

Rigid Core Installation Instructions

General Information

Rigid Core is a fully waterproof* floating floor with excellent acoustic and thermal properties made lightweight and rigid to assist installation over uneven subfloor surfaces. It is essential that these installation instructions are followed to ensure a quality fit.

Rigid Core is suitable for light commercial and residential use but it is not suitable for installation outdoors nor in rooms that will be continually wet. It is not suitable in an environment with constant rolling loads without the use of a floor protector. It is suitable for use in traditional residential bathrooms, kitchens, laundry/ utility rooms.

Install permanent fixtures prior to installation of Rigid Core, leaving a space for expansion and contraction, see below.

Fill expansion spaces around potentially wet areas with a flexible acrylic or flexible silicone sealant (neutral cure).

A separate underlayment padding is not recommended for products with attached pad, and will void warranty if used. For flooring with no pad attached- maximum thickness of pad is recommended at 1.5mm. Any pad thicker than 2mm will void warranty on flooring.

Acclimation of Material

For installations make sure flooring materials are removed from packaging at least 48 hours prior to installation, (planks may be stacked, but must be rested flat) and allowed to condition in the room where the installation is to take place. Room temperature must be kept between 64-81°F (18-27°C).

To achieve a more natural look the product should be shuffled prior to installation.

Subfloors

Before Rigid Core may be installed, all subfloors should be solid and sound, smooth and level, clean and swept free of all debris. Measured moisture must be less than 95% RH,

(or no more than 5 lbs. moisture/ 1000 ft² /24 hours: - calcium chloride test). Any unevenness in the subfloor should be limited to a maximum of 3/16" (5 mm) below the level in any 10 ft (3 m) diameter.

Any isolated highpoints/ridges should first be removed in order to prevent damage to products.

- **Concrete:** Where the subfloor is uneven an appropriate smoothing compound should be selected.

**A 6 mil+ vapor barrier should be used for installations on concrete slab subflooring.

While laying the vapor barrier, ensure a 6-inch overlap along any seam between sheets. Seal the seams with no gaps using duct tape or moisture-resistant and long-lasting tape. Run moisture barrier 1"-2" up wall during installation and then trim back upon completion of installations.

- **Quarry Tiles/Mosaics/Terrazzo/Ceramics:** Make sure these floors are solid; fix any loose tiles. Level any grout lines with a width and/or depth of more than 3/16" (5 mm).

- **Laminate/Floating or non-attached Floors:** It is normally recommended that this is uplifted.
- **Linoleum/Thermoplastic/Vinyl/Cork Floors:** Make sure these floors are solid; fix any loose tiles.
- **Misc.:** Any existing floors installed with cutback adhesive must first be suitably covered/ encapsulated.
- **Metal and Painted Floors:** Remove any loose paint or other finishes.
- **Textile floor coverings (including carpet):** must be removed.
- **Under floor Heating:** It is possible to install Rigid Core over floors incorporating underfloor heating, but these must be controlled to keep the temperature at the interface between the backing and subfloor surface at no more than 81°F (27°C).
- **Electrical under floor heating:** please consult manufacturers to ensure their system is compatible with our flooring. Mesh/ wire systems must be bedded into the recommended basecoat of reinforced fiber smoothing compound to a minimum depth of 3/8" (10 mm), installed to the manufacturer's instructions. Rigid Core must always be installed over a solid base. The room temperature must be between 64-81°F (18-27°C) prior and during installation.
- **Other Floors:** Consult your supplier.

Installation

Rigid Core should be laid with an expansion gap of 3/16" (5 mm) around the perimeter of the room and all fixed objects, including pipes. This must be increased to 5/16" (8 mm) for areas larger than 1000 sqft (100 m²). Consult your supplier for larger areas.**

Baseboards boards should be removed or undercut, and door frames undercut to allow for possible expansion. Alternatively, a suitable edge trim should be used to cover the expansion gap. Plank products should be laid with staggered joints, at a distance of at least 10" (250 mm).

Tools

For a successful installation, the following tools will be necessary – pencil, utility knife, ruler/straight edge, spacers, carpenter's square, saw, hand roller, pull bar, hammer and rubber mallet are recommended.

Exclusions

Special care must be taken when installing Rigid Core in rooms that are exposed to large temperature fluctuations e.g. unheated rooms, conservatories, atriums or direct sun/ through south facing patio doors/glazing. In these cases, a 3/8" (10 mm) expansion gap should be used.

Adhesives are not recommended in the installation of this product in residential environments.

* Water will not penetrate through the product from one side to the other. This does not include joints between individual tiles/plank. **It is not a water proofer and is subject to damage from moisture underneath the flooring.****

For rooms wider than 25 ft or longer than 35 ft, t-molding use is required.

INSTALLING THE FIRST ROW

Start in a corner by placing the first plank with the tongue side facing the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 8–12 mm (3/8"–1/2") between the wall and the flooring. Diagram 1.

NOTE: This spacing must also be maintained between the floor and all vertical surfaces, including cabinets, posts, partitions, door jambs and door tracks. You will also need to use transition strips in doorways and between rooms. Failure to do so may cause buckling or gapping.

