1. **Read enclosed detailed installation instructions before beginning installation.**
2. **A flat subfloor is a must!**
3. **Proper moisture testing is a must!**
4. **Proper expansion around all permanent structures is a must!**
5. **Molding, trim, transition, and finish pieces must not prevent the floor from floating.**
6. **Failure to follow installation instructions will void the warranty.**
7. **No acclimation is required under proper conditions.**

Please Carefully Read All Instructions Before You Begin Your Installation.
Improper Installation Will Void the Warranty.

Each installation setting is unique, therefore it is recommended to consult a licensed installer/contractor to verify that the conditions are appropriate for this product.

WARNING: Drilling, sawing, sanding, or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the state of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. *For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood*

Inspect the floor for defects prior to and during installation. Do not install any flooring that appears to be defective. Always check flooring planks for defects such as chips and color variations under good light conditions. Check that grooves are free of debris. **Use planks from multiple boxes** during installation to ensure random pattern variation. Installation of planks with visible defects implies acceptance.

No acclimation is required under proper conditions. However, if the flooring is exposed to temperatures less than 40º F (5º C) or more than 95º F (35º C) and/or if the flooring is exposed to relative humidity below 35% or above 70%, flooring must be conditioned by spreading them out in unopened cartons, not stacked, in the room where they will be installed, for minimum 12 hours under the recommended temperature and humidity ranges specified in this installation guide.

The area in which the flooring is installed must be climate controlled with the temperature between 65- 78°F (18-25°C) and humidity levels between 35%-70% during installation and for the lifetime after installation.

This product is for indoor use only.

Installation spanning greater than 50 feet in length or width must have a T-molding installed across the width of the room, archway or at the beginning of the hallway to provide proper expansion space. Doorways of less than 4 feet must always have a T-molding or other transition molding regardless of floor length or width.

While this flooring can be installed above, on, or below grade, below grade must not have a sump pump or floor drains.

This product is a floating floor and should NOT be secured to the floor. Do not install fixed objects, such as cabinets, on top of the flooring unless it is fully adhered and do not fasten trim/molding/transition pieces directly to the floor.

Required Tools and Supplies:

- Saw
- Safety Glasses
- 3/8” spacers
- Utility Knife
- Straight Edge Ruler or T-Square
- Pencil
- Tape Measure
- Adhesive Tape
- Rubber Mallet
- Dust Mask or Respirator

If existing baseboard molding is difficult to remove, Quarter Round molding likely will be required to cover the expansion space needed between flooring and baseboard.

SUITABLE TYPES OF FLOORS AND FLOOR PREPARATION

The sub floor must be **flat, dry, and clean**. Carpet staples or any/all adhesive residues must be removed and the floor must be clean to ensure proper installation. All wooden subfloors must be structurally sound and must be installed following the American Plywood Association’s (APA) and the manufacturer’s recommendations.

Moisture in concrete subfloors can create high moisture vapor emission levels, hydrostatic pressure, and high alkalinity levels. This combination is highly corrosive and damaging to flooring, over time. To avoid this, ensure that concrete subfloors are constructed according to the American Concrete Institution’s guidelines (ACI’s 302.2 Guide). To check current conditions, an RH test using in situ Probes (ASTM F2170) is necessary. If the level of hydrostatic pressure is over 80% RH or will be above 80% RH during the life of the slab, our warranty requires moisture mitigation, such as the use of a moisture barrier, like a 6-mil poly film or MSI’s underlayment, **or** you must use MSI adhesive designed to support up to 95% RH for the install. There also is calcium chloride testing (ASTM F1869) but the in-situ Probe (ASTM F2170) is the preferred test. Lightweight concrete (minimum density of 90 lbs. per cubic foot) is acceptable if installed according to the manufacturer’s instructions and primed with MSI’s MS003 primer.

Note: New concrete needs to be cured for at least 60 days before installing flooring materials.

To check for flatness, hammer a nail into the center of the floor. Tie a string to the nail and push the knot against the floor. Pull the string tight to the farthest of the room and examine the floor for any highs/lows relative to the string. Subfloors must be flat to 3/16” per 10’ (5mm per 3 meters). Any areas in excess of the flatness specification must be sanded down or filled with an appropriate leveler.
This product can be installed over most existing floors including wood, non-cushioned vinyl or linoleum, and ceramic/porcelain tile if the existing flooring is intact and properly secured to the subfloor. If installing over ceramic/porcelain tile, grout lines in excess of 1/16” (0.625) must be filled with a Portland based skim coat/floor leveler according to the manufacturer’s guidelines. It is up to the installer to determine if a vapor barrier is required. If required, cover the subfloor surface with a minimum 6 mil (0.15mm) plastic poly sheeting moisture barrier with at least 8” of overlap at the seams.

