

# SPC INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## RECOMMENDED USE

- Residential and light commercial applications.
- Interior use in enclosed, climate controlled areas.
- Wet areas such as kitchens, bathrooms and laundry rooms.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Always store and transport cartons flat.
- Acclimate flooring and room at a constant temperature between 65°F and 85°F for 48 hours prior to, during and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter, maintain temperatures between 65°F and 85°F.
- Mix planks from several different cartons to ensure a random appearance.
- Inspect every plank for damage before installing it.
- Always allow a 1/4" expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the room and at all fixtures and pipes. Cover the exposed edges with trim or fill the gap with a high quality silicone caulking.
- SPC floors can be installed in rooms up to 40' long x 40' wide. Use T-moldings to reduce length or width if installing in areas larger than the 40' continuously.
- If installing SPC floors in multiple rooms it is highly recommended that T-moldings be used to separate rooms.

**Note:** All base cabinets must be installed prior to installing flooring. Do not install base cabinets or island cabinets on top of the floor.

## ROOM PREPARATION

- Remove all furniture and appliances from the room(s).
- Remove wall and doorway trim unless you plan to use a base shoe molding (eg. quarter round).
- Undercut door jambs.

## SUBFLOOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Planks can be installed over a variety of subfloors including concrete on all grade levels, wood and many existing hard surface floors.
- Subfloors must be clean, smooth, flat, solid and dry.
- Do not install planks over floors that are sloped for drainage.
- Any uneven areas greater than 3/16" in 10' should be leveled with a Portland cement-based patching compound.
- SPC floors are resistant to water damage but they do not prevent the transmission of moisture. Care should be taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of the floor to prevent the growth of mold and mildew.
- Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

## WOOD SUBFLOORS

SPC planks are suitable for installation over double layer wood subfloors that are a minimum of 1" thick, or single layer subfloors constructed with APA rated Sturd-I-Floor panels, 23/32" or heavier. Joist spacing should not exceed 19.2". Set fasteners 1/32" below the subfloor surface, sand joints smooth and fill holes and gaps wider than 1/8" wide. Install suitable wood underlayment when necessary to achieve a flat or solid surface. Wooden subfloors installed over a crawlspace should have a moisture barrier installed in the crawlspace with at least 18" of ground clearance. Crawl spaces should be dry and vented and meet local building codes.

## CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

SPC planks can be installed over concrete on all grade levels. A 6 mil polyurethane moisture barrier must be used with concrete subfloors. Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 5 lbs./24 hour per 1,000 sq. ft. when tested with the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test in accordance with ASTM F 1869 or 80% RH in accordance with ASTM F 2170 "Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Slabs using in situ Probes." Fill cracks; saw cuts and control joints and level uneven areas that exceed 3/16" in 10'. Do not install flooring over expansion joints.

## EXISTING FLOORING

SPC planks can be installed over a variety of finished floor coverings including sheet vinyl, ceramic, marble and terrazzo. The surface of the existing floor must be in good condition and show no signs of excessive moisture. Level deep or wide grout lines with embossing leveler so it is flush with the tile surface. Do not install flooring over heavily cushioned floors.

## STAIR CASES

SPC floors should be installed on a staircase by adhering the planks directly to the subfloor. An appropriate strength adhesive should be used to glue the product and nails may be used to hold the planks in place during the glue set time. Underlay is not used on staircases and so the pre-attached underlay should be removed prior to installing the product on the stairs so that the adhesive bonds directly to the SPC core.

## RADIANT HEATED SYSTEMS

SPC planks can be installed over in-floor radiant heating systems provided the subfloor surface does not exceed 85°F at any point. The initial floor temperature should not exceed 70°F for 24 hours prior to and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter the temperature should be gradually increased to the desired setting up to 85°F. Radiant heat systems must be operating for a minimum of 3 weeks prior to installation of the SPC floor.

## TOOLS REQUIRED

- Carpenter Square
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- 1/4" spacers
- Tapping block
- Mallet
- Power Saw (table saw, circular saw, etc.)

## INSTALLATION

- For best appearance, planks should be installed parallel to the length of the room and preferably perpendicular to outside light sources (i.e. windows and doors).
- Start with a whole plank in the left hand corner of the room with the long edge tongue facing the wall. Lay the first row of planks along the wall and trim to fit the wall allowing a 1/4" expansion gap.
- Attach the end joints of the planks in the first row. Insert the tongue into the groove while holding the plank at a 20° to 30° angle to the floor. Apply pressure inward and down until the planks lock together. Use spacers between the edge of the planks and the wall to maintain a 1/4" expansion gap.



- Start the second row using any piece longer than 16". Place the cut end 1/4" away from the wall. Insert the long edge tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. Hold the plank at a 20° to 30° angle while applying pressure inward and down until they lock together. To complete the second and all successive rows, it will be necessary to lock the short end into the previous plank before locking the long side of the plank. Angle the plank and push the tongue into the groove and adjust it until the tongue locks into place. It may be necessary to lift both planks slightly to lock the joint together. Complete the second row allowing a 1/4" expansion gap at the cut plank at the end of the row.
- Start the third row using two-thirds of a plank with the cut end against the wall. Complete each row thereafter using a random layout with the end joints staggered by at least 8". Plan the layout to avoid using small planks (less than 6") at the walls. The cut piece at the end of the row can often be used to

start the next row provided it achieves a random layout. Always place the cut end against the wall and allow a 1/4" expansion gap.

- SPC planks are unique in that they can also be installed with a pull bar or tapping block and rubber mallet in difficult areas, such as the last row, and when fitting around door trim. Use a pull bar and rubber mallet to lock the joints together in the last row. Always use a pull bar on the cut edge of the plank. Factory edges can be damaged if the pull bar is used directly against them. Use a series of light taps until the joint is gradually locked together.

## **FINISHING**

- Remove all spacers.
- Install wall trim lightly over the floor surface. Drive fasteners into the wall and not the floor.
- When installing doorway transition moldings allow a 1/4" expansion space between the edge of the floor and the molding. Do not drive fasteners into the floor.
- Return appliances to the room by rolling or sliding over strips of hardboard to prevent damaging the floor.

## **CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

- Furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor.
- Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked onto the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Avoid using a vacuum with a beater bar.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do not use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor.