INSTALLATION GUIDE

Thank you for choosing our flooring. When properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years. Please read all the instructions and follow all recommendations before you begin the installation. Improper installation will void the warranty.

Check off each item	Item	Standard	Why it is critical
☐	Subfloor flatness	Subfloor must be flat within 3/16" in 3 mm over a 10' / 3 m radius.	A non-flat subfloor can cause gapping, buckling, and damage to the locking system.
☐	Subfloor moisture	Concrete subfloor: - pH ≤ 9 - CCM ≤ 2.5% - ASTM F2170 RH ≤ 90% - ASTM F1869 ≤ 8 lbs/1000 ft2 / ≤ 3.63 kg/92 m² - ASTM F2659 MC ≤ 4.0% Wood subfloor: MC ≤ 12%	Subfloor moisture can cause site-related issues which might lead to an installation failure, alkali salt buildup damage to joints, and a potential mold source. 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly sheeting is required on concrete substrate.
☐	Subfloor deflection	Subfloor must be structurally sound with no up-and-down movement.	Subfloor deflection will cause gapping and joint damage to the locking mechanism.
☐	Approved substrate	No soft substrates.	Additional soft underlayment is not to be used and will void the warranty. Cushioned vinyl, Rubber, Cork, Carpet are not suitable substrates. Vinyl flooring should never be installed over wood that is installed over concrete doing so will void the warranty.
☐	Inspect tiles	Inspect tiles to be installed closely for visible damage.	Prior to installation, inspect the material in daylight for visible defects. Common visible defects or discrepancies in color or shine, check the edges for chips, and the length-ness and any damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.
☐	Maintain appropriate expansion space	Floating floors must be free to move.	Improper expansion can cause cupping, gapping, and damage to the locking system.

I. GENERAL PREPARATIONS

TOOLS REQUIRED: Spacers, rubber mallet, ruler, pencil, tape measure, utility knife, tapping block, 6 mil / 0.15 mm moisture barrier, square, transition moldings, jamb saw, chalk line, eye protection, level, knee pads (optional), broom or vacuum.

• Prior to installation, inspect the material in daylight for visible faults/damage, including defects or discrepancies in color or shine; check the edges of flooring for straightness and any damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.

• It is preferable to lay boards following the direction of the main source of light. For the best result, make sure to always work from 2 to 3 cartons at a time, mixing the planks during the installation.

• Check if subfloor/room conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If the subfloor is not within specifications, DO NOT INSTALL, and contact your supplier.

• Flooring products can be damaged by improper installation. Exercise care when handling and transporting these products. Store, transport and handle the cartons in a manner to prevent any damage. Store cartons flat, never on edge.

• Flooring products can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper lifting techniques when handling these products. Whenever possible make use of material-handling equipment such as dollies or trolleys. If you cannot lift more than you can safely handle; get assistance.

• Calculate the room surface prior to installation and plan an extra 5-10% of flooring for cutting allowance.

• The environment where the flooring is to be installed is critically important with regard to successful installation and continued performance of the flooring products. The flooring is intended to be installed in interior locations only. These interior locations must meet climatic and structural requirements as well.

• In most cases, this product does not need to be acclimated. However, if the boxes of flooring were exposed for over 2 hours to extreme temperatures under 50°F / 10°C or over 90°F / 32°C within 12 hours before the installation, acclimation is required. In this case, keep the boxes of flooring in the room package for at least 12 hours in an unopened package before you start the installation. The room temperature must be maintained consistently between 50-90°F / 10-32°C before and during the installation.

• The flooring should only be installed in temperature ranges between 50-90°F / 10-32°C, it is necessary to maintain a constant temperature before and during the installation. Installation in garages or sheds is not recommended as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.

• After installation, make sure to maintain the room temperature at a minimum of not less than 0°F / -18°C or greater than +40°F / 60°C.

• For floor surfaces exceeding 6400 ft2 / 620 m2 and/or lengths exceeding 80 ft / 25 m, use expansion joints.

II. SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

• The flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is structurally sound, clean, dry, and level. Vertical variations must not exceed 3/16" / 5 mm over a 10' / 3 m radius.

• The substrate should not slope more than 1" / 25 mm per 6 ft / 2 m in any direction.

• Depressions, deep grooves, expansion joints, and other subfloor imperfections must be filled with patching & leveling compound.

• Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, and any foreign matter and contaminants.

• Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents, or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and separation of the new flooring.

• Although this floor is waterproof, it is not to be used as a moisture barrier.

• This product is also not to be installed in areas subject to flooding such as saunas or outdoor areas, seasonal porches, camping trailers, boats, RVs, lanais, rooms that are prone to flooding, or rooms or homes that are not temperature-controlled.

• Existing sheet vinyl floors must not be cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft patterns will diminish the product's inherent strength in the clicking mechanism and resisting indentations and could void the warranty.

• Acceptable job site conditions, including subfloor moisture conditions, must be maintained throughout the lifetime of the flooring.

WOOD SUBFLOORS

• If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wood floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation.

• Wood subfloors must have no more than 12% RH (moisture content).

• Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly-film is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth.

• We recommend laying the flooring crossways to the existing floorboards.

• All other subfloors, wood, OSB, plywood, particleboard, hardboard, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.

• DO NOT install over sleeper construction subfloors or wood subfloors applied directly over concrete.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

• Existing concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue.

• The subfloor must be dry. With a pH limit of 9 and comply with moisture content requirements and tested as per the below methods:

- Concrete moisture vapor emissions must not exceed 8 lb / 3.63 kg MVER (moisture vapor emission rate) per 1000 ft2 / 93 m2 per 24 hours. This can be measured with the calcium chloride test (ASTM F1869).
- 90% RH (ASTM F2170)
- Max. 2.5% moisture content (CM method / ASTM F2659).
- Max. 4.0 MC as per ASTM F2659 (a meter calibrated for concrete applied by gravimetric testing must be used).

• A minimum of 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly-film is required as a moisture barrier between the concrete subfloor and the flooring.

NOTE: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING IF THE EXISTING FLOORING IS SUITABLE TO BE INSTALLED OVER RESTS SOLELY WITH THE INSTALLER/FLOORING CONTRACTOR ON SITE. IF THERE IS ANY QUESTION AS TO SUITABILITY, THE EXISTING FLOORING SHOULD BE REMOVED. ON ANY CRYSTALLINE UNDERLAYMENT INSTALLED OVER IT. INSTALLATIONS OVER EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING MAY BE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INDENTATION.

DO NOT INSTALL OVER

• Any type of carpet.
• Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring.
• Floating floor of any type, loose lay, and perimeter fastened sheet vinyl.
• Hardwood flooring / wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In-floor Radiant Heat: Flooring can be installed over 1/2" / 12 mm embedded radiant heat using the floating method. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F / 30°C. The use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

• Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.

• Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to release any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system.

• Make sure that the temperature in the room is maintained consistently between 50-90°F / 10-32°C before and during the installation.

• Once the installation is completed, the heating system should be turned on at the ambient temperature and gradually increased in 0°F / 2°C increments every 12 hours until reaching normal operating conditions.

• Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath the floor. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath the floor can only be used at the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install the flooring over embedded radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the guidelines listed above.

Tip: The best idea to maximize the results of your heating system is to have "ON" times with a comfortable temperature and "OFF" times with setback temperatures which are normally 8° F / 4°C lower than your comfort temperature. The setback temperatures are applied automatically. The ideal is to maintain a balance of your room drop too much, meaning it is much quicker to heat your room back to comfort levels when it's needed.

III. INSTALLATION

• Remove trim molding, wall base, appliances, and furniture from the room. For the best results, door jambs must be undercut to allow the flooring to move freely without being pinched. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.

• With a floating floor you must always ensure you leave a 5/16" / 8 mm gap between walls and fixtures such as pipes, stairs, etc. These gaps will be covered with moldings after the floor is installed.

• **NOTE:** DO NOT FILL IN THE EXPANSION GAPS WITH SILICONE. FOR INSTALLATION IN BATHROOMS AND OTHER WET ROOMS, SEE THE "INSTALLATION IN WET AREAS" SECTION.

• Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the tiles do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing subfloor. The ends of the tiles should be staggered a minimum of 12" / 20 cm for the best result. Do not install over the expansion joints. Avoid installing pieces shorter than 12" / 30 cm at the beginning or end of rows.

