



## **INSTALLATION GUIDELINES**

### **Product Information - PLEASE READ BEFORE INSTALLATION!**

#### **Storage and Handling:**

- MBA WPC must be acclimatized prior to installation. Store flat and fully supported during shipping and storage. Do not store or stack the boxes sideways or on the edge, this will compromise the locking system
- Remove material from packaging, spread out if possible and allow to acclimate in the room where installation is to take place at a constant temperature of 65°F to 85°F (18° to 29°C) for a period of 24 hours prior to installation.
- Remove flooring from your vehicle immediately after transporting it to the job site

#### **Installer Responsibilities:**

- Inspect MBA WPC for possible defects prior the installation. Complaints can only be accepted before installation. Slight variations in color and texture are designed to enhance the finished product. Mixing the planks creates a more natural appearance. MBA WPC replicates the look of natural products, showing natural variation in color, texture, and gloss. For optimal visual effect, mix planks or tiles by working from several cartons. Blend tiles into the installation, avoiding the placement of similar decors next to one another.
- Ensure you have the correct quantity on hand
- DO NOT install damaged flooring
- Be aware that when exposed to excessive temperatures and direct sunlight the WPC may expand and contract causing problems with the locking system using a floating installation. Window coverings should be installed to avoid prolonged sunlight exposure. Please consider sun/heat exposure when deciding if the product will require a glue down installation.
- If the MBA WPC is being installed in facilities where walkers, wheel chairs are present, or in facilities with movement of heavy displays, racks, dentist chairs patient beds, etc. These types of installations may exert extreme stress and compromise the locking system. Therefore, it is recommended that these installations be glued down. Please consult your WPC representative for more information.
- Determine if there is a need for noise reduction. Many residential applications like condos and senior living facilities require noise suppression between floors. MBA WPC recommends using an approved acoustic underlay for the WPC where there is a need for noise reduction between floors.
- Ensure the jobsite is ready for installation prior to install. Check for signs of moisture or alkalinity and anything else that may prevent a proper installation
- Do not begin preparation or installation of flooring before other trades have completed their work
- All areas should be fully enclosed, weather tight with permanent HVAC in working operation

#### **Different production runs:**

- MBA WPC floors can have slight color variations in between production runs. Before starting the installation, it is best to check the production run # which is indicated on the label on the box. If you find that you have boxes from different production runs, it is highly recommended that you open cartons and install a mix of planks from each different production run on you floor. This will result in a more natural looking floor.



## SITE PREPARATION

### **Subfloors:**

- Although the MBA WPC is water-resistant, it is not to be used as a moisture barrier. Your subfloor should be completely dry prior to installation of the vinyl floor.
- Subfloors must be structurally sound, solid, stable, level, plumb and true to a tolerance in plane of 3/16" in 10 feet (6mm in 4m). Cracks and holes must be filled with a fast setting cement-based polymer modified patching compound or equivalent. Any unevenness over 3/16" (4.7mm) must be sanded down or leveled. The surface must be clean or dirt, oil, glue residue etc. Carpet staples or adhesive residue should be removed prior to installation. Voids or humps in the subfloor will prevent the tiles from locking properly.

### **Concrete:**

- It is essential to perform moisture testing per ASTM F2170 (internal relative humidity) on all concrete floors. Results are not to exceed <92% IRH for loose lay click tiles and to be less than <85% percent when the tiles are to be glued down in place. pH testing must be performed per ASTM F710, results not to exceed 9.9
- Concrete shall be constructed per the guidelines contained in the ACI (American Concrete Institute) 302.2R-06: Guide for Concrete Slabs that Receive Moisture-Sensitive Flooring Materials

### **Wood:**

- Subfloor must be clean, dry, level and firm
- Must be structurally sound with minimal movement and deflection. Minimum allowable thickness is 5/8" with 16" on center floor joists.
- Moisture content should not exceed 13%.
- Wood subfloors over a crawlspace must have a minimum of 18" of ventilated air space below. Crawlspace floors must be covered with a suitable vapor barrier.
- Wood underlayment can be used that is clean and dry with a minimum thickness of 1/4" (6.35mm) and a moisture content not exceeding 13%

### **Other Substrates:**

- MBA WPC can be installed on existing firm floors (Linoleum, PVC...), but all textile floors must be removed. When laying the floor over existing ceramic tiles first level with a fast setting cement-based polymer modified patching compound.

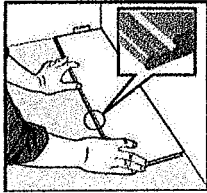
### **IMPORTANT:**

Neither the manufacturer, distributor, or dealer is responsible for any floor installation failures associated with unaddressed site conditions such as, but not limited to: vapor transmission, moisture permeation, improper PH levels, and contaminated concrete or damaged subfloors. MBA WPC is waterproof, but is not a vapor barrier. MBA WPC is not warranted against damage caused by standing water. The ultimate responsibility for subfloor acceptability and compatibility resides with the architect, designer, contractor and installer. Note that tests done prior to installation of flooring do not guarantee the long-term performance of the substrate. Avoid long term exposure to moisture by installing proper vapor barriers, and channeling water away from building.

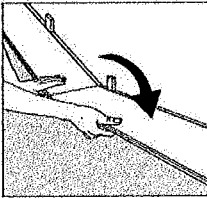
### **Measurements:**

- It is recommended for a floating floor to install the WPC at a 90° angle to the floor joists.
- Pre-plan the floor by measuring the room first. If the width of the last row is less than 2 inches (5cm) lay out the room to achieve that the first and the last planks are equal in width.
- Snap lines on the substrate to identify the layout reference points, tiles should be set using this reference to ensure planks are aligned and will lock together correctly
- In large areas where flooring will span an excess of 40' long, an expansion gap should be used. Otherwise place expansion space in and under the door thresholds. Cover the expansion space with suitable coverings.
- Do not tight fit the planks to door casings, walls or other abutments. Undercut door casings for the planks to fit underneath and leave a minimum 5/16" inch space at all other abutments that cannot be undercut or placed on top of the planks

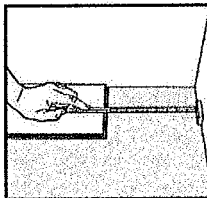
## INSTALLATION



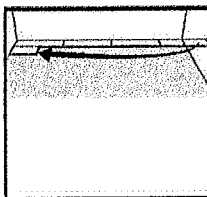
1. From the top, left corner of the room put the first plank in place so both the head and side seam grooves are exposed. Planks are to be installed from left to right.



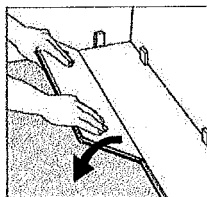
2. Install the second piece in the first row by laying the short-end tongue onto the previously installed piece short-end groove. Fasten the piece together by firmly pressing down with your thumb along the seam to lock the planks together. This will engage the 5G locking clip into the piece you just placed; you will hear and feel the pieces lock together as the locking tab engages in the joint. Use of a soft, white No. 2 rubber mallet is also recommended to vertically engage the joint.



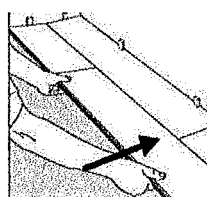
3. Continue in this manner for the rest of the first row. The last piece in the row should be cut to length while maintaining the 5/16" (8mm) expansion space along the perimeter of the room.



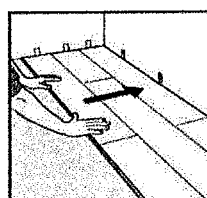
4. Cut a piece in half of the lengths to start the second row or use the cutoff from the previous row, keeping in mind the length requirements above. Install the first piece in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the piece in the first row at a low angle (25°) to the installed piece. Then firmly lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure toward the installed piece. The pieces should fit snugly together and lay flat. Ensure that expansion space is kept along this wall.



5. To install the remaining planks in the second row, first align the long edge tongue into the groove of the previous row at a shallow angle. Slide the piece to the left until the piece meets the previously installed piece.



6. Firmly lower the piece while maintaining a slight pressure towards the installed piece. The pieces should fit snugly together and lay flat.



7. Work across the length of the room installing pieces in the second row. It is critical to keep these first two rows straight and square, as they are the "foundation" for the rest of the installation. Check often for squareness and straightness while installing the floor.

8. Use of several 5/16" (8mm) spacer blocks along the first wall will ensure the proper spacing is achieved and that floor does not 'walk' back towards the wall during installation.

9. Continue installing flooring, being certain to maintain a random appearance (planks) or the pattern and offset end seams by at least 6". Maintain a 5/16" (8mm) expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces. Check to be certain all planks are fully engaged; if slight gapping is noticed or the pieces will not lay flat, simply disengage the long/top side joint and then carefully slide the short/end joint apart.

10. Install wall moldings and door transition moldings last. Be sure that all moldings are fastened directly to the wall studs or directly into the flooring; do not place any fasteners through the floating vinyl flooring!

**Note:** The 5G drop lock joints cannot be "lifted" or angled apart when removing or re-position a plank. To remove a plank, first disengage the long joint by lifting at a slight angle while pulling the complete rows away from each other. Then simply "slide" the drop joint apart along the floor. Failure to slide this joint will damage the drop lock mechanism and prevent proper re-installation of the affected plank.



### **Installation over radiant heated subfloors**

- MBA WPC can also be installed on a radiant heated subfloor. Please consult your MBA WPC representative for technical information if you have any questions.

### **Installation in direct sunlight of heavy load areas:**

- For application in direct sunlight or exposure to excessive heat or in areas with heavy rolling traffic i.e. Dentists chairs, wheelchairs or dollies it is recommended to glue the MBA WPC down permanently into place in these areas.

