



PROTEX

VINYL SPC FLOORING INSTALLATION AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN
IMPROPER INSTALLATION CAN VOID THE WARRANTY

TOOLS REQUIRED

- ~ Utility Knife
- ~ Tape Measure
- ~ Straight Edge
- ~ Spacers
- ~ Tapping Block
- ~ Pull Bar
- ~ Moisture Meter
- ~ Rubber Mallet

Flooring boards already have attached, to the underside, a premium quality underlay.
DO NOT use / install additional underlay prior to laying the flooring planks.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

- ~ Carefully check each flooring board for any defects or damage. Contact your supplier immediately if any are found.
- ~ Do not install the defected/ damaged boards.
- ~ Boxes should be stored flat (NEVER ON EDGE). This is to protect the click lock system from damage and to prevent warping, no more the 5 boxes high.
- ~ It is recommended to allow boards to acclimatise on site for 24-48 hours prior to installation. Stack boxes with the ends open to allow for airflow, to assist with acclimatisation.
- ~ All existing skirtings, trims and/or mouldings along the walls and/or surfaces prior to the start of installation must be removed.
- ~ DO NOT DROP - take all necessary precautions against dropping boards and cartons, as this could cause damage to the click lock system and the board as a whole.
- ~ Prepare the substrate as indicated below:

CONCRETE SUBSTRATE

A newly laid concrete slab must cure for at least 90 days. Concrete slabs must be constructed according to local building codes and should be signed off by an engineer. The concrete slab should have a minimum compressive strength of 3500psi.

The installation of a moisture vapor barrier is essential prior to pouring of the slabs.

EXISTING FLOORS

SPC flooring boards may be installed over most existing floors; provided they are smooth in surface, hard, resilient surface without any underside cushioning.

Any existing floors must be checked prior to installation for defects and damage or unevenness i.e. curling or cracking on perimeters, seams etc. and these should be repaired.

The use of a good quality self-levelling screed should be used to smooth and fill the existing floor.

Installation should never be done over carpet, cushioned flooring types or any floating or loosely laid floor.

WARNING

Do not mechanically chip, blast, sand, scrape dry sweep, drill dry sweep or pulverise existing flooring, backing or any adhesive of the existing flooring as these products may contain asbestos fiber, or crystalline silica. Dust created from any of those products, which is inhaled can be hazardous to your health, particularly your respiratory tract. Unless positively certain that the product in non-asbestos containing material, for safety presume it does contain asbestos, until testing and confirmation from a professional is obtained.

TIMBER/WOOD SUBSTRATES

A timber subfloor must be smooth, flat, level and free from movement and deflection. If joist spacing is more than 400cm center to center; a minimum of 2,5cm total thickness of subfloor is required.

A 6.35mm underlay grade panel (i.e. plywood) should be installed over any timber subfloor if the surface isn't smooth and flat. Basements and crawl spaces should be dry and well ventilated.

Substructures and joists should have a minimum of 50cm ground clearance. Any exposed ground should be kept covered with a minimum of 8mm moisture barrier poly-ethylene and overlaps must be sealed with moisture resistant tape.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

- ~ All substrates must be dry, clean, smooth, flat, level and free from all adhesive residues.
- ~ The substrate must be level within 5mm in a 3m radius. Grind down any high spots and fill any low spots.
- ~ Fill and level any seams and cracks on plywood, concrete, grout lines embossed patterns, construction joints or control joints, grooves, depressions or any other irregularities.
- ~ Remove all dust and debris by either vacuuming and/or sweeping.

PRIOR TO STARTING

- ~ Carefully measure the area where the SPC Vinyl Flooring will be installed to determine the square meters required. Then determine the square-ness of the area.
- ~ A minimum expansion space of 8.2mm is required around the perimeter of the area/room and all vertical objects in the area.
- ~ A moisture barrier of 100 micron (minimum) should be installed over the substrate before the SPC flooring can be installed. This is essential.
- ~ Do not install damaged planks. Inspect each plank before and during installation. Obvious defects must be reported to the supplier right away.
- ~ SPC Vinyl Flooring is manufactured with a wide variation in both colour and texture to enhance the natural appearance. It is advised that alternative boards from a minimum of 5 boxes be used to blend the variations for the best natural appearance.
- ~ Due to the vast variations of each floor board, an exact match to accessory mouldings is to be expected and is not considered defective. Be aware "exact matches" is not possible.