• Do not install your kitchen cabinets directly over your floor. Islands, kitchen cabinets, islands, and similar heavy items must be installed first. Only then can the flooring be installed, leaving an appropriate expansion gap around it. Shop drawings with trim moldings after the floor is installed. The quality of the floor can only be guaranteed if it is allowed to move freely. It must not be nailed, adhered, or fastened to the subfloor in any way.

• Decide the installation direction. It is recommended to install the boards parallel to the window following the direction of the main source of light.

• Measure the area to be installed: The board width of the last row shall not be less than 2" / 50 mm. If so, adjust the width of the first row to be installed. In narrow hallways, it is recommended to install the floor parallel to the length of the hall.

• **UNDERLAY:** If the floor DOES NOT HAVE a pre-attached underlayment, an additional underlayment is recommended in order to improve acoustic performance and absorb some irregularities on the substrate. Best results can be expected with an underlayment of 0.04" / 1 mm maximum thickness with a high density (>8.4 lb/ft3 / >135 kg/m3), high compressive strength (≥200 kPa according to EN 16354. ASTM D3575-20, Suffix D), and <10% thickness change (according to ASTM D3575-20, Suffix B) that supports the click system during daily use. Thicker underlayments, underlayments with a low density and inadequate compressive strength could damage the locking mechanism and will void the warranty.

If the floor HAS a pre-attached underlayment, the use of an additional underlayment could damage the locking mechanism and will VOID warranty.

BRICK PATTERN

1. **IMPORTANT:** Measure the area to be installed, perimeter rows of opposing walls shall be the same width. Adjust the width and the length of the first tile to be installed accordingly. In narrow hallways it is recommended to install the floor parallel to the length of the hall.

2. **To cut the tiles:** Use a simple utility knife and ruler, and with the top side facing up, score heavily and several times on the same axis. The knife will not go through the surface but make a deep cut. You can then lift one half of the tile using your forearm to hold down while pressing downward to break it close to the cut. Some cuts will split naturally.

3. **Supporting boards:** After thoroughly cleaning the subfloor, you should begin laying from left to right. Place supporting boards by the wall. You should place one supporting board per each short seam of the first row. Supporting boards will be removed in further installation.

4. **First row, first tile:** After adjusting the measurements of the first panel as described above, begin laying at the left-hand corner of the longest wall and proceed from the wall with the tongue sides facing walls and the grooves facing outward (groove sides are marked with arrows on the back of each tile), away from the walls. Use spacers to create 5/16" / 8 mm expansion gaps.

5. **First row, second tile:** Lay down the second tile on the right-hand side of the first tile, aligning its left side over the right-side groove of the first tile. Make sure both tiles are perfectly aligned with a rubber mallet to confirm and lock it into the groove of the first tile, until both are at the same height. The mallet should hit the tile directly above the locking system, always working for a control expansion gap.

Note: Tapping the area close to the edge, but not directly above it, may result in permanent damage to the joint. If both a notch (on the short) and the same tongue are not well locked together, or are not properly lined up, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble and check if any debris is stuck inside the lock. Continuing the installation could cause permanent damage to the end joint or the entire installation.

6. **First row, last tile:** At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of 5/16" / 8 mm to the wall and measure the length of the last tile to fit.

7. **Second row, first tile:** Before starting the second row, it is crucial to mark the center of the second tile in the first row and draw a chalk line / place a string at a 90° to the first row following the central line to the opposite wall. Adjust the size of the first tile in the second row ensuring that the right-angle is perfectly aligned with the chalk line / the string in the middle of the second tile in the first row. Click the tongue side of the tile into the previous row with both groove sides facing out at an angle of 20°, slide towards the wall respecting the 5/16" / 8 mm expansion gap and fold down, ensuring that the long side is fully engaged with no visible gaps, and that the right edge of the tile is perfectly aligned with the first tile of the first row.

IMPORTANT: Starting from the second row, always use a tapping block and rubber mallet to gently tap the long side of each tile first, ensuring it is tightly locked with the previous row. Only then proceed to tap the short side into place.

8. **Second row, second tile:** Lay down the second tile on the right-hand side of the first tile by clicking it into the previous row at a 25-30° angle, aligning the groove over the right-side groove of the first. Make sure both tiles are perfectly aligned. Drop the tile and tap the long side with a tapping block and rubber mallet to ensure there are no gaps. Then, gently tap the short end until the tiles fit snugly and both are at the same height.

9. **After finishing the installation of every row:** Use a tapping block and a small hammer or rubber mallet to gently tap the tiles into the click of the previous row to ensure that they are properly engaged together and make sure there is no gap between the long side of the tiles installed. Any gapping can compromise the whole installation.

Tap. After the first two rows of tiles are installed, they should be checked with a level to confirm that rows are still running straight. If they are not, it could be that the starting wall has some irregularities that caused bowing in the installation. If so, the starting row of tiles may have to be trimmed and re-trimmed to account for any unevenness in the wall. This can be done without having to disassemble the beginning rows.

10. **After completing the installation of the floor:** Remove the tapping boards and slide the connected panels toward the wall. Make sure to place spacers between the flooring and walls. After the first 3 rows of tiles are installed, they should be checked with a level to ensure that rows are still running straight. If they are not, it could be that the starting wall has some irregularities that caused bowing in the installation. If so, the starting row of tiles may have to be trimmed and re-trimmed to account for any unevenness in the wall. This can be done without having to disassemble the beginning rows.

11. **To lay the last row:** Position a loose tile exactly on top of the last row laid. Place another board on top, with the tongue side facing the wall. Draw a line along the edge of this tile, to mark the final tile. Cut along the line of this tile to mark the first tile. Cut along this line to obtain the required width. Insert this cut tile against the wall. The last row should be at least 2" / 50 mm wide. Tap the cut piece over the right-side groove of the last row.

12. **Holes for pipes:** Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 5/8" / 16 mm larger. Saw off a piece as shown in the figure and lay the tile in place. Glue the final piece in place.

13. **Door molding:** Lay a tile (with the decorative side down) next to the door molding and saw as shown in the figure. Then slide the last piece underneath.

INSTALLATION IN WET AREAS

IMPORTANT: This product is not warranted for installation in wet areas with running water and areas with built-in drains, e.g., pool or shower areas.

• Use a T-molding to separate the wet area from the rest of the installation.
Fill the expansion spaces with a compressible PE foam backer rod and cover them with a flexible 100% silicone sealant around the entire perimeter of the installation before installing moldings. Branded and generic silicone tubes are available at any leading home center or hardware store. IMPORTANT: Do not use acrylic sealant.
• Apply silicone sealant to connections to doorframes or any other fixed objects.

IV. FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

• Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips. Allowing slight clearance between the molding and the tiles. Make sure that no tile will be secured in any way to the subfloor.
• All doorways or other areas where a floor joins the tiles may have different heights. In such cases, the use of a transition molding is required to cover the exposed edge but do not pinch the tiles. Leave a 5/16" / 8 mm gap between the tiles and the adjoining surface.

V. MAINTENANCE

• When possible, use appropriate window coverings, such as drapes, window treatments, or UV-tinting on windows, to protect the product from prolonged exposure to intense heat.
• Sweep or vacuum daily using soft brush attachments. Do not use a vacuum equipped with a beater bar.
• Do not buff or sand the surface.
• Clean up spills and excessive liquids immediately.
• Damp mop as needed and use neutral cleaners recommended for vinyl flooring.
• The use of residential steam mops and spray mops on this product is allowed. Use at the lowest power with a subfloor setting, and do not hold a mop over one area for an excessive period of time (longer than 30 seconds). Refer to the mop's manufacturer instructions for proper usage.
• Use proper floor protection devices such as felt protectors under furniture. Equip wheeled-type office chairs and other rolling furniture with wide-surface, casters at least 2" / 5 cm in diameter.
• Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. Do not use mats with latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration.
• Do not use abrasive cleaners, bleach, or wax to maintain the floor.
• For stubborn spills use low odor mineral spirits or denatured alcohol applied to a clean cloth. Never pour chemicals directly on the floor.
• Do not drag or slide heavy objects across the floor.

VI. DISASSEMBLING

Separate the whole row by lifting it up delicately at an angle. To separate tiles within a row that have been "tapped" together, leave them flat on the floor and pull them apart. If tiles do not come apart at this rate easily, you can slightly lift up the tiles (5°) when sliding them apart. Please ensure not to lift more than 5° as this will break the locking system.

Tip: If the tiles are difficult to slide apart, it may be the lock is not fully engaged. Try tapping down with a rubber mallet, making sure the full length is engaged, then slide apart keeping tiles flat on the ground.