



SPC Flooring Installation Guide

Rigid Core Flooring

Before you start

- **Storage.** Store and transport Rigid Core Vinyl on a flat surface to prevent warping. Do not leave floors in areas of extreme temperature or moist rooms. Never store boxes upright.
 - **Acclimate.** Our floors are designed for indoor, climate-controlled floating installations that must be acclimated to the installation room between 65-85°F for 48 hours before installation. This temperature must be maintained during & after the installation.
 - **Tools.** Some recommended tools: utility knife, tape measure, safety goggles, chalk line, tapping block, circular saw, gloves, pencil, speed square, & pull bar, moisture test/reader.
 - **Inspection.** The installer's responsibility is to visually inspect all planks before and throughout installation in a well-lit area. Defective planks should not be used. Materials should also be inspected for color, finish, and wear layer. Ultimate Floors cannot assume responsibility for the suitability of Ultimate Floors and accompanying products for each individual's installation because Ultimate Floors has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension, the installer should not use this piece. Complaints about visual defects will only be accepted before installation if Ultimate Floors is notified. Ultimate Floors will provide a replacement in a timely fashion.
 - **Things to Remember:**
 - Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project & should not be installed underneath cabinetry.
 - While Rigid Core Vinyl is waterproof, it is not a moisture barrier. It is still a good idea to make sure concrete is cured and tested for moisture and that a moisture barrier is installed in the crawl space and even under a Rigid Core Vinyl Floor over a concrete subfloor. Moisture won't damage Rigid Core Vinyl flooring, but it can get in the walls and structure of a home. A couple of extra dollars and a few minutes is a small investment for the added protection and peace of mind. Use good common sense installation practices, and you will have a successful installation that results in a beautiful finished product.
 - Mobile Home installations must have a temperature of 65-85°F and a solid subfloor.
 - Installations in facilities with consistent walker and wheelchair usage (i.e., Nursing homes or extended care) or facilities with heavy displays, racks, dentist chairs, etc., may exert extreme stress and compromise the locking system.
 - Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring provides a very tight fit. Ensure all seams are secured tight at the end of install. An unprofessional installation or use of improper tools can result in damage to the click profiles.
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The Subfloor

The quality of your subfloor will significantly affect the results of the installation. Ensure the subfloor is **99.9% flat**, dry, stable, clean, and free from debris, grease, and chemicals. Unevenness or major imperfections may translate through the planks. The necessary precautions are a must before installing.

- **Existing Floor-coverings.** Existing floor coverings **MUST** be firmly fixed, leveled, and stable. Installation over carpet, needle felt, cushion vinyl, floating floors, damaged floors, and soft floors is **NOT** recommended and will void your warranty.
- **Wooden Subfloors.** The moisture content of the wood floor should not exceed 12%. Ensure the subfloor is dry, structurally sound, clean, and leveled. Be sure the wood is free from mold and insects. The crawl space under the plank floor must be adequately ventilated with perimeter venting of 1.5sqft per 100sqft of space (except where local builder codes say otherwise). Any joints more than 3mm in depth and 6mm in width must be leveled.
- **Concrete Subfloors.** Moisture content must be less than 85% relative humidity or less than 5lbs moisture vapor emission rate. Moisture arising from new or old concrete can create a high level of moisture vapor emissions, hydrostatic pressure, and high alkalinity levels. This combination is highly corrosive and will damage the floor over time. Calcium chloride and pH level test should be performed before installation. Be sure to measure and record your findings. New concrete must be cured for at least 60 days before installation. Any unevenness of more than 1/16 in. over a length of 3ft must be leveled, and the same applies to the unevenness of more than 1/32 in. over a length of 8 inches.
- **Radiant Heat.** Installation over radiant heat is acceptable if constant room and floor temperature of 65-85°F during acclimation, installation, and 48 hours after installation. The system must be operational for a minimum of 2 weeks before installation & a maximum floor surface temperature of 82°F must be maintained (use of an in-floor thermostat is recommended). Turn off radiant heating 24hrs before and after installation. Use a transition profile to separate rooms with and without radiant floor heating or rooms with different temperature controllers.

Measurements

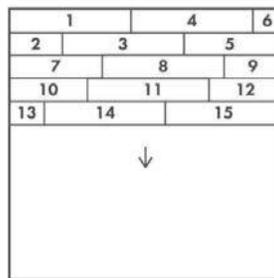
Measure the room before installing underlayment and floor. Use a chalk line to ensure a straight installation. Be sure that the last row of panels is at least 3 inches wide when finishing the installation.

- Ultimate Floors recommends leaving a ¼" expansion gap between the perimeter walls and any adjacent hardwood floor.
- Agree with the client on which direction the floorboards should run since this influences the visual size ratio of the space. Installation parallel to the longest wall or the primary light source is recommended for best visual effects.
- Snap the lines on the substrate to identify the layout reference points; planks should be set using this reference to ensure they are aligned and will lock together correctly. Use an expansion gap in large areas where flooring will span over 45 linear feet and/or wider than 30 linear feet long. Cover the expansion space with suitable coverings.

Installation

- Shuffle Planks - this flooring replicates the look of a natural product which has natural variations in color. For best visual effect, shuffle planks or tiles from several cartons and do not install similar planks next to one another.

- It is best to install panels parallel to the primary light source in the direction of the longest wall. The end joints of the planks in two successive rows should never be in line; they should be staggered by at least 8 inches (see image below).
 - Expansion of ¼" should be maintained around the perimeter of the room and when using transition moldings
 - Make cuts using a circular saw or reciprocating jigsaw
1. Begin installing in the left corner of the room and install the underlayment simultaneously as the floor.
 2. Cut off the long side tongue (end and edge) of the first plank and position the cut edges adjacent to the wall.
 3. Fit planks with the cut-off sides against the walls making sure to leave an expansion space of ¼" between the plank and the wall. The use of spacers is recommended.
 4. Turn the long side of the first plank of the second row into the secured panel of the first row at an angle, lower into place and be sure the planks click together.
 5. Slide the third plank together horizontally. Slightly lift the plank and push the short side joint down with your thumb moving from the inner corner out until you hear it click. Knock gently on the short end click with the palm of your hand or tapping block to ensure the clicks are closed.
 6. Connect the planks of the first two rows on the short sides
 7. Make sure the first two rows are perfectly straight and make sure the expansion space is at least ¼ inch (6mm)
 8. Continue row by row until you reach the other side of the room, checking that each joint is sufficiently locked before moving on to the next plank. Press down gently on top of each short end joint to ensure a good connection.
 9. To fit the last row, lay a plank on top of the previous row. With the plank against the wall, mark a line down the length of the plank and cut accordingly.



10. Once you have finished laying & inspecting the floor, you may install baseboards (attached to the wall, never to the floor)
11. Undercut doorjamb where the floor meets a threshold or doorway. To make the right cut, turn a plank upside down and place it on the floor up to the door frame. Place a handsaw flat against the plank and cut through the frame. Remove the cutout and secure the plank on the long side