



SPC FLOORING INSTALLATION/CARE INSTRUCTIONS

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

TOOLS REQUIRED

Utility Knife, Tape Measure, Ruler, Straight Edge, Spacers, Pencil, Tapping Block, Pull Bar, Moisture Testing Gauge, Rubber Mallet, Miter/Table Saw/Vinyl Flooring Cutter (for cutting use)

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

- Carefully check flooring material for any defects. Contact your supplier immediately if any defect is found.
- Defective planks should NOT be installed.
- SPC planks must be acclimated at least 48 hours prior to installation in a climate-controlled job site. Store boxes flat (never on edge), with box ends open to allow air flow.
- Room temperature between 60°F - 80°F should be maintained for a minimum 48 hours before, during, and after installation.
- Remove quarter rounds, baseboard moldings or cove base.
- Undercut doorway moldings for proper expansion.
- Planks must be rested flat, and stack no more than 5 boxes high.
- DO NOT drop boxes to protect corner and edges from impact. Dropping on edges can cause interior damage to the locking system.
- Prepare substrate.
- A 6mil poly vapor barrier is recommended for our 8mil Southgate (II) collection SPC floors.
- Vinyl flooring is not recommended for installation under large windows where the floor is exposed to direct, intense sunlight, such as tents in the sun or sunrooms. When flooring is exposed to sunlight (presence of a window, skylight), masking protection is required to prevent significant discoloration and potential expansion. If the above provisions do not apply, the cladding must be bonded with a two-component PU adhesive for extreme conditions (reference available from your dealer).

GOOD CONDITIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION

WOOD SUBSTRATE

A wood subfloor must be smooth, flat, and free of movement and deflection. If joist spacing is more than 16'' on center, a minimum of 1'' total thickness of subfloor is required. A ¼'' underlayment grade panel should be installed over wood subfloor if the surface of the subfloor is not smooth and flat.

Recommended subfloors include: APA Underlayment Grade Plywood A-C, B-C or C-C.

Note: To make the room appear larger, or if to install in very small room/hallway, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension.

Basements and crawl spaces should be kept dry and well ventilated. Crawl spaces must have a minimum of 18'' from ground to underside of joists. Exposed earth should be kept 100% covered by a minimum of 6-8 mil polyethylene vapor barrier and joints overlapped and sealed with moisture resistant tape.

CONCRETE SUBSTRATE



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New concrete slab must cure for at least 90 days. SPC planks may be installed over on grade, above grade or below grade concrete subfloors. Concrete floors shall be constructed in accordance with the American Concrete Institute (ACI) 302.1 Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction. Concrete shall be finished and cured according to ACI and have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi. **Installation of moisture vapor barrier is required prior to pouring of on or below grade slabs.** Moisture vapor transmission shall not exceed 6 lbs./1000 sq.ft./24 hours per ASTM F-1869 (Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test). Moisture may also be tested according to ASTM F 2170 (Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes). When tested according to this method, the internal relative humidity shall not exceed 85%. SPC planks may be installed over gypsum-based underlayment.

EXISTING FLOORS

SPC planks may be installed over most existing smooth, single layer, hard surface or un-cushioned resilient floors. Check resilient flooring for any curled areas around the perimeter or at seams and repair if necessary. Use a good quality cementitious based embossing leveler to smooth and fill the existing floor. DO NOT install over carpet, cushioned backed resilient floors, or any floating or loose-laid flooring.

WARNING:

DO NOT sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead-blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, back, lining felt or asphaltic “cutback” adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fiber or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

- All substrates must be dry, clean, smooth, flat, free from all existing adhesive residues, and free from movement or deflection. SPC floor is not suitable for rooms that could be flooded or rooms with wet concrete or saunas.
- DO NOT install SPC planks on sub-floors soiled with dirt, dust, powder, solvent, paint, wax, grease, and oil.
- The substrate must be leveled within 3/16” in a 10-ft. radius. Grind down any high spots and fill any low spots.
- Fill and level all plywood seams and concrete cracks, grout lines, embossed patterns, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves or other irregularities. Use a latex fortified and cementitious patching compound.
- Sweep and/or vacuum substrate to remove all dust and debris.

