



## INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS - VINYL PLANK FLOORING

Before you begin installation, please read all instructions and notes carefully. All instructions and recommendations should be followed for a successful installation and warranty coverage.

Samples are designed to be a representation of the actual product. Samples under varying light sources including sunlight and room lighting may result in a difference of appearance of the flooring under each condition. We always recommend ordering a sample and assessing it in the space of intended use by laying the sample flat on the floor under various light settings.

Inspect all material carefully for color, finish, sheen and defects PRIOR to installation. Material with visible defects found after installation are not covered under warranty. Installation implies acceptance of the quality, dimensions, and appearance of the flooring. If you are not satisfied with your flooring, please contact our customer support team and do not install until concerns have been addressed and you are satisfied with your flooring.

### **IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:**

- This flooring is intended for indoor use only.
- Because your flooring has been stored in a warehouse and potentially shipped in a semi-trailer truck, we recommend a 48-hour acclimation period for both residential and commercial installation to allow the floor to sit and be brought up to normal living conditions. Normal living conditions include indoor temperature of 65-80°F and relative humidity of 35-55%.
- SPC Rigid Core Vinyl Plank and WPC Vinyl Plank flooring can be heavier than expected. Always use proper lifting techniques with handling. Whenever possible, use material handling equipment and/or have assistance from shipping and handling professionals.
- Store product boxes flat and ensure they are fully supported during any handling and storage. Stack no more than 8 cartons high and keep the boxes away from direct sunlight. Rough handling can cause damage to the flooring prior to installation.
- Flooring should always be the final step in a renovation project. No other trade work should be occurring at the time of flooring installation. Doing so may affect interior conditions.
- Use of a 6 mil (0.15mm) polyethylene vapor / moisture barrier with a perm rating of 0.1 or less is required. While vinyl plank flooring is waterproof, it is not meant to act as a moisture barrier for the home. Excessive moisture with any type of subfloor could promote mold, mildew, trapping of moisture emissions under the flooring and cause flooring failure.
- Use of additional underlayment when vinyl plank is constructed with pre-attached underlayment may affect the stability of the flooring and is not recommended.
- Use of tape or adhesive products of any kind on the surface of the flooring may discolor and/or damage its finish.
- Avoid direct sunlight exposure to minimize the effects of fading of the flooring. Prolonged UV exposure will likely have a uniform fading effect on building materials.

## MONTSERRAT INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS - VINYL PLANK FLOORING

For more information or questions about this product, please contact your Montserrat Floors dealer.

- Door jambs are recommended to be undercut to the thickness of the flooring.
- Do not screw or nail cabinetry or other permanent fixtures to the flooring.
- Leave a ¼” expansion gap between flooring planks and all surrounding walls and neighboring floors for areas under 2500 sf. Leave a ½” expansion gap between flooring planks and all surrounding walls and neighboring floors for areas *over* 2500 sf.
- Areas over 80’ long or 80’ wide require transition pieces.
- Do not nail or screw anything through floated floors. Wall moldings and transition accessories cannot be fastened to the planks.
- Lay out the flooring, mixing boards from 2-3 boxes to minimize color and pattern repetition PRIOR to installation.

### **JOBSITE / SUBFLOOR INSPECTION AND PREPARATION**

All installation areas must have a working heater & air conditioner to provide normal living conditions beginning at least 48 hours prior to installation and throughout the duration of flooring’s lifespan. Normal living conditions include indoor temperature of 65-80°F and relative humidity of 35-55%.

Only install flooring after the jobsite has been thoroughly cleaned and subfloor completely dry and flat to avoid damage during installation. All subfloors must be dry, clean (swept of any debris), structurally sound and level within 3/16" per 10-foot radius.

Acceptable subfloor types include concrete, wood, and most other existing hard-surface floor coverings that are fully adhered, flat, dry, structurally sound, and free of deflection.

It is critical to test for moisture and record measurements at the time of installation. Note that measurements indicate conditions at the time of testing and moisture will always react relative to its environment. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure these moisture tests have been conducted and that results are acceptable PRIOR to installation.

This flooring has been designed to float over an existing floor without glue or adhesive, and can be installed on, above, or below grade level. It is the sole responsibility of the installer or homeowner to determine whether the jobsite and subfloor conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for vinyl plank installation. Over time, poorly prepared subfloors will result in performance issues with the flooring installed on top. Montserrat Floors does not assume responsibility for vinyl floor failure due to ill-suited or ill-prepared subfloor, subsurface, or other jobsite damages or deficiencies.

- A. Wood Subfloors – ensure the wood subfloor is flat, dry and sound. Material cannot be installed over sleeper construction subfloors or wood subfloors placed directly over concrete.
  - Wood subfloors must be suspended a minimum of 18" above ground and maintain perimeter vent spacing at 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space to ensure proper ventilation.
  - If the subfloor is not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland cement-based leveling compound.
  - Basements and crawl spaces must remain dry. Cover 100% of the crawl space earth with 6 mil (0.15mm) polyethylene vapor / moisture barrier with a perm rating of 0.1 or less.

B. Concrete Subfloors – ensure the concrete subfloor is hard, dense, and free from powder or flaking.

- New concrete subfloors must be fully cured for a minimum of 60 days. It is the final responsibility of the installer to determine if the subfloor is cured and dried. Moisture emissions should not exceed 5.0 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. for 24 hours and should not exceed relative humidity of 85%.
- If the subfloor is not level, grind down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland cement-based leveling compound.
- A ground cover of a minimum of 6 mil (0.15mm) polyethylene vapor / moisture barrier with a perm rating of 0.1 or less is required as a vapor and moisture barrier.

C. Existing Floor Coverings – other existing hard-surface flooring such as ceramic tile, resilient tile, sheet vinyl, etc., must be checked to see if the existing floor is well bonded and level to the subfloor.

- Apply cement based leveling compound to level out uneven areas.
- Heavily cushioned vinyl flooring or vinyl flooring consisting of multiple layers are not suitable subfloors for installation.
- Do not sand existing vinyl as it may contain asbestos. Take proper precaution and contact an asbestos abatement company to remove old vinyl.

### **RADIANT HEAT SYSTEMS**

SPC Rigid Core Vinyl Plank flooring is compatible with a concrete subfloor with an in-floor (embedded) radiant heating system. The heating system must be 1 ½" below the surface layer of the concrete slab. Prior to flooring installation, the heating system must be operated at normal living temperatures for 14 days. Additionally, for 24 hours before, during, and after installation, the heating unit must be turned off. Radiant Heat systems must have failsafe capabilities to ensure surface temperatures do not exceed 80°F.

Note: Use of electric heating mats and other heating units directly underneath vinyl plank flooring will void the warranty.

### **TOOLS REQUIRED**

- Miter Saw or Power Saw
- Tape Measure
- ¼" Spacers
- Rubber Mallet
- Pencil
- Straight Edge

### **INSTALLATION GUIDELINES**

Decide which direction to lay the flooring. Measure the width and length of the room and calculate plank width of the last row. We recommend having the plank width at least 2.5 inches wide.

Run lengths in excess of 80' require expansion breaks.

1. Using spacers, leave a ¼" expansion gap between walls and edges of the flooring.

2. Installing the first row:

From left to right, with the tongue-side facing the longest wall in the room, place the first board. Note that if the first row does not need to be trimmed in width, cut off the “tongue” so a solid straight edge is placed along the wall. Align and angle the second board to place the end joint tongue into the end joint groove of the first board and connect the two into place. To ensure a secure fit, gently tap the joint with a rubber mallet in a downward angled motion towards the adjoining board. Continue installing additional boards in this manner until reaching the final board in the first row. Measure and cut the final board to fit the room.

3. Installing the second row onwards:

You may use any left-over planks from the first row if greater than 8" in length. If not, cut a new board at least 8" in length and allow 8" between end joints of the previous row to the current row that is being installed. Position the first board into place by angling and interlocking the side tongue (long end) into the previous row. Ensure fit and lay down gently into place. Position the next board using the same angling technique, interlocking motion on side tongue (long end) laying down gently, leaving a 1mm gap on the adjoining board. Tap the joint with a rubber mallet in a downward angled motion towards the adjoining board until tongue and groove lock. Continue installing additional boards in each row in this manner. When you reach the final board in each row, measure and cut the final board in each row to its proper length.

*CONTINUALLY CHECK FOR GAPS BETWEEN BOARDS BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE NEXT.*

4. Installing the final row:

Follow step 3. The final row and all corresponding boards may need to be cut lengthwise (ripped).

5. Final step - accessories:

Replace the molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface not through the flooring. At doorways and other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a T-Molding, or something similar, to cover exposed edges. Check for clearance and do not pinch planks.