FOR WARRANTY DETAILS OF SPECIFIC PRODUCT RANGES PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE



www.onthefloor.co.za

GENERAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Please follow the recommendations below to retain a fresh, clean look and to protect the finish of the flooring for better longevity.

Floor Cleaning

Sweep and vacuum the floor regularly to remove dirt and debris. Use a vacuum designed for hard surfaces (should the vacuum have a beater bar, this should be turned off or removed if possible).

Clean up or wipe up any spills with clean water and a damp applicator/ mop/ squeegee. Use a dry cloth/ applicator/ mop/ squeegee to remove surplus water and allow to dry.

Use cleaners recommended for vinyl flooring. Do not use polishes, waxes, abrasive cleaners or ammonia-based cleaners. The surface of the flooring board is dense and non-porous which prevents cleaners from penetrating. These can build up a residue on the surface which will accelerate the collection of dirt and debris.

When cleaning, rinse the applicator/ mop/ squeegee often in a separate bucket of clean water. A dirty applicator/ mop/ squeegee can spread dirt and debris to other areas and cause streaking/ haziness.

Remember to only use a damp applicator/ mop/ squeegee, and never an overly wet one; squeeze the surplus water out

Environmental Factors

Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. During peak sunlight hours use drapes, curtains or blinds to minimise direct sunlight onto the flooring. Most types of flooring will be affected by continuous harsh sunlight.

Excessive temperatures are also not good for SPC Vinyl flooring. Natural ventilation or intermittent air conditioning in vacant standing homes should be considered.

Long term continuous indoor temperatures of over 35°C combined with harsh direct sunlight will damage the flooring and possibly cause failure.

Should the flooring have been exposed to excessive amounts of water due to flooding, simply remove the water as quickly as possible and leave to dry making sure there is enough ventilation.

Pet Care

Dogs running through a room can scratch almost any surface. Care should be taken to reduce the risk of scratching by keeping nails clipped.

Pet water and food bowls should be placed on a mat to avoid any long term exposure to water, moisture or food debris.

Rug/Carpet Backings

It is recommended that at all entrances or doorways that lead from the exterior have a walk-off mat to help prevent the tracking in of grit, dirt, debris and sand onto the flooring.

Rugs/ loose carpets should have a natural backing (i.e. felt). Avoid rugs and carpets with abrasive backing or rubber as these can discolour and damage the surface of the flooring.

Furniture / Appliances

All furniture items should make use of non-abrasive felt or similar floor protectors under the legs/feet. Rubber, plastic or abrasive products can damage and discolour the flooring. Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Additionally, non-staining protective mats are required under rolling chairs. Castors will damage the flooring over time if conducive mats are not used.

When moving furniture or appliances use a protective Masonite sheet (3mm) under the heavy object to prevent scratching and damaging.

Shoes / Removing Scuff Marks

Certain rubber shoes can cause scuff marks which should be easily removed with a damp cloth with minimal effort.

Should scuff marks prove difficult to remove using a damp cloth, try a tennis ball or pencil eraser in a gentle rubbing action along the length of the board in the direction of the grain/ embossed detail.

Point load type shoes like high heels with improper tips/ no tips can cause indentations or damage to the surface of the flooring boards.

HEATING SYSTEMS

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

SPC Vinyl Flooring is suitable to be installed in conjunction with underfloor heating.

It is important to note that the temperature of the underfloor heating should never exceed 27°C and should be kept in a range below 27°C.

FIREPLACE

Open fire places should always be used with extreme caution and ideally a protective barrier/layer/surface should be installed a minimum of 1 meter in distance around the open fireplace prior to the start of the SPC Vinyl Flooring.

OTHER HEATING DEVICES

Caution should be taken with other heating devices such as gas heaters, oil fin heaters or electric heaters; to ensure excessive, isolated and direct heat is avoided by the use of protective surfaces under and around the heating device, in order to protect the flooring.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL NOTE REGARDING INSTALLATION & EXPANSION JOINTS

Expansion gaps must also be provided for around pipes or at thresholds or obstacles.

For rooms up to 7.6m wide and 12.2m long, allow between 8mm-12mm for expansion along each wall.

For rooms over 7.6m wide or 12.2m long, an additional expansion joint must be inserted.

Expansion joints are also required in doorways, and between adjoining rooms or areas where adjacent flooring is installed.

Use a T-molding to cover the expansion joint.

