



SPC/WPC Installation Guidelines

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN. IMPROPER INSTALLATION CAN VOID THE WARRANTY.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Utility Knife • Tape Measure • Straight Edge • Spacers • Tapping Block • Pull Bar • Moisture Testing Gauge • Rubber-Headed Mallet

If your SLCC product includes an attached underlayment, do not add additional underlayment unless specified by the product sheet.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

- Inspect all material for defects before cutting or installing. Do not install defective planks. Once installed, the flooring is considered accepted.
- Acclimate unopened cartons for 24–48 hours in a climate-controlled job site (maintain 65°F–85°F). Store boxes flat (not on edge) and no more than 3–5 high.
- Remove quarter round/base; undercut door jams the thickness of the flooring.
- Plan layout; balance starting/ending rows and avoid short end pieces.
- Prepare substrate (see below).

WOOD SUBSTRATES

- Subfloor must be smooth, flat, and free of movement/deflection. If joist spacing > 19.2" OC, ensure $\geq 3/4$ " total subfloor thickness.
- Install a 1/4" underlayment panel over wood if the surface is not smooth/flat.
- Basements/crawl spaces must be dry and ventilated; cover exposed earth 100% with 6–8 mil poly, overlap and tape seams.

CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

- Record moisture content at time of install. **Minimum six mil poly** vapor retarder **required** over concrete. Do not add foam/cushioned underlayment under pad-attached products.
- New slabs must cure ≥ 90 days. Moisture limits: ≤ 8 lbs/1000 sq ft/24 hr (ASTM F1869) or $\leq 85\%$ RH (ASTM F2170).
- Concrete should meet ACI 302.1; minimum 3500 psi; finish and cure per ACI.

EXISTING FLOORS

- Install over most single-layer, hard-surface floors that are smooth and well-bonded. Do not install over carpet, cushioned-back resilient, or floating/loose-laid floors.
- * **It is NOT recommended** to install on top of glued-down wood floors on a concrete slab. Installing on top of wood floors that are on a concrete slab can trap moisture, allowing mold to grow, as well as prevent the wood flooring from expanding and contracting, which will impact the integrity of the floor and click system. The warranty may be affected should this happen.
- Repair curled edges and fill embossing with a cementitious embossing leveler.

WARNING: Do not sand, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead-blast, or mechanically chip existing resilient floors or cutback adhesive—these may contain asbestos or crystalline silica. Unless verified non-asbestos, presume it contains asbestos. Follow local regulations.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

- All substrates must be dry, clean, smooth, flat, and free of movement or deflection.
- Flatness tolerance: Max 3/16" over 10 ft. Grind high spots; fill low spots with a latex-fortified, cementitious patch.
- Fill and level seams, cracks, grout lines, control joints, depressions, grooves, and irregularities.
- Vacuum thoroughly to remove dust and debris.

GETTING STARTED

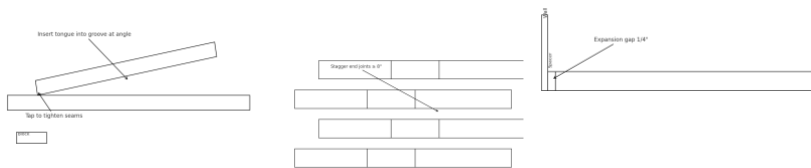
- This is a floating floor—do not glue or nail to the substrate (unless installing on stairs and the attached padding has been removed)
- Determine plank direction. For long/narrow spaces, lay parallel to the longest dimension.
- Mix planks from multiple cartons to blend shade/variation* Maintain a 1/4" expansion gap at all vertical obstructions (walls, pipes, cabinets).

TRANSITION PIECE REQUIREMENTS

To accommodate natural expansion and contraction, transition moldings must be installed every 60 linear feet (lf) in length or width of the floor. This is especially important in large, continuous spaces, doorways, or between adjoining rooms. Failure to use transition pieces where required may result in buckling, separation, or damage, and will void the Manufacturer's warranty.

INSTALLATION (FLOATING CLICK-LOCK)

1. Begin from the left along the starting wall. Tongue side faces the wall; groove faces out—place 1/4" spacers on long and short sides.
2. Assemble first-row ends by inserting tongue into groove at a low angle; lower flat until joint closes. Tap gently with the tapping block if needed—never strike the plank directly.
3. Cut the last plank in the first row to length, maintaining a 1/4" gap at the wall. First and last pieces in a row should be ≥ 8 " long.
4. Use the cutoff (≥ 8 ") to start the next row to maintain stagger (offset end joints ≥ 8 ").
5. Install the first plank of row 2 by angling the long tongue into the groove of row 1; rotate down.
6. For the next plank, engage the long side with a slight overlap, then angle the end joint into the previous plank and lower to lock. Use a mallet and tapping block to tighten side/end joints as needed.
7. Use a pull bar to lock the last piece of each row and the final row while keeping spacers in place.