Warning: This product should not be installed over carpet. Installation over carpet will void the warranty. When installed in rooms with direct sunlight, during the peak hours of sunlight, the use of blinds/shades or drapes to avoid prolonged direct sunlight period is recommended.

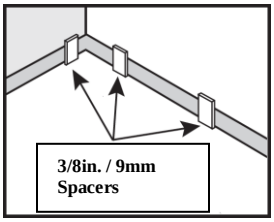
Excess moisture exposure can damage the flooring and breed mold/mildew growth on subfloor and walls. This is not considered a defect in the flooring.

If considering **Radiant heat**, flooring can be installed over 3/8" (9mm) embedded radiant heat. Radiant heat systems must have a minimum of 3/8" (9mm) separation from the product. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F (30°C). Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating. Before installing over new radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture. The maximum moisture content should be 2.5% (CM method). Before starting the installation, turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation. During installation, make sure the temperature in the room of installation is between 60-80°F (15-25°C). After installation, the system can be turned on and the temperature can be raised gradually (5°F per hour) until returning to normal operating conditions.

Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath the flooring. **Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath the flooring will void the warranty.**

Installation:

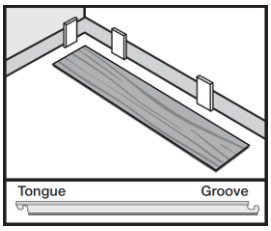
1. **INSTALLING FIRST ROW**
   Set spacers to allow a minimum gap of 3/8" (9mm) around the perimeter of the subfloor for movement or product expansion. Do not remove the spacers until the installation is complete. The expansion gaps should be covered by molding.



2. Measure the length of the room in inches. Divide it by the length of the planks. If the resulting number is less than 8, you will need to cut your first plank accordingly to avoid having planks that are less than 8" on the opposite end of the room**.**

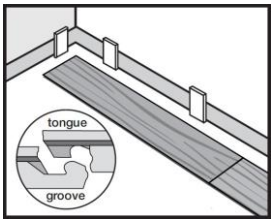
   Note: *To cut a plank, simply measure and mark the plank. Then, use a straight edge and utility knife to score and snap. You will also need to back-cut the under pad on the bottom of the plank. If you have difficulty using this method, you can use a jig saw, circular saw or miter saw.*

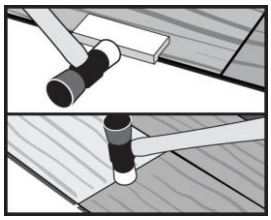
3. Installation should start in a left-hand corner and proceed from the wall with the tongue facing the wall. Position the first plank 6" (15.2cm) from the starting wall but not up against the spacers. The entire row will be moved against the spacers in a later step.



4. Interlock the next plank at the end joint of the first plank by inserting the tongue into the groove of the adjoining planks.

   Square the joints by tapping the long edge with the profiled tapping block and soft-faced hammer. Next, lightly tap down on top of the



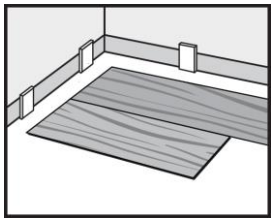


plank at the short joint with the soft-faced hammer. Continue this method to finish the first row.

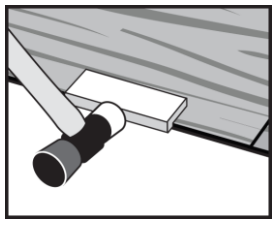
Cut the last piece of the row to fit and allow for the 3/8” (9mm) expansion gap (if you have not already done so). Install as above.

5. **INSTALLING SECOND AND REMAINING ROWS**

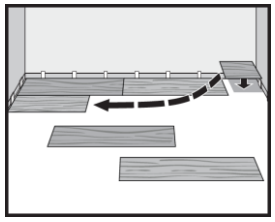
Cut the first plank of the second row to two-thirds its length or make sure there will be at least an 8” (20.3cm) stagger between end joints. Angle the long tongue edge of the plank into the long groove edge of the first plank. Drop and lock the end joints together.



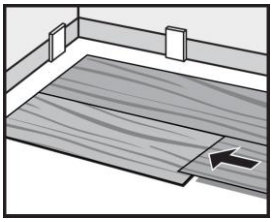
Make sure there are no gaps and, if necessary, tap along the long groove edge using the soft-faced hammer and profiled tapping block to ensure a tight fit.
Do not tap the short end into place if the long joint is not properly engaged, as doing so can cause damage to the tongue and groove.



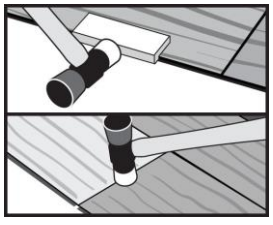
Note: When starting a new row, you can use the cut piece from the previous row, as long as it is more than 8” (20.3cm) and the stagger between seams still is greater than 8” (20.3cm).



