



RIGID CORE FLOORING INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide a detailed and systematic description of the specific methods and procedures to be followed during the Rigid core flooring installation process.

TOOLS & MATERIALS

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| 1. Double sided mallet. | 2. Spirit level |
| 3. Tapping block | 4. Chalk line reel |
| 5. Utility knife | 6. Carpenter square |
| 7. Vinyl plank cutter (if available) | 8. Knee pads |
| 9. Pencil and scale to mark | 10. Polyurethane sheet (If applicable for water proofing) |
| 11. Measuring tape | 12. Quarter Inch spacers |
| 13. Pull bar | 14. Hand gloves |

PRE INSTALLATION CHECKS

- Store material at least 300mm above ground in a dry, temperature-controlled environment. This elevation is essential to prevent moisture absorption, while a dry and stable temperature setting protects against material damage from flooding, water exposure, or extreme temperatures.
- Avoid direct sunlight exposure and refrain from stacking heavy objects on top of the planks. Prolonged UV exposure can lead to discoloration and material deterioration, while heavy weights can cause deformation, compromising the planks' integrity and suitability for installation.
- In a newly constructed building it is necessary to dry the flooring surface for 7 to 14 days prior to application.
- All workmen must wear PPE, including safety helmets, hand gloves, nose masks, gumboots/safety shoes, safety glasses, reflective jackets, and face shields, as applicable.
- Prior to commencing plank installation, conduct a thorough inspection of the flooring area and prepare the Handover-Takeover (HOTO) documents to be signed by the respective personnel. Ensure that there is a proper approach to the work spot, adequate illumination in the work area, and confirm with the engineer the availability of a relevant risk assessment before beginning any formwork activity
- Ensure that the subfloor is clean, dry, and level. Use a spirit level to measure any deflection and confirm that the subfloor is within a level tolerance of 1/8" over a 10 ft span. The subfloor should not have upward or downward slopes exceeding 1/8" per 10 ft. If there is any slope, level the floor using a concrete subfloor leveler or a concrete grinder to achieve the required flatness.

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- As per ASTM standard F710, maintain the moisture content of the subfloor at 3 lb/1000 sq ft and relative humidity at 75% from at least 48 hours before starting the installation.
- The pH of the sub floor must be between 7.0-10.0 to avoid alkaline damage.
- The temperature of the room must be maintained b/w 65 to 85° F, for at least 48 hours prior to the installation.
- Acclimate the boxes in the installation environment for 48 hours with a recommended temperature of 65-85° F. Do not immediately transfer the material from a very cold storage to hot temperature. Instead, gradually increase the temperature in the room.
- To prevent moisture & humidity issues we suggest adding a six mil polyethylene layer or any moisture vapor barrier paint on top of the subfloor. If the Moisture vapor barrier is used, testing for moisture content on the subfloor is not required.
- In the absence of a vapor barrier moisture and pH tests are required to ensure concrete substrates are suitable for the installation per ASTM standard F710.
- Confirm the laying pattern of either front to back or side to side from the entry starting point.

INSTALLATION

- When installing, for the best results it is advisable to sort through multiple boxes and separate each pattern. This benefits your installation results giving the control of the patterns for a more organic look.
- Place the quarter inch spacers throughout the perimeter of the wall for the expansion gap.
- Begin placing the planks on the first row by interlocking them. Make sure the groove sides of the first row are facing you.
- Ensure the width of first & last rows are atleast of half of the width of the plank and the first & last planks in a row is atleast of 12” in length. See that the joints are atleast 7” apart.
- Lay the second row of planks interlocking to the side planks along with the first row.

Watch the video to understand Uniclic locking system - [Uniclic Installation](#)

Watch the video to understand i4F locking system - [i4F Installation](#)

- If properly laid, these should be the same height. Make sure they're both precisely aligned. Continue the same procedure for the further rows.
- Make sure to leave a quarter inch of gap between the last plank and wall by placing the spacers.
- If both boards are not the same height or are not correctly secured together, remove the board(s) to check for dirt obscuring the lock and grooves. Attempting to press the boards together if the end joints are not correctly inline can permanently destroy the end joints.

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- Use pencil and carpenter square to mark the planks for cutting. Use a utility knife or a vinyl plank cutter to cut the planks. Ensure to cut on both sides for a precise & cleaner break.
- Using a string line/ spirit level, check for straightness after installing 2 or 3 rows. Unevenness in the starting wall could cause the planks not to run straight. To accommodate this, the first row may need to be re-trimmed.
- If any alterations required in the fixed planks, unlock them gently as prescribed and pull them out. Do not handle it roughly which may lead to breaking of the lock.
- For the final row, measure the remaining width at multiple points to understand any differences. Cut the planks per the sizes required. And press them to lock using a pull bar. Ensure to leave a quarter inch expansion gap between the wall and last row.
- If any transition is needed b/w the rooms at the doors, it is advisable to use T-molding over there, which will act as both transition and expansion joints.
- If applicable, install the skirting / end cap as suggested, to cover the expansion gaps.

POST INSTALLATION

- Inspect your work before you leave, as it will cost you extra if you have to return later to make repairs.
- Clean up the floor, leaving no dust, debris, or any unwanted material on the floor.
- Check with the spirit level/ digital level gauge and make sure the floor is level to an 1/8 inch precision.
- Check if any gaps are present b/w the planks. Not more than 0.1mm gap is allowed b/w the planks.
- Remove the spacers used for the expansion joints.
- If the base board is installed before the SPC installation, accessories like quarter round nose, end caps shall be used to cover the space left for the expansion gap.
- Maintain the temperature, RH, and moisture content as per the standard for at least 72 hours post installation.