PLEASE TURN OVERLEAF FOR FULL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



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INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Begin laying the flooring boards from left to right, with the tongue-side of the board facing the starting wall.
2. Place spacers of 8.2mm minimum, around the perimeter of the area being installed and any other vertical object the flooring will run around.
Always position one spacer between every row of boards and the wall.
3. The end joints of the boards in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side of the previous board at a low angle. Gradually lower the board down flat until the end joint closes, ensuring that the boards are perfectly aligned, smooth and level.
4. If necessary, use a rubber mallet and tapping block to gently tap down the ends to firmly lock in the end joints. It is important to ensure that both butting ends of each board are perfectly aligned and level with each other, to avoid damage of the boards after installation and to prevent any tripping hazard it can cause. Use a tapping block to avoid causing any damage to the surface of the board.

DO NOT STRIKE THE BOARD DIRECTLY ON THE SURFACE WITH ANY HARD, BLUNT OR SHARP OBJECT

5. Continue installing the remaining boards in the first row.
6. The final board in the first row will most likely need to be trimmed to finish. Measure the distance between the wall and the end of the last full board, then subtract the expansion gap requirement of 8.2mm from the measurement to allow for the spacer.
If the length of this final board measures less than 20.3cm the length of the first board in the row must then be cut. This will allow for a longer board at the end of the row.

NB. THE FIRST AND LAST BOARD OF EACH ROW MUST BE AT LEAST 20.3CM IN LENGTH

7. Boards can be cut using a table saw or alternatively scored and snapped using a straight edge and utility knife. The top surface of the board must be scored a few times or once deeply, then snapped. The underlay attached to the board may need to be cut through separately.
8. The remaining off cut pieces of boards may be used as the first board for the next row provided it is a minimum of 20.3cm in length. Always stagger end joints from row to row a minimum of 20.3cm
9. Install the long side of the first board of the second row. Remember to place a spacer of 8.2mm between the wall and the short side of the board. Insert the tongue-side into the groove-side of the previous row at a low angle and lower flat to the substrate to interlock.
10. Install the second board of the second row by positioning the long side of the board with the tongue-side. Angle the end joint into the previous board. Gently angle to board up and push toward the previous board until the boards lock into the previous row.
Continue installing the remaining second row.

NB. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FIRST TWO ROWS ARE SQUARE AND STRAIGHT AS THEY CAN AFFECT THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION FURTHER

11. After installing each row use a rubber mallet and tapping block to gently tap the joints of each board into the joints of the previous row to ensure a tight fit and perfect alignment of both end and side joints.

NB. ANY GAPPING OR MISALIGNMENT WILL AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE FINAL INSTALLATION AND LONGEVITY OF THE FLOORING BOARDS.

12. The last board in each row should be cut to fit the end of the row while still maintaining the expansion gap requirement of 8.2mm at the wall.

To assist in measuring correctly follow the below instructions:

- 1) Flip the board over along the length (tongue of the short side on your left to having the groove on your left) the underside of the board facing up.
- 2) Measure the board to the size of the gap allowing for the expansion gap 8.2mm
- 3) Mark and cut the board using either method of cutting.
- 4) Flip the board back over, insert and tap into place.

13. Use a pull bar to lock in the last board of a row.

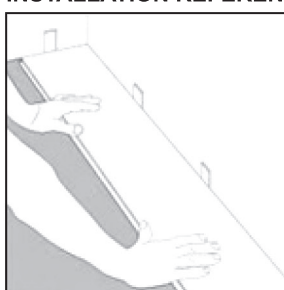
Note: Continue working from left to right and row by row, ensuring to maintain an expansion gap of 8.2mm around all walls and vertical objects. Maintain a staggered pattern ensuring the start and final board of each row is a minimum of 20.3cm from row to row.

Note: To make the room appear larger, or if installing in a very small room or passageway, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the shortest room dimension.

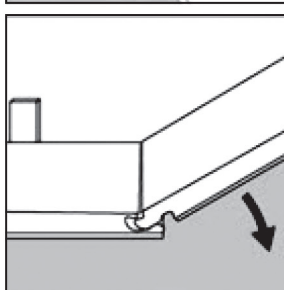
FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

- ~ After all the boards have been installed, remove all the spacers from the perimeter and vertical objects
- ~ Install all accessory/transitioning mouldings. Do not fasten any mouldings through the flooring.
- ~ Predrill and install mouldings /skirtings/ quarter rounds. Mouldings should be of a profile size large enough to cover the expansion gap of 8.2mm. Do not fasten through the floor. If drilled into the floor make sure there is still enough expansion available
- ~ Post Installation room temperature should be maintained at 18-38°C and relative humidity between 40% and 70%

