INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR SPC PRODUCTS

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

All instructions and recommendations should be followed for a satisfactory installation.

Acclimation of material prior to installation is recommended (24 hours) but not required, however the floor covering should be installed in a climate controlled environment with an ambient temperature range between 55° - 85°F (13°-29°C) or average temperature of 70 degrees (21.1°). Post installation temperature range is between -25 and 155 degrees F (-31.6°- 68.3°C). Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, doing so may result in discoloration. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the drapes or blinds is recommended. Excess temperature due to direct sunlight can result in thermal expansion and UV fading.

Install product after all other trades have completed work that could damage the flooring. If cabinets are to be installed on top of the flooring (including islands), that area of material must be fully adhered to the subfloor (including an additional 2 feet beyond the cabinets and islands).

To minimize shade variation, mix and install planks from several cartons. Inspect all planks for damage before installing. If you have any concerns about the product fit or finish, contact seller. Claims will not be accepted for flooring that has been cut to size and/or installed. Use cementitious patching and leveling compounds that meet or exceed maximum moisture level and pH requirements. Use of gypsum-based patching and/or leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3,000 psi are acceptable.

Installation Methods: Floating (on, above or below grade) / Glue Down (on, above or below grade)

Required perimeter expansion spacing for Floating or Glue Down installation is as follows:

• For areas less than 2500 sqft. use 1/4" gap.

• For areas larger than 2500 sqft. use 1/2" gap.

This flooring is waterproof and reliably secures the flooring panels on all four sides. However, excessive moisture in the subfloor could promote mold, mildew, and other moisture related issues like the trapping of moisture emissions under the flooring, which may contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment. Additional layer of 6 mil poly film or equal vapor retarder with a perm rating of 1 or less may be used as an additional layer of protection.

II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Subfloor must be flat – 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.

A. WOOD SUBFLOORS

Installation Instruction

Do not install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete. Refer to ASTM F1482 for panel underlayment recommendations.

1. Do not apply sheet plastic over wood subfloors.

2. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist is to be no less than 18" and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.

3. All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance. If needed add an additional layer of APA rated underlayment, fasten and secure according to the underlayment manufacturer's recommendations.

4. Resilient flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. An additional layer of APA rated 1/4" thick underlayment should be installer.

B. CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

NEW AND EXISTING CONCRETE SUBFLOORS SHOULD MEET THE GUIDELINES OF THE LATEST EDITION OF ACI 302 AND ASTM F 710, "STANDARD PRACTICE FOR PREPARING CONCRETE FLOORS TO RECEIVE RESILIENT FLOORING" AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS, 100 BARR HARBOR DRIVE, WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, PA 19428; 610-832-9585; HTTP://WWW.ASTM.ORG.

1. Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.

2. New concrete slabs must be dry. Maximum moisture level per CaCl test method is 8 lbs. per 1000 in 24 hr. Maximum level for ASTM 2170 In-situ Relative humidity test method - 90%.

3. Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions. Excessive moisture in the subfloor could promote mold, mildew, and other moisture related issues like the trapping of moisture emissions under the flooring, which may contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment. SPC does not warrant nor is responsible for damage to floor covering due to moisture related issues.

4. pH level of concrete should be between 7-10.

5. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.

NOTE: IT MAY NOT BE THE FLOOR COVERING INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONDUCT THESE TESTS. IT IS, HOWEVER, THE FLOOR COVERING INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THESE TESTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED, AND THAT THE RESULTS ARE ACCEPTABLE PRIOR TO INSTALLING THE FLOOR COVERING. WHEN MOISTURE TESTS ARE CONDUCTED, IT INDICATES THE CONDITIONS ONLY AT THE TIME OF THE TEST.

LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE

All recommendations and guarantees as to the suitability and performance of lightweight concrete under resilient flooring are the responsibility of the lightweight concrete manufacturer. The installer of the lightweight product may be required to be authorized or certified by the manufacturer. Correct on-site mixing ratios and properly functioning pumping equipment are critical. To ensure proper mixture, slump testing is recommended.

Lightweight aggregate concretes having dry densities greater than 90 lbs. per cubic foot may be acceptable under resilient flooring. Concrete slabs with heavy static and/or dynamic loads should be designed with higher strengths and densities to support such loads.