6. Attach the second plank by connecting the long side to the first row and sliding it up to the short end of the first plank. Check that the long joints of the planks are properly engaged and then press the short joint into place with your fingers.



7. Continue to square the joints by tapping the long edge with the profiled tapping block and soft-faced hammer. Then, lightly tap down on top of the plank at the short joint with the soft-faced hammer. Continue installing the remainder of the row in this fashion.



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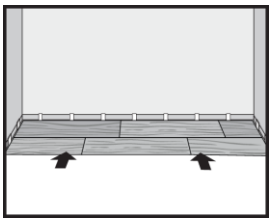
8. After installing the last piece of the second row, slide the entire assembly against the spacers on the starting wall, maintaining the required 3/8” (9mm) expansion gap.

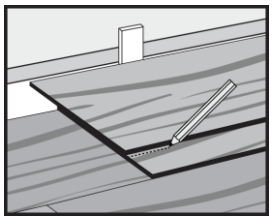


9. Install remaining rows, one row after the other, and maintain the required 8” (20.3cm) stagger throughout the install. Tap and square each plank as in step 7.

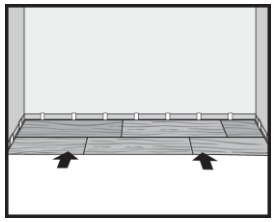
10. **INSTALLING THE LAST ROW**

Most often, the entire length of the last row will need to be cut so that it is narrow enough to fit the remaining space. Cut the first plank of the last row to length (if necessary to follow stagger pattern). Place directly on top of the previously installed row.

Then, take another plank and place it against the wall on top of the plank to be cut for width. Mark the plank (lengthwise), cut it to sizes. Remember to allow for the 3/8” (9mm) expansion gap against fixed objects.

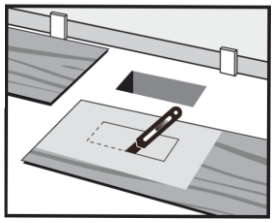


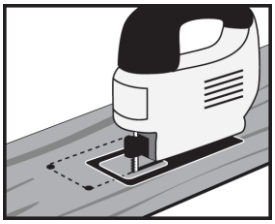
11. Install the plank with the cut side always facing the wall. Use a pull bar to lock the long edges together. Do not use the pull bar on the short edges. Continue to cut and install the remainder of the planks in the last row.



FITTING AROUND IRREGULARLY SHAPED OBJECTS

Make a template to fit around pipes or irregularly shaped objects. Place the pattern upon the plank and trace. Cut along the trace lines using a utility knife or jig saw, and lay plank. Alternatively, a hole saw can be used when cutting planks that are to fit around pipes.





Note: *Be sure to leave a minimum of 3/8” (9mm) expansion space around all fixed objects, cabinetry, and metal door jambs.*

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Maintenance, Tips, and Warnings

MAINTENANCE:

Dust-mop, broom, or vacuum on the correct hard surface setting for daily maintenance. When necessary, clean with a MOIST cloth or mop and water only making sure the mop or cloth is thoroughly wrung out. **DO NOT** pour water or any liquid directly on the floor or use an excessively wet mop that will puddle or leave excessive moisture on the planks. Dry immediately.
NEVER use detergents, soaps, or chemicals to clean the floor. Instead, use a neutral PH cleaner.
NEVER use floor polish or floor cleaning wax, oils, soaps, etc. These products can damage and/or leave a film on the flooring. This is not a flooring defect.
NEVER use rotating beater bars, scrubbers, jet mops, buffers, etc. Liquids and spills must be wiped dry immediately.
Do not use steam mops.

TIPS:
- Always use felt tip protectors on all furniture legs/feet, and regularly clean any gathered dirt/grit from the pads
- Walk off mats should be placed at all exterior entrances to protect the Flooring from soil, grit, deicers, asphalt sealers, and other contaminants capable of damaging the Flooring. Suitable walk off mats should contain both soft and firm fibers to facilitate removal of wet or solid contaminants from shoe soles. An extra set of walk off mats should be available for each entrance so walk off mats can be replaced and cleaned weekly during routine maintenance or more often depending upon site and weather conditions. **Warning:** Never use vinyl/latex/rubber backed protective mats
- Area rugs are recommended
- Keep pet nails trimmed
- Sharp shoe-heels (e.g. high-heels) may dent the floors
- Never slide furniture across a floor without pads
- Keep floors clean
- For wet areas such as bathrooms, caulk/completely seal the perimeter of the floor with a flexible silicon caulk

REFER TO THE CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR PROPER CARE & MAINTENANCE.