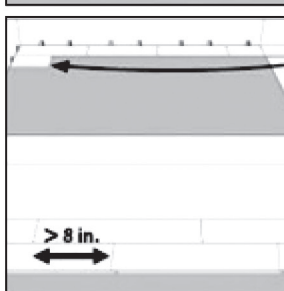
INSTALLATION REFERENCE IMAGES



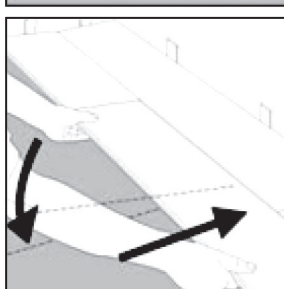
1. Begin installation working from left to right. Insert 8.2mm wide spacers at the ends and edges where the board meets a wall or vertical objects.



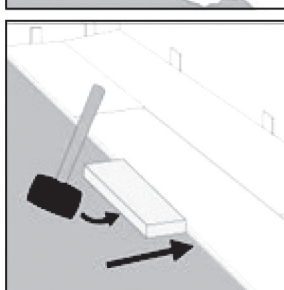
2. Lock the short end of the board by inserting the tongue-side into the groove-side at an approximate 30° angle and lower it gently into place. Continue the process along the row.



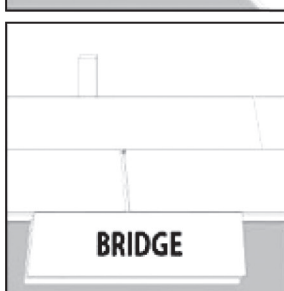
3. Use the remaining board from your cut piece to begin the next row as long as it is longer than 20.3cm (you will repeat this process throughout the installation). Note: It is recommended that you stagger the end joints a minimum of 20.3cm from the previous row.



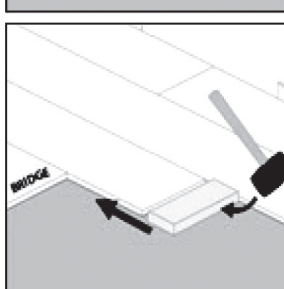
4. Lock in the boards' long edges by inserting the tongue into the groove at an approximate 15° angle and lower gently into place. Then slide the board toward the end of the previously installed plank until the tongue touches the groove of the other board.



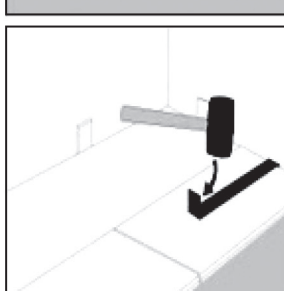
5. Use a rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the long edge of the board to ensure a tight fit.
Note: The tapping block should be a minimum of 25-30cm in length.
NB: ANY GAPPING WILL COMPROMISE THE LOCKING SYSTEM.



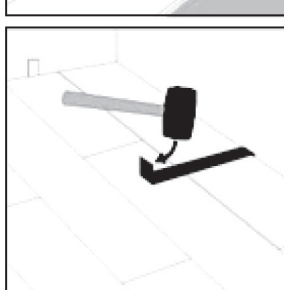
6. Use a spare off-cut piece of board as a bridge to assist with interlocking the butt joints of two boards.



7. Tap the end of the board with a mallet and tapping block to lock the ends of the boards together. Remove the supporting bridge board and continue this method until the row is completed.
NB: ONLY TAP THE EDGE OF THE VINYL DO NOT TAP AND DAMAGE THE LOCKING PROFILE

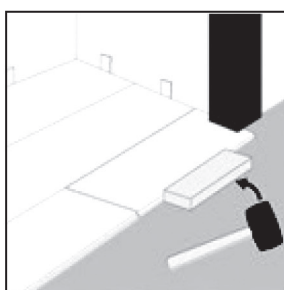


8. Use a mallet and pull bar to lock the final board of the row in place.

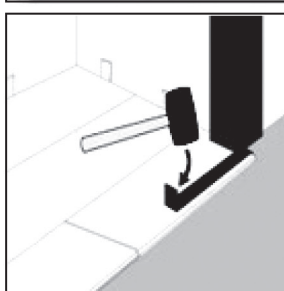


9. Use a mallet and pull bar to lock the long edges of the boards of the final row.

INSTALLATION UNDER DOOR JAMBS/FRAMES



1. Undercut the door jamb/frame to the height of the flooring board to allow the board to slide freely under. Tap along the edge with a mallet and tapping block to lock along the long edge.



2. Use a mallet and pull bar to draw in and lock the short edge of the board into the previous board.