Surface must be permanently dry, clean, smooth, free of all dust, and structurally sound. Perform Bond testing to determine compatibility of adhesive to the substrate. Primer can be utilized to promote adhesion. Three internal relative humidity tests should be conducted for areas up to 1000 SF. One additional test, for each additional 1000 SF.

Radiant Heat: Hydronic only - Radiant heat components must have a minimum of 1/2" separation from the product. This is the only type of radiant heat system that is approved. Radiant heat system must be on and operational for at least 2 weeks prior to installation to reduce residual moisture within the concrete. Three days prior to installation lower the temperature to 65 degrees, after installation gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5° F to avoid overheating. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

C. EXISTING FLOOR COVERINGS

Flooring can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is fully adhered, clean, flat dry structurally sound and free of deflection.

Existing sheet SPC floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will compromise the product's locking ability as well as diminish its indentation resistance. Installation is **NOT** allowed over any type of carpet. Do **NOT** install over wood floors adhered to concrete.

Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.

RAISED ACCESS PANEL SUBFLOORS

• Raised access panels must be stable, level, flat, free and clean of existing adhesives 24" x 24" panels are recommended.

• Lippage (variation of height) between of panels must not exceed 0.295" (0.75 mm)

• Gaps between panels must not exceed 0.039" (1mm)

• There should be no deflection of the individual panels – Concave less than 0.0295" (0.75 mm)

• Flatness 1/8" in 10' Stagger the flooring tiles/planks to overlap the access panels

• Telegraphing of access panel seams may be visible and is not considered a product defect nor warranted by the flooring manufacturer.

• If needed overlay the panels with a 1⁄4" (6 mm) plywood and properly fasten to the access panels prior to the installation of the floorcovering.

• Prior to underlayment installation, repair any loose or unstable panels.

• Use the appropriate installation methods for the product.

INSTALLATION PREP

Tools: Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Jigsaw, Tapping Block or White Rubber Mallet, Pull Bar, 1/4" Spacers, T-Square, Safety Glasses, Broom or Vacuum and, if necessary, tools for subfloor repair.

Installation of 6 mil Poly Film Underlayment is recommended for floating method only in high moisture applications. For use over concrete substrates - seams **MUST** be taped.

Optional over wood substrates – do NOT tape seams.

Begin at the starting wall. Roll underlayment out parallel to the starting wall and allow the poly film to run 2 inches up the wall. After the flooring has been installed trim back the poly film from the wall.

Roll the next course of poly film parallel to the first run and overlap a minimum of 4 inches. Smooth out any wrinkles or creases in the poly film. Use clear tape to tape the seams together when installed over concrete substrates.

Continue to install the flooring over top of the poly film taking care not to damage the poly film.

Note: Do not cover the entire area of the substrate to prevent damage or present a slip hazard. Roll the poly film out one row at a time. SPC FLOATING PLANK FLOOR

INSTALLATION

Inspection of flooring material prior to installation is required. It is the purchaser's responsibility to verify with the installer that they have received the correct product before the start of installation. Any defects, wrong product, or color should be immediately reported to the retail store from which the flooring was purchased before installation (within 24hrs of install). The manufacture will not be responsible for labor costs to repair or replace material with defects, wrong product, or color that were apparent before or noticed at the end of an installation. The job site and all flooring material and adhesive must be kept for 48 hours before, during and after installation between 65 F̊ and 85 F̊ (18°and 29°C).

1. Floor must be clean, smooth, flat and dry before installation.

2. Check the tongue and groove to assure it is free of debris or damage.

3. To achieve maximum appearance, mix planks from two to three cartons from the same production.

4. Planks may be cut with a small guillotine or scored and snapped.

The advantage of SPC Click product is that it allows you to choose your own starting position, direction and can work one plank at a time. Due to the fact that walls are not always straight, snap a chalk line for your first row to follow.

IMPORTANT: Maintain the 1⁄4-inch space around walls, cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges and any obstacle in the floor. Quarter round or baseboard molding will cover this expansion space. Make sure that you have a transition break every 30ft in either direction. Note that in doorways that are less than 6ft, use a t-molding.

