

## BEFORE INSTALLATION

- **Material**
  - Check all material for the correct color, design, and size.
  - Check all material to ensure the correct quantity is available to complete the job.
  - Complaints in regards to visible defects will not be accepted once the flooring is installed.
  - All material should be acclimated to the installed environment.
    - Remove all boxes from pallets and separate from one another.
    - Store in a dry environment, placed on a flat, level surface.
    - Stack squarely, no more than 10 cartons high.
    - Do not store or turn on edges.
- **Jobsite**
  - Maintain all flooring material between 65°F (19°C) and 85°F (30°C) for at least 48 hours before, during and after installation.
  - The minimum temperature of the subfloor should not be under 50°F.
  - The relative humidity inside the room should be between 35% and 50%.
    - Fully functional HVAC systems are the best way to ensure temperature and humidity control.
  - To ensure proper conditioning, all flooring must be stored flat and kept away from direct sunlight, heaters or air vents.
- **Sub-Floors**
  - For a successful installation, proper preparation of the subfloor is necessary.
  - The finished appearance and performance of the flooring will be determined and affected, partially, by the condition of the sub-floor.
  - Sub-floor should be rigid, finished smoothly, flat, level, clean and dust free.
    - Adequate attention to this detail will prevent ridging and tunneling, bumps caused from dirt or other textures, discoloration from residual adhesives, nails or other fastening devices and/or improperly used underlayment panels, alkali deposits, mold and mildew.
- **Underlayment**
  - If the sub-floor is uneven, an underlayment may be installed.

- **INSTALLATION**

- Install the planks parallel to the longest wall with the tongue profile parallel to the wall.
- Starting installation of the product must be from the left side of the room. If working in front of the boards, work to the right.
- To start the first row, check the groove on the plank to ensure it is clean and free of debris. Press the end seam of the second plank into the end seam of the first plank and lock them together by laying the plank down. Complete the entire first row in the same manner, maintaining an expansion gap of approximately 1/4" from the wall.
- Also make sure a distance of 5mm to all fixed objects in the room, ex. pipe passageways, door frames, etc. The maximum area that can be installed without an expansion joint is 30' x 65'. A section length of approximately longer than 40' should have an expansion joint installed. If the temperature is higher while using than the temperature when installing, apply a little smaller area and shorter length than usual for the standard expansion joint.
- The first plank of the second row should be installed by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. This is the optimum way with a low angle of the plank. Install the second plank in the second row by aligning the end seam of the plank directly above the end seam of the preceding plank. Insert the long side seam at a slight angle first and as the top surfaces meet, rotate the plank down into the locked position.
- The planks should be staggered in a brick-laid pattern. Stagger equal to half of a plank.
- Work across the length of the room installing planks along the wall in the first row and then aligning the planks in the second row. It is crucial to keep these two rows straight and square. These rows are the 'foundation' for the rest of the installation. Check the squareness and straightness often.
- Cut the last plank in the second row and leave an expansion gap of around 1/4" to 5/16". Planks may be cut with a utility knife using the 'score and snap' technique. The balance of this plank may be used to start the third row if it's a minimum of 5" in length.
- Continue to install the planks, making sure to achieve a random appearance with end pieces of minimum 5". Check that all planks are fully engaged; if a slight gap is found, tap together using a tapping block and a scrap of flooring to cover the tapping block. This will prevent damages to the planks.
- When fitting under door casings, etc, a flat bar may be used to assist in locking the planks. If needed, remove the locking profile on the groove in order to slide the plank into place and apply seam sealer or equivalent to the edges to glue planks together.
- When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, the plank can be cut using a utility knife with a sharp blade. It is beneficial to make a cardboard template of the area and transfer this pattern to the plank.
- Protect all exposed edges of the planks by installing wall molding and/or transition strips. No plank should be secured in any way to the sub floor.
- Protect the plank installation from exposure to direct sunlight.
- Installation in wet areas, such as bathrooms, use caulk at the perimeter of the floor with a silicone caulk.
- If spacers were used for the expansion gap from wall, please remove and install molding pieces.

- **POST INSTALLATION**

- Use walk-off mats without rubber backing to control grit.
- Use furniture glides and protectors to prevent scratching and indentations.
- Rolling chairs should have castors designed for resilient flooring.
- Do not wet-wash or scrub the floor for a minimum of 7 days following installation.
- If installed with under-floor heating, the heating must be switched off for 48 hours before and after installation (the maximum permitted surface temperature is 80°F (27°C). Once the floor has been installed and allowed to acclimate for 24 hours, the underfloor heating must be gradually increased by increments of 5°F until it reaches the maximum operating temperature of 80°F (27°C) over a period of at least 24 hours.

- **CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE**

- Always protect the floors when moving heavy objects to prevent permanent scratches and tears.
- Use appropriate wide floor protectors under tables, chairs and any heavy furnishing to avoid permanent damage.
- Place walk off mats, without rubber backing at all entrances. This helps in protecting the floor from water, grease, sand and dust.
- During peak sunlight hours, the use of blinds or curtains is recommended. Prolonged direct sunlight can result in discoloration and volatile temperature variations can cause damage to the floor.
- Do not allow solvent into the seams, as this may cause damage or become moldy.
- Routine cleaning is important to prevent particles from abrading the surface of resilient floors.
- Clean the floor surface regularly.
  - Use a dry cloth or vacuum cleaner for general cleaning.
  - When wet wiping with water or any cleaning liquid, squeeze out all water before wiping surface.
  - A polyurethane cleaner can be used for heavy soiling.
  - All stain-forming and aggressive substances must be removed immediately.
- The installed floor should be maintained at a temperature of 55°F and 86°F throughout its service life.