

## HARD INTERLOCKING PLANKS & TILES

### HARD INTERLOCKING PLANKS & TILES INSTALLATION GUIDE

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Your new Hard Interlocking Planks & Tiles are the newest generation of high-quality resilient flooring. It has a unique interlocking-edge design for easy installation. Simply follow the steps and you will experience how easily this product is installed. The wear layer has millions of ceramic microspheres that make a very durable and resistant flooring option.

#### **BOTH INSTALLER AND FINAL USER MUST READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS**

**Foreword:** The installer has a responsibility to properly inspect the following conditions before installing. If your flooring has issues with any of the following inspection points, they must be reported to the seller immediately, failure to do so before installing or within 30 days of purchase will void any warranty pertaining to the found issue.

- **Quality:** Ensure that the quality of the material is as you requested.
- **Quantity:** Ensure that you have ordered and received the proper amount of flooring and accessories to complete your project.
- **Color/Finish:** Ensure that the material has the correct color, finish, texture and gloss level that you're expecting.

#### **TOOLS AND MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Utility knife & straight edge
- Measuring tape
- Shears for cutting around irregular shaped objects
- 3mm-10mm(1/8-3/8") spacers
- Transition mouldings and baseboards

#### **TRICKS FOR MEASURING**

Measure the length and width to determine the square footage of the room. Alcoves or offsets should be measured separately. Purchase at least 10% extra to cover waste, trimming and for future replacement needs.

#### **CAUTION:**

This flooring can be installed over existing smooth, singled layered flooring that has a density greater than 500kg/m<sup>3</sup> (similar to plywood) and that is fastened by nails or glue to its substrate. If your flooring does not have any pre-attached padding, you can use a separate underlayment pad approved for PVC installation such as Ultra Fold. This product is not suitable for outdoor use, sunrooms, solariums or saunas. This flooring will warp if subject to excessive heat and will shrink if exposed to excessive cold. We also highly recommend you do not install in rooms or homes in which the temperature is not controlled. Exposure to long term direct sunlight can cause expansion damage to your floor. After installation, the ambient temperature must remain between 5 and 35 degrees Celsius.

## BEFORE INSTALLATION

Place the flooring horizontally in the room where it will be installed. The room should remain between 18 and 22 degrees Celsius 48 hours before installation, and during the installation period.

Do not remove the flooring from the box during this acclimatization period. Hydronic Heating floor requires this acclimatization period to be 72 hours with the same temperature conditions. Check all panels at daylight before and during installation. Defective panels should never be installed. Once a defective panel is installed, it will be deemed accepted.

## SUBFLOOR PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION

The subfloor surface must be smooth, flat, level, dry, clean and solid. Any adhesive residue must be removed to ensure proper installation. The subfloor should be flat within a tolerance of 3/16" (5mm) over a span of 10' (3m) or 1/8" (3mm) over a span of 6' (2m). Any unevenness past these tolerances must be sanded or filled with a floor leveler. Voids or humps in the subfloor will cause telegraphing and might prevent the flooring from locking properly. New concrete floors need to cure and dry for a minimum of 60 days before installation of flooring.

When installing on cement, it is necessary to apply a polyethylene of a thickness of 6mil (0.2 mm). Overlap the edges of the polyethylene by a minimum of 8" (20cm) and seal the junction with moisture-proof self-adhesive tape to prevent moisture from seeping through, which could create residue and swelling on your flooring surface.

**Radiant Heat Flooring:** Please also follow the 2 above points ('Before installation' and 'Subfloor preparation')

For Electric or liquid based heating, systems must be activated and ran at 20C degrees for 1 week before installing the flooring. Heating levels must never exceed 27C degrees after flooring is installed. When changing temperature, a maximum increase or decrease of 2C degrees must be ensured.

**Mouldings:** Mouldings must be used in below-indicated cases.

**Reducer:** Used to make the transition from this flooring to linoleum or other types of surfaces that are thinner.

**Stair Nose (where available):** Used at the edge of each step in a staircase and landing. (Optional for floating installation)

**T-Moulding:** Used when joining floors of the same thickness or when installing in a span of more than 80' In.ft.(25m) or an area of more than 4000 sq.ft. (370m<sup>2</sup>)

## INSTALLATION

**Note: mix planks from multiple boxes to limit shade variations.**

· Installation should begin with a corner and proceed from the wall with the tongue facing the wall. Allow a minimum gap of 3/8" (10 mm) for product expansion. Transition mouldings or baseboards will cover the gap.

· The temperature of a room can vary due to differences between the seasons. Therefore, your flooring must be able to expand and contract in all directions. The greater the surface area, the greater the room for expansion required.

Please allow a 3/8" (10mm) expansion gap at all walls and near anything that is fixed to the flooring substrate. This gap must be provided around pipes or at thresholds or obstacles. Do not install continuous flooring that is greater than 80 In.ft.(25m) or 4000 ft2. (370m2) and over. Expansion joints are also required in doorways, and between adjoining rooms or areas where adjacent flooring is installed. Use a T-moulding to cover the expansion joint. NEVER screw your Hard Interlocking Planks & Tiles to the substrate. If this product has a pre-attached padding, it cannot be glued to the substrate.

- In the case where movement is restricted by heavy furniture or accentuated by high traffic, we recommend to glue your flooring to its substrate by using a non-releasing glue that is recommended for this flooring. Please follow directions from the glue manufacturer.
- For ease of installation, we recommend that you place your body in a manner that you will be pushing on the pieces while installing versus pulling on them. This will also enable you to see any pieces that have come unclipped.
- When laying the first row in a straight line, interlock the short ends by dropping the tongue into the groove and then pressing firmly on the short end until a sound is heard, NEVER HIT on the pieces. If you need to tap to engage the clip system, tap gently with a rubber hammer on top of the board ONLY. Make sure that the two planks are even, which means that the interlocking system is well connected. Install sequential plank on the short end and ensure to line up evenly. Place this first row along the chosen wall respecting the minimum gap of 3/8" (10mm) by using spacers. There should be no visible gap between planks. To separate short sides, do not lift the pieces but rather slide them apart.
- When installing Hard Interlocking Planks & Tiles, you must stagger the short ends from one row to another by a minimum of 8" (20cm).
- To start the second row, measure and mark the plank, then using a straight edge and utility knife, score the plank and snap it.
- Always start the next row with the piece remaining from the previous row unless that piece is less than 8" (20cm) long. Engage long side with the receiving row while aligning the short end to that of the previous piece. Lock the long side by dropping it to the floor while dropping the short sides into one another. Run your thumb along the short side until you hear a 'clicking' sound, which confirms that the clip is engaged.
- Fitting around irregular objects is very easy with this flooring. Simply make a pattern out of heavy paper to fit around pipes or irregular objects. Place the pattern on the plank and trace. Cut along trace lines using a utility knife or heavy-duty scissors, and lay plank. Allow for expansion gaps along each wall.
- When installing the last row, cut the pieces lengthwise while ensuring to keep proper expansion space from wall as mentioned above. Complete the installation by installing your baseboard mouldings covering the flooring's expansion gaps. To install transition mouldings glue the moulding to its track or subfloor but never to the flooring itself.

**Note: To separate planks / tiles joined by the short ends, do not lift the planks / tiles. Slide them horizontally in the opposite direction.**