The coating of the top layer makes a specific treatment after installation unnecessary. We recommend avoid cleaning with wax or wax-based products. All cleaning products used must contain a neutral Ph. level.

How to Protect the Floor During & After Installation (During Construction)

- After each section of the floor has been installed and thoroughly cleaned, cover it with a breathable construction paper. Do not apply the tape directly to the floor surface. This could damage the finish.
- During construction, vacuum the floor as often as necessary to keep it free of dirt and construction debris. Never use a beater brush.
- If dry repairs or any type of sanding is necessary, cover the floor thoroughly. This type of dust and grit can damage the floor finish and is very difficult to remove if it gets into the joints. Do not wet scrub this type of dust. If necessary, always use a brushless vacuum cleaner to remove construction dust.
- Before placing furniture on the new floor, place 3/16" thick felt pads under the legs of all furniture.
- Furniture with metal or hard plastic casters ARE NOT APPROVED for use on SPC flooring.
- Never roll or pull anything heavy on new flooring. It will cause nicks or scratches in the surface. Always use a soft wheeled dolly when moving objects or an upturned piece of carpeting or a pneumatic sled.