RADIANT HEAT SUBFLOORS

- Heating elements must be embedded with $\geq 1/2$ " separation from the flooring surface; electric mats not embedded are not recommended.
- Operate the system at normal temperature for ≥ 21 days before installation to dry residual moisture. Turn off 24 hours before install and keep off 24 hours after. Then raise the temperature gradually over 7 days.
- Max subfloor surface temperature: 85°F.

FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

- Remove spacers; install transitions at doorways and between dissimilar floors. Do not fasten moldings through the flooring—attach to the wall.
- Pre-drill and install base/shoe molding sized to cover the expansion space without pinching the floor.
- Use protective sheets (e.g., 1/8" Masonite) when moving heavy items. Use felt pads under furniture.
- Maintain room temp 65°F–100°F; RH 40%–70%. Place walk-off mats at exterior doors.

INSTALLING ON STAIRS

On stairs, planks must be fully adhered. If the product has an attached pad, remove the pad in stair areas before adhering. Use an adhesive suitable for vinyl/LVT; follow the adhesive Manufacturer's instructions.

MAINTENANCE

- Sweep or vacuum (hard-floor setting) regularly. Damp-mop with pH-neutral cleaner as needed; avoid abrasive pads, waxes, or ammonia cleaners.
- Wipe spills promptly. After installation, perform an initial clean to remove debris.
- Use felt furniture pads; avoid rubber/plastic backers that can discolor flooring. Avoid caster chairs or use appropriate chair mats.
- Keep pet nails trimmed. Use rugs with natural/felt backing.
- Limit direct sunlight with blinds/drapes; prolonged temps $>95^\circ\text{F}$ plus intense sun can damage resilient floors.

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WPC/SPC Flooring Installation Guidelines Over Radiant Heat

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Before beginning installation, read the entire document carefully. Failure to follow these guidelines may void the Manufacturer's warranty. These instructions apply specifically to WPC and SPC Flooring being installed over hydronic or electric radiant heat systems.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- The radiant heating system must be fully operational and functional for at least two (2) weeks before installation.
- The system must be shut off at least 24 hours before, during, and 48 hours after installation.
- The subfloor surface temperature must never exceed 85°F (29°C) at any time, including during operation.
- Radiant heat systems that use forced-air ducts under the subfloor are not suitable for WPC/SPC installations.
- Always check that the radiant system provides even heat distribution and does not cause hot spots.

2. ACCEPTABLE RADIANT HEAT SYSTEMS

- Hydronic (water-based) radiant heat systems are embedded in concrete or installed under subfloor panels. This is the preferred method.
- Electric radiant systems are embedded in self-leveling underlayment or thin-set material.
- ⚠️ Film-type, foil-type, or mat-type radiant systems installed directly under WPC/SPC flooring are not recommended and not approved by SLCC Flooring. These types of radiant heat tend to have heat spots, where the floor's temperature is not consistent in all areas of the flooring.

3. SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- Ensure subfloor is clean, dry, smooth, and level (no more than 3/16" variation over 10 feet).
- Moisture vapor emission rate (MVER) from concrete must not exceed 8 lbs/1000 sq. ft./24 hrs (ASTM F1869), and relative humidity must not exceed 85% (ASTM F2170).
- A 6-mil polyethylene vapor barrier must be installed over concrete subfloors before floating WPC/SPC flooring.
- For wood subfloors, use an approved underlayment with proper R-value (≤ 0.6).

4. ACCLIMATION

- WPC/SPC flooring should be acclimated for at least 48 hours in the installation area at a room temperature of 65–85°F (18–29°C) and relative humidity of 35–65%.
- The radiant heat should remain off during acclimation.

5. INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

- Use the floating floor method only; **do not glue or nail** WPC/SPC flooring over radiant heat.
- Maintain an expansion gap of at least 1/4" (6 mm) around all fixed objects, walls, and pipes.
- Stagger end joints a minimum of 8" between rows.
- Ensure that the underlayment (if used) is compatible with radiant heat systems and has low thermal resistance.
- Do not install cabinetry or fixed objects directly on top of WPC/SPC flooring.

6. STARTING THE HEAT SYSTEM

- Wait 48 hours before turning on the radiant system.
- Gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5°F (2°C) per day until the normal operating temperature is reached.
- When reducing temperature, decrease in the same gradual manner.
- Do not place area rugs or mats with high thermal insulation (such as rubber or foam) over heated areas.

7. TEMPERATURE LIMITATIONS

- Subfloor surface temperature must never exceed 85°F (29°C).
- Ambient room temperature: Maintain between 65°F and 85°F (18°C–29°C).
- Relative humidity: Always maintain a level between 35% and 65%.

8. WARRANTY & RESPONSIBILITY

- Failure to comply with these radiant heat installation guidelines will void the Manufacturer's warranty.
- The radiant heat system Manufacturer is responsible for ensuring that the system is compatible with WPC/SPC flooring and operates within the specified temperature limits.

9. NOTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Always record subfloor moisture readings and radiant system temperatures before installation for warranty documentation purposes.
- When installing over older radiant systems, ensure that insulation and control systems function correctly to prevent uneven heat distribution.
- For large open spaces, consider using temperature sensors or thermostats in multiple zones to maintain consistency.

