

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

PREPARATION:

Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project.

Inspect prior to installation, if there is any quality issue please contact your supplier immediately for a check and solution. Natural color variations should be considered acceptable.

Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" (46 cm) from the ground to the underside of the joists. A ground cover of 6-20 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier. Joints must be lapped 6" (15 cm) and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.

Room temperature and humidity of installation areas should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week before installation of flooring. Maintaining an optimum room temperature of 65-85°F and a humidity range of 30-50% is recommended. Permanent HVAC must be in operation for 10 days prior to installation. SPC materials delivered 24 hours in advance of installation.

Subfloor should be dry, structurally sound, clean and flat. Wood subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to help avoid squeaking. If not flat, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland-based leveling patch.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, and 6-mil polyfilm is recommended between concrete and ground. Subfloor should be flat and level within 3/16" per 10' radius. If necessary grind high spots down and level low spots with a Portland leveling compound. Ceramic tile, resilient tile and sheet vinyl must be well-bonded to subfloor, in good condition, clean, and level. Do not sand existing vinyl floors, as they may contain asbestos. Here are some acceptable subfloor:

CDX Underlayment Grade Plywood (at least 1/2" thick); Underlayment Grade Particleboard; OSB (at least 3/4" thick) Concrete Slab (fully cured with vapor emissions not to exceed 85% RH ASTM F2170 and PH between 8 and 9)

Existing Wood or Laminate Floor; Ceramic Tile; Resilient Tile; Sheet Vinyl

TOOLS REQUIREMENT:

Tape measure Pencil Chalk Line

1/4" Spacers

Crosscut Power Saw 3M Tape

Hammer Tapping Block Pull Bar

GETTING STARTED: Unopened boxes should be stored flat

Determine the direction that the flooring will be installed. Installation parallel to the longest wall is recommended for best visual effects. Because houses and buildings, as well as adjacent hardwood or laminate floors, expand and contract, we recommend leaving a 1/4" expansion gap between the perimeter walls and any adjacent hardwood floor. Work from several open boxes of flooring and "dry lay" the floor before permanently laying the floor. This will allow you to select varying textures, colors, and sheens, and to arrange them in a harmonious pattern. Remember, it is the installers' responsibility to determine the expectations of what the finished floor will look like with the end user first and then to cull out pieces that do not meet those expectations.

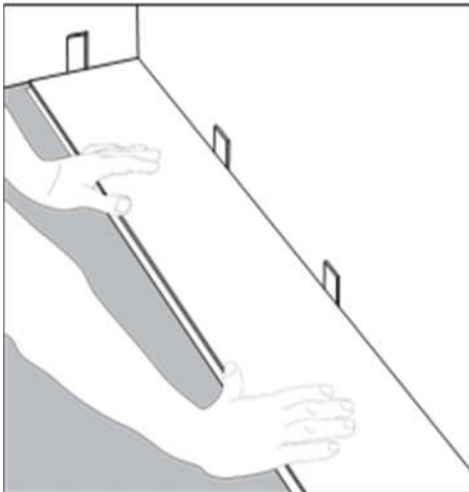
Begin installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank or tile. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks or tiles to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of straight. Tongue side should face the wall.

You may want to position a few rows before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line. When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 8" (20 cm) for planks, and equal to 12" (51 cm or a half piece) for tiles.

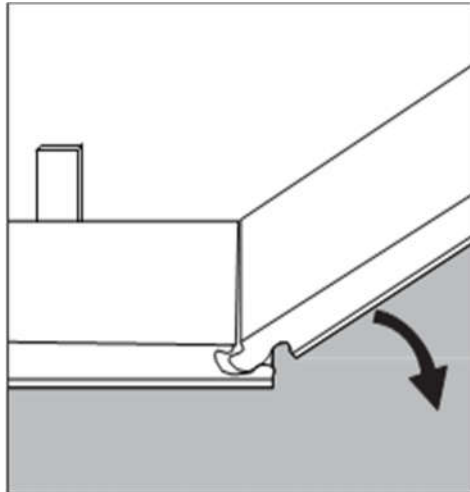
For plank installations, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row when cutting the last plank in a row to fit. If cut-off end is less than 8", discard it and instead cut a new plank at a random length (at least 8" in length) and use it to start the second row. For tile installations, always begin a row with either a full tile or a half tile so that the joints are consistently staggered in a "brick work" type pattern. Always begin each row from the same side of the room. Perimeter planks should face no be less than 1/2 the width of the plank.

INSTALLATION:

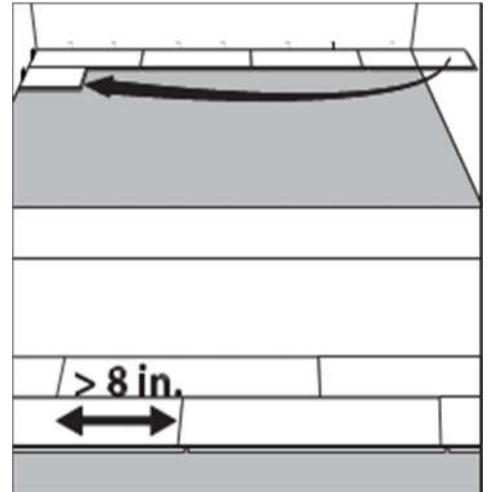
Before laying: Measure the room at right angle to the direction of the flooring. For the best visual effect, planks or tiles in the final row should be at least at least 1/3 the width of the plank or tile. For this purpose, planks or tiles in the first row can be cut to smaller size. Shuffle boards in order to obtain a pleasant blend of shades. Lay boards, preferably following the direction of the main source of light. We recommend laying on wooden floors crossways to the existing floorboards.



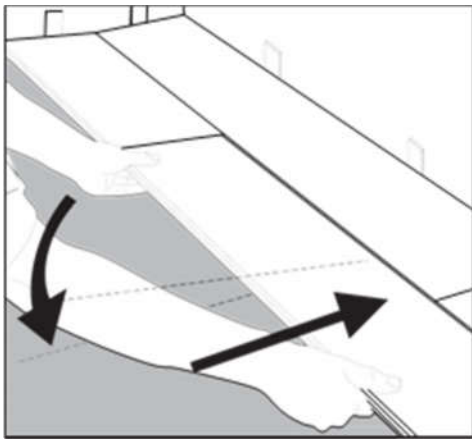
Step1: Begin installation working from left to right. Insert spacers at ends and edges where planks meet wall.



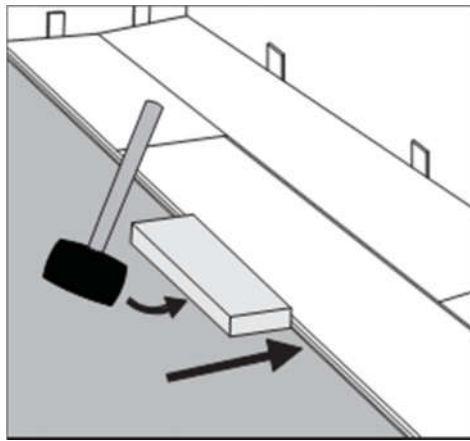
Step2: Lock short end of plank by inserting tongue into groove at an angle and drop in place. Continue to end of first row.



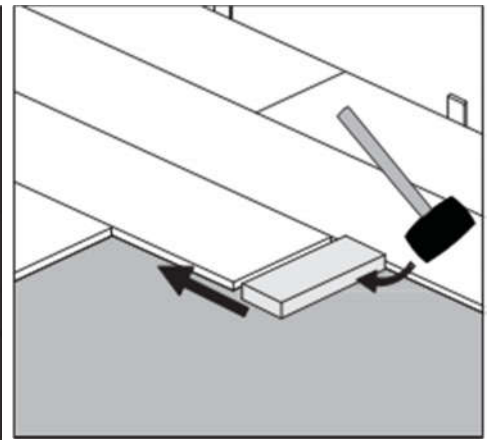
Step3: Use leftover plank from first row as starter for second row. There must be at least 8" between plank end joints on adjacent rows.



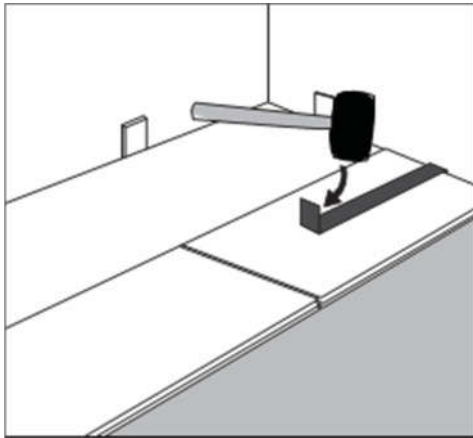
Step4: Lock long edge of floor by inserting tongue into groove at an angle and drop in place. Slide plank toward end of previously installed plank until the tongue just touches the groove.



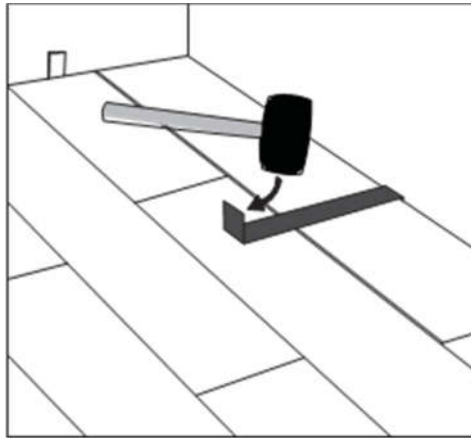
Step5: IMPORTANT! Use hammer and tapping block to tap long edge of plank to ensure a tight fit. Any gaping can compromise the locking system!



Step6: Attach a scrap piece of floor to bridge gap between ends of planks. Tap end of plank with hammer and tapping block to lock ends of planks together. Remove bridge and continue towards wall until installing the final plank in the row.



Step7: Use hammer and pull bar to lock final piece in row. Insert spacer at end of row. Continue installation to final row.



Step8: Use hammer and pull bar to lock long edges of planks on final row.

AFTER INSTALLATION:

- In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup and turnover to the owner, Please use rosin paper to cover the floor's surface if necessary.
- Dust-mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.

MAINTENANCE:

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.

- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Floor covering subjected to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Use appropriate precautions to minimize potential effects on the floor covering.
- Do not expose floors to temperature exceeding 140° F.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile- oil drips onto the vinyl floor covering.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Protective mats are required under office chairs.
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the floor.
- Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do NOT use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- Use floor protectors under furniture.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do not use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor. Do NOT use abrasive scrubbing tools. Do not use detergents, abrasive cleaners or "mop andshine" products.