



SAPPHIRE FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTION, CAREFULLY, BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION, IMPROPER
INSTALLATION WILL VOID WARRANTY**

INSTALLATION GUIDE:

Dear Customer, you have just purchased an RCB (Rigid Core Board) Vinyl flooring product, produced with the latest technologies. Its exclusive hybrid composition guarantees you optimal performance in humid and temperate situations where other types of PVC flooring are unadvisable.

PRE-INSTALLATION SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

All Subfloors must be:

- Dry
- Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris
- Structurally sound
- Level: Flat to 4.7mm per 3.3 meters radius, 3mm per 0.950mm **note: NO undulations.**

Wood sub-floors must be dry and well secured. Should be screwed every 15cm along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a leveling patch. Make sure all crawl spaces are open & have proper cross ventilation under any suspended the floor.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, and should have a painted or 200 micron polyethylene vapour barrier between concrete and ground. Subfloor should be flat and level within 4.7mm per 3.3 meters, or 3mm/0.950mm. There must be no undulations, i.e. high/low spots/areas. If necessary grind high spots down and level low spots with a 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.

INSTALLATION TOOLS

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Chalk line
- 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape
- Tapping block (trimmed piece of flooring)
- Heel iron / pry bar / pull bar
- Crosscut power saw / Guillotine or Jig saw
- Rubber mallet



STARTING YOUR INSTALLATION

Work from several open boxes of flooring and “dry lay” the floor before permanently laying the floor. This will allow you to select the varying grains & colours 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. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is not square.

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 300mm. When cutting the last plank in a row to fit, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row. If cut-off end is less than 300mm in length, discard it and instead cut a new plank at a random length and use it to start the next row. Always begin each row from the same side of the room. When near a wall, you can use a pry bar to pry close the side and end joints.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

KEY INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS

	RESIDENTIAL and COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS
Subfloor Flatness Tolerances	Flat to 4.7mm per 3.3meter radius, or No less than 3mm per 0.950mm
Vapor Barrier must be used. This is to protect against high levels of moisture vapour emissions, hydro static pressure and High levels of Alkalinity. This is high corrosive and will damage the floor over time.	Painted or 200 micron black plastic. Ensure that all screeds are dry & within specification prior to installing.
Is underlayment (pad) required	No – IXPE underlay pad attached
Acclimation Requirements	24 Hours recommended. Must be done in airconditioned environment.
Transition Requirements (T-Mold) for Large Spaces	Required when in excess of recommended floor coverage. N.B. Recommended coverage in an uncontrolled environment is 10lin.m x 15lin.m
Transition Requirements (T-Mold) Doorways/Thresholds	Required if outside of recommended floor coverage of 10 x 15 lin.m
Installation over existing ceramic tile floor	Filling in grout lines wider than 3.5mm/deeper than 3mm is required
Glue Down Installation	Not recommended/Except for staircases.
Subfloor RH/MVER (Moisture vapour emission rate) recommendations	85% RH/8 lbs MVER (Moisture vapour emission rate)
Radiant Heat	Not to exceed 28° C
Perimeter Expansion requirements	Expansion gap must be 10mm within the total floor coverage. Expansion gap to be covered with a 1/4 round or skirting on perimeter walls & around heavy fixed objects
Optimal Interior Environmental Conditions during installation	12° – 30°C 35% - 80% RH
Fitted cabinets	Do not install cabinets on floor planks/panels. Do not screw anything through or into the flooring
Extreme temperature	Should be maintained between -3°C and 50°C

Definition of “Waterproof”	Structural integrity of flooring will not degrade due to contact with moisture/water. The product is not a substitute as a moisture/vapour barrier. This product can withstand “Topical water” and water penetration under the floor panels for up to 16 hours, without being damaged. In the event of flooding, we would recommend the product be carefully uplifted, stored back-to-back/face to face, whilst the screed is allowed to dry out. If left to lie in this wet area it could lead to product failure, due to high levels of Alkalinity.
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Inspection: Prior to installation, inspect planks in daylight for visible faults/damage. Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied do not install, and contact your supplier.

Before laying: Measure the room at right angle to the direction of the planks. For best visual effect, planks in the final row should be at least 50/60mm wide (minimum), or half width of plank. For this purpose, planks in the first row can be cut to smaller size. Shuffle planks in order to obtain a pleasant blend of shades. Lay planks preferably following the direction of the main source of light. We recommend installing on wooden floors crossways (**ensure there is sufficient cross ventilation running under the existing wooden floor**) to the existing floorboard. Planks must not be nailed or screwed to the subfloor. Baseboards and moulding must not be fixed in a way which restricts the movement of the floating floor system.

INSTALLING THE FIRST ROW:

1. Starting from the left with the tongue facing the wall, carefully place the first board in place. (Figure1)
2. Place 10mm spacers between the short and long side of the planks and the wall.
3. Always position one spacer between the wall and where the planks join.
4. 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. Gradually lower the plank down flat until the end joint closes, insuring that the planks are perfectly aligned. Install the remaining full planks in the first row.
5. Cut the final board piece to length, never less than 300mm. (figure 2)
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 300mm long. Always stagger the end joints from row to row to a minimum of 300mm.

CONTINUING THE INSTALLATION:

1. Begin the second row with the cut piece from the first row. (figure 3) If the cut piece is shorter than 300mm, do not use it. Instead, begin with a new board that is at least 300mm in length and allows 300mm between the end joints on the adjacent planks.
2. Position the long side of the first board in place overlapping the groove of the planks in the previous row by approximately 3mm. Then angle the end joint into the previous plank. Angle the plank up and gently push forward until the plank locks into the previous row. (figure 2) Slide the board to the left/right as necessary to align the edges of the end joint.
3. Carefully push the board down until the tongue & groove lock together on