IMPORTANT: For plank installation, staggering the end joints a minimum of 6 inches is required

Clicking Planks Together

To click the length joint of the plank together, place long joint together, lifting slightly to engage lock. Rotate downward, clicking together for a tight fit.

If there are any gaps, we recommend using a tapping block and lightly tap the edge of the material. This will bring the plank edges tight together.

Cut the plank by scoring through the top wear layer with a utility knife then snap the plank across the score.

Install adjoining rows as you did the first; one piece at a time. Holding the plank at a slight angle, place it against the profile in the first row. Rotate the plank down to secure the length joint assuring there are no gaps along the joint.

The adjoining planks are aligned by sliding the long joint into position, shifting it to properly match the end joint against the previous plank. Repeat until you reach the final row of material.

To install the final row of planks, you will usually need to cut them. We recommend the following: lay a panel on top of the last row installed. Lay another plank against the edge of the wall. Mark the plank underneath.

Cut the plank through the wear layer and snap along the score. Install the last row leaving ample expansion space.

Note: Avoid exposure to direct sunlight. During peak sunlight hours, the use of blinds or curtains is required. Prolonged direct sunlight can result in discoloration and volatile temperature variations causing damage to the floor, which is not covered by manufacturer.

The flooring receipt, all moisture/relative humidity testing documentation, and the professional installers receipt will be required to file a claim. If one should arise, please contact the original purchaser to complete a claim form. In the event that you have a flooring concern the manufacturer will cover the cost of hiring an independent inspector, but if the inspection report comes back deemed that it is an installation error or onsite issue, the inspection fee will be charged back to the dealer/distributor/homeowner.

Glue Down Installation: SPC products are approved for glue down installation over approved wood and concrete substrates with industry approved adhesive for SPC flooring with attached pad. Follow adhesive label application instructions.   Install flooring into wet adhesive to achieve a permanent bond.   Maintain 1/4" (6.35 mm) perimeter expansion space.   Refer to adhesive label for moisture limits of the adhesive.   Roll flooring immediately after installation with a 100 pound 3-section roller.

MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

- Initial maintenance can be performed immediately after installation of the SPC floating flooring.   Cleaning utilizing a neutral pH cleaning solution and mop is recommended. White, green, or blue abrasive pads can be used to remove heavier deposits. Rinse the floor thoroughly and allow to air dry. Do not overwater the flooring.

- Daily and weekly maintenance by sweeping, vacuuming, or dust mopping the floor as needed to remove dust loose dirt and grit. In high traffic areas this may be a daily or twice daily procedure. Use only vacuums that do not have bristle beater bars or metal heads.

- Clean liquid spills immediately to prevent the possibility of stains, slips, or falls.

- Damp mop the floor as needed to remove dirt and stains. Use a neutral pH cleaner and a white, green or blue pad if needed to remove ground in dirt. Soft white bristle brushes can also be used on flooring with embossed surfaces.

Installation Instruction

- Preventative steps:

  - Use mats at all entry areas to keep dirt, sand and water off of the floor. Clean the mats on a regular basis. If mats are placed directly on top of the SPC floating floor, be sure the mats have a non-staining back. Rubber mats are not recommended over SPC flooring products.

  - Furniture shall have protective glides of at least 1" in diameter to minimize indentations or scratching to the surface of the floor. Do not use narrow chair glides! Felt pads are also excellent protection for the floor for furniture that will be frequently moved directly across the floor.

  - Do not move heavy furniture, appliances, or fixtures directly across the floor. Use protective boards or appropriate furniture movers designed for use over hard surface flooring.

  - Protect the floor from direct sunlight by using appropriate window coverings.

  - Areas with caster chairs must have protective mats under the chairs. Use chair mats at desks to protect the floor from damage due to chair legs or casters. Periodically clean caster wheels and check for wheels that may be broken or no longer rotating. Replace damaged wheels immediately.

  - Avoid use of metal or razor scrapers to remove dirt, residues, or other marks from flooring. This will damage the protective wear layer of the SPC flooring.

These instructions are general guidelines for the proper procedures for installing this flooring product. For any applications not listed or detailed instructions on installation, please contact seller.

Please refer to https://www.unilintechnologies.com for installation questions.