### **Adhesives (for direct sunlight/heavy load areas):**

- A one-part acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive is the recommended adhesive.
- Do not install over concrete floors that are excessively cold or have a radiant heat system with temperatures that exceed 85°F(29°C). Radiant heating should be turned off 12 hours before commencing installation.
- The trowel size to be used is a U notch trowel of 1/32" inch deep notch, by 1/16" wide notch by 1/32" apart spacing between notches (Gundlach 680 -FFA trowel)
- MBA WPC adhesive must achieve a 95% or greater transfer of the adhesive to the back of the tile.
- Set planks according to installation instructions and diagrams
- Roll with a 100lb roller

### **After Installation:**

- In bathrooms or other areas where moisture could reach the subfloor by migrating to the perimeter of the installation: caulk around the perimeter of the installation with silicone (or equivalent) caulking. Be careful to not caulk above the flooring height as it may impede the installation of wall base.
- Install specified transition strips where applicable.
- Never slide appliances or other heavy items across the floor. Use plywood and a hand dolly or an approved air-ride moving device.
- To control grit, use walk-off mats with backings that will not stain the floor.
- Use furniture glides and protectors to prevent scratching and indentations.
- Read and understand all maintenance and warranty information

## **WARRANTY**

### **10 Year Commercial Warranty/Lifetime Residential Warranty:**

- Our limited commercial warranty for MBA WPC means that for ten years (commercial) or lifetime (residential), from the date of purchase, your floor will be free from manufacturing defects and will not wear through when installed and maintained according to these instructions. This guarantee applies only to the original end user and proof of purchase is required for all claims. The guarantee is for replacement or refund of the material only, no labor. Claims for wear must show a minimum dime size area.
- High-heeled shoes, rolling carts, furniture and chairs without protective pads can damage the floor and are not covered by this warranty.
- Gloss reduction is not considered surface wear-through. Gloss changes are not considered surface wear. Excessive wear along the edges and bevels of individual boards (within 1/8" or 3mm of the edge of the panel) is not covered by this warranty. Scratches, indentations, marks, stains or other damage caused by negligent or accidental exposure to pebbles, grit, sand or other abrasives, pets, insects, high heeled or cleated shoes, fire, product spills, excessive moisture, heat or dryness are not considered normal wear and tear and are not covered by the warranty.
- The warranty form can be downloaded from our website



## **MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS**

### **INITIAL CLEANING**

- Remove all traces of adhesive from the floor and dry vacuum to remove all dust and loose debris. Then, using a damp mop diluted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, wipe with a neutral cleanser. After 5-10 minutes, all dirt and residue of the cleaning agent should be removed; the floor should be rinsed with a damp mop and allowed to dry. Do not machine scrub or strip glued-down LVT for at least 4 days after installation. This can cause the flooring to release from the substrate. Always remove excess water to avoid slip and fall hazards, and to prevent excess moisture from interfering with the adhesive bond.

### **PREVENTIVE MEASURES**

- The easiest way to reduce maintenance costs is to reduce the amount of dirt, grit and moisture brought into a building with an effective barrier mat. Mats should be cleaned regularly. The use of either rubber-backed mats or coco-fiber mats is not recommended as they are known to cause yellow stains in vinyl floors.
- Never slide heavy furniture or appliances over an unprotected floor. Severe scratching may result. Move heavy furniture or appliances over the flooring using casters or dollies. The manufacture recommends that felt pads are use on any furniture that is placed on the floor. The flooring should be protected with 1/4" or thicker plywood, hardboard or other underlayment panels. If other on-site trade work continues after installation of flooring, consider using a protective covering such as plain, undyed Kraft paper to guard against damage to the new floor.
- Clean the floorcovering regularly, as this is more cost-effective and hygienic than occasional heavy-duty cleaning.

### **SPOT PROTECTION AND REMOVAL:**

1. Wipe immediately with a paper towel or cloth.
2. Spots, which have already dried, might be removed using a plastic scraper.
3. The area should be washed with diluted cleaning agent, using a damp cloth or sponge.
4. Difficult spots might be removed with a firm nylon sponge.
5. Should the spot still remain, moisten a cloth with clear odorless mineral spirits and rub with circular movements over the whole area. Always test in an inconspicuous area to check for compatibility of the mineral spirits and flooring

#### **The following substances can cause discoloration:**

- Tar • Lipstick • Coco-Fiber Mats
- Nail Polish • Solvent-based paints • Asphalt
- Shoe Polish • Rubber Mats • Permanent Markers

**NOTE:** Most domestic cleaning agents will not harm the floor, however all residue of cleaning agents should be removed to avoid discoloration. We recommend the top temperature should not exceed 85°F (29°C). As such, steam cleaners are not recommended.

### **BASIC TIPS ON CARE:**

1. Regular light maintenance is more cost effective and beneficial than periodic heavy maintenance.
2. Do not use soap-based detergents, caustic cleaners or abrasive cleaners.
3. Sweep, mop or dry vacuum the floor regularly.
4. Always use clean equipment – dirty equipment only redistributes the dirt.
5. Do not mix cleaning products from different manufacturers – they may not be compatible.
6. Furniture polish and window cleaning sprays should be directly applied to a cloth to avoid spillage onto the floor.
7. Always remove any spills immediately.
8. Always remove excess water.
9. Always take precautions to prevent dark rubber from coming into contact with the floor.
10. Always use the manufacturer's recommended dilution rates.
11. Wet floors are slippery; always use warning signs to advise that cleaning is in progress.