GETTING STARTED

- **SPC is a floating floor and should not be nailed to the substrate.**
- SPC planks are intended for indoor use ONLY.
- Determine in which direction the planks will be installed. Typically, the length of flooring will run with the length of the room or the length of the floor plan.
- DO NOT install very heavy furniture such as kitchen island/cabinets on top of SPC planks.
- Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and also to determine the width of last row of planks. If the width of last row of planks is less than 2” (50mm), excluding the tongue, the width of first row of planks needs to be cut and adjusted accordingly.



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- A minimum 5/16'' (8.2mm) expansion space is required around the perimeter of room and all vertical objects.
- Inspect all planks for visible defect and damage before and during installation. **DO NOT install any defective or damaged planks.** We will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects.
- During installation, inspect the groove area of planks and remove any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks.
- A wide variation in color and texture is designed into the product to enhance its natural appearance. Pull alternate planks from a minimum of 5 boxes to blend the variation for the best natural appearance.
- Moldings are designed to color coordinate with the overall look of the floor. Due to the many color and texture variations designed into each plank, "exact matches" are not possible. Color and texture variations between planks and moldings are not considered defective.
- A gap must also be provided around pipes or at threshold or obstacles. For rooms up to 25 ft (7.6m) wide and 40 ft. (12.2m) long, allow between 5/16'' and 3/8'' for expansion along each wall. For rooms over 25 ft. wide or over 40 ft. long, an additional expansion joint must be inserted. Expansion joints are also required in doorways, and between adjoining rooms or areas where adjacent flooring is installed. Use a trim (T-mold/ Reducer) to cover the expansion joint.

INSTALLATION

1. Begin laying planks from the left side of the starting wall and work to the right side. The tongue side of the plank should face the starting wall, groove side should face out.
2. Place 5/16'' (8.2mm) spacers between the short and long side of planks and the wall. Always position one spacer between the wall and where the planks' end joints meet.
3. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side of the previous plank at a low angle (no more than 30 degrees). Gradually lower the plank down flat until the end joint closes, ensuring that the planks are perfectly aligned, smooth, and level. If necessary, use a mallet and tapping block to gently tap down the ends to firmly lock in the end joints. It is important to ensure that both plank ends are perfectly aligned and level with each other. **DO NOT** strike plank directly on the surface as this can cause damage to the finish. Use the tapping block instead. Install remaining full planks in first row.
4. The last plank in first row will need to be cut. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank. Subtract 5/16'' (8.2mm) from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 8'' (203mm), the length of first plank in the row must be cut. This will allow for a longer plank at the end of the row. The first and last plank in each row must be at least 8'' (203mm) in length.
5. Planks can be cut using a table saw or vinyl flooring cutter. Score the top surface of the plank a few times with a utility knife then snap the plank on score line. It may be necessary to cut through the attached underlayment.
6. The remaining piece cut off from the last plank in the first row may serve as the first plank in the second row provided it is at least 8'' (203mm) long. Always stagger end joints from row to row a minimum 8'' (203mm).
7. Install the long side of the first plank of the second row. Remember to place a 5/16'' (8.2mm) spacer between the wall and the short side of the plank. Insert the tongue side into the groove side of previous row at a low angle to lower flat to the substrate.
8. Install the second plank in the second row. Position the long side of the plank with the tongue side overlapping the groove of planks in the previous row approximately 1/8''(3.2mm).
9. Angle the end joint into previous plank. Angle the plank up and gently push forward until the plank locks into previous row. Continue installing remaining planks in second row. It is important to make sure that the first two rows are straight and square as they can affect the entire installation. After installing each row, use a rubber mallet and tapping block to gently tap the plank joints into previous row to ensure a tight fit and perfect alignment between end and side joints. Any gapping or misalignment can affect the quality of installation.



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10. The last board in each row should be cut to fit the end of the row, while still maintaining 5/16" expansion gap at the wall.
 - a. Flip the board over (placing the groove to your left)
 - b. Measure the board to gap size in the row.
 - c. Mark and cut the board using a miter, table saw, or score and snap.
 - d. Flip the board over and it will be ready to insert and be taped into place.
 - e. You may use the remaining piece to begin next row.
11. Use a pull bar to lock in the last plank of a row and in the last row of flooring being installed in the room.
12. Continue work from left to right, row by row. Be sure to maintain a 5/16" space around all walls and vertical objects and maintain a random appearance. Offset end joints a minimum of 8" from row to row.

FINISH INSTALLATION

- After all planks have been installed, remove spacers from perimeter of room.
- Install any transition moldings. DO NOT fasten any moldings through the flooring.
- Pre-drill and install quarter round or base board moldings. Molding must be with sufficient size to cover the 5/16" space. DO NOT fasten moldings through the flooring. Fasten into the wall instead.
- Use a 1/8" Masonite sheet to cover and protect the top of floors when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
- Use proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture.
- Post installation room temperature must be maintained between 60°F and 80°F.
- Relative humidity must be maintained between 30% and 70%.

GENERAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE TIPS

After installation of floor, we recommend an immediate cleaning to remove the dirt and debris caused from installation. Follow flooring cleaning tips below.

It is recommended to save a couple of boxes of flooring in case of accidental damage. Planks can be repaired or replaced

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- When flooring is exposed to sunlight (presence of a window, skylight), masking protection is required to prevent significant discoloration and potential expansion.
- Some natural ventilation or intermittent air conditioning in vacant homes should be considered. Long term continuous inside temperature over 95°F combined with strong direct sunlight will damage the floorings and cause the installation to fail.
- If your floor has been exposed to excessive amounts of water due to flooding, remove the water as quickly as possible. A dehumidifier should be promptly turned on in the room to reduce the moisture level back to normal. Please note that the damage of plank by flood is not covered by manufacturing warranty.
- Pets with unclipped nails can damage your flooring. The same is true for any high-heeled shoes that do not have proper tips on the heels.

DOG AND ANIMAL CARE

- Keep nails clipped. Animals running through the house can scratch any finish.



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AREA RUG BACKINGS

- Only rugs with a natural backing (i.e., felt) are safe for SPC floors. Avoid rugs with rubber or abrasive backing, as these can damage or discolor the floor.

FLOOR PROTECTOR

- Use felt protectors under legs of chairs or furniture. Non-abrasive and felt-backed products are best. Rubber or plastic products can damage and discolor your floors. Caster wheeled chairs should have wide rubber caster. Non-staining protective mats are required under rolling chairs.

REMOVING SCUFF MARKS

- If scuff marks cannot be removed using a damp mop, stubborn scuffs may be removed by the use of a tennis ball or pencil eraser. Gently rub in long direct of plank.

FLOOR CLEANING

- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly. Use vacuum designed for hard surfaces (if vacuum has a beater bar, it should be turned off)
- NEVER use steam mop to clean SPC floors.
- Wipe off any spills immediately.
- Use a damp (not wet) mop with clean water to clean dirt. Use a dry mop to remove surplus water and then allow to dry.
- Use cleaners recommended for vinyl flooring. DO NOT use crossed linked acrylic polishes, waxes, or abrasive cleaners. Avoid using ordinary household cleaners and bleach-based detergents. This may cause the floor to become slippery or discolored.
- During the cleaning process, rinse applicators often in a separate pail of clean water. A dirty applicator can spread dirt to other areas, causing streaks and haziness. Use a damp (never wet) applicator, squeeze out surplus water and ensure that the residual water evaporates from the floor within one minute. If it takes longer, there is too much moisture on the applicator.

WARRANTY

The manufacturer warranty only applies to the original end consumer for the following conditions:

- The surface will not wear through under normal use.
- The design will not fade under normal use as determined by the manufacturer.
- The panel joints will remain secure after proper installation

Warranty Years by UFS Collections:

Collections	Residential Warranty Year	Commercial Warranty Year
Southgate; Southgate II	15	3
Casino Plus	20	4
Brookstone	25	5
European Oak; European French Oak; Colonial Plus; Chesapeake Plus; Pioneer Plus	Limited Lifetime	10