Insert the end tongue of the second plank into the end groove of the first tile at an angle of approx. 15–20 degrees. When lowered the plank will click into place. The planks should be flat to the floor. Diagram 2.

WARNING: Failure to properly line up the end joint and attempting to force it in while out of alignment could result in permanent damage to the end joint.

Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last full tile. Fit the last tile by rotating the tile 180° with the pattern side upward, place beside the row. Draw a line across the new plank with a pencil, score with an utility knife and snap off. Attach as described above. Diagram 3.

It is important to ensure that the planks in the first row are straight before beginning installation of the second row. Use a rubber mallet and tapping block.

INSTALLING THE SECOND ROW

Begin the second row with the offcut piece from the first row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 150 mm (6") long. Remember to use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 8–12 mm (3/8"–1/2") between the wall and the flooring. Diagram 4.

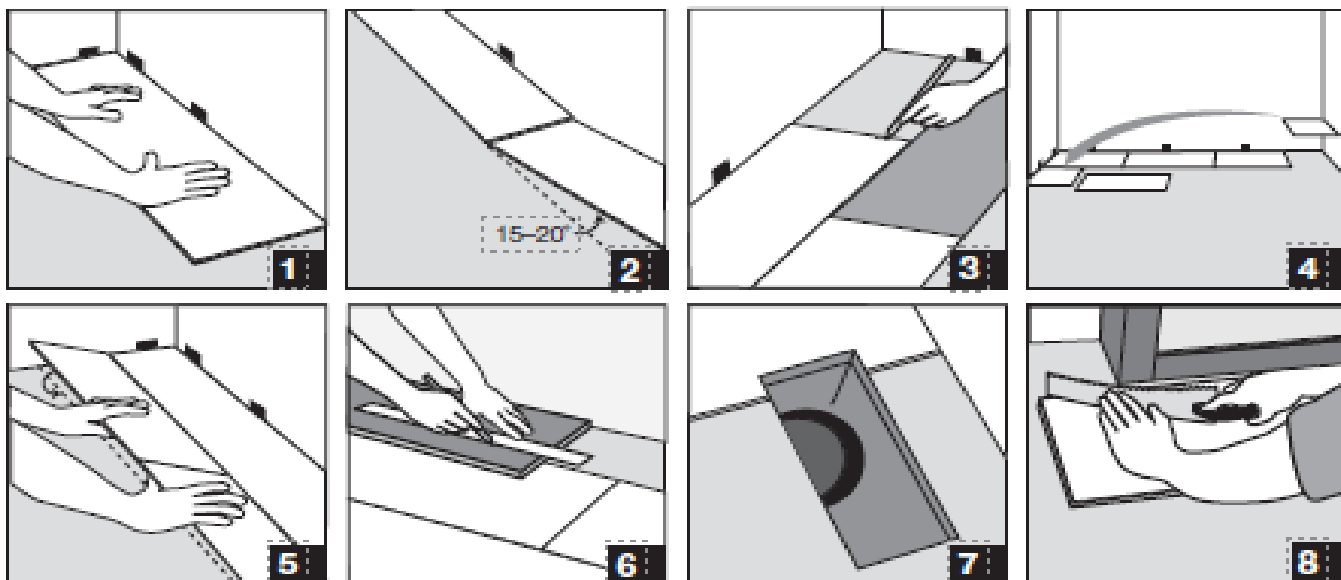
NOTE: It is faster to assemble planks into a new row at the ends and then attach the entire row to the previous row on the long sides.

To start your second row, lay your first plank on the subfloor. Take your second plank, and insert the end tongue into the end groove of the first plank at an angle of approximately 15–20 degrees. When lowered, the plank will click into place with light pressure. The planks should be flat to the floor. Make sure gaps are as small as possible. Continue assembling the planks this way until you have your second row complete.

To attach the second row to the first row, tilt and push the side tongue into the side groove of the first row at an angle of approx. 15–20 degrees. When lowered, the planks will click into place and be flat to the floor. To ensure a strong seated joint, carefully use a rubber mallet and tapping block to lightly tap into place. Line up edges carefully. Continue laying remaining rows in this manner. Diagram 5.

INSTALLING THE LAST ROW

To fit the last row, start by using the offcut piece from the previous row. Lay the plank on top of the previous row. With the tongue to the wall, use a ruler to draw a cutline. Don't forget to allow room for spacers. Cut the plank and attach into position. Diagram 6.



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Taking care of your floor

- Regularly sweep the floor to remove loose dirt or grit as these can cause fine scratches.
- For a thorough clean, a range of cleaning products is available (Clean, Remove and Refresh). Avoid the use of regular household cleaners and bleach-based detergents. These could make the floor slippery or cause discoloration.
- Always mop up spills as soon as possible, to reduce the risk of slipping and possible staining.
- Use entrance mats to protect against grit and moisture. Ensure they are of non-staining variety (not rubber-backed) to prevent any discoloration of the floor.
- Avoid sliding or dragging furniture or other objects across the floor - use floor protector pads to prevent scratching.
- Use castor cups to protect against indentation from heavy furniture.
- Maintain room temperature between 55-81°F (13-27°C) for optimum performance.
- Do not subject Rigid Core to standing water as this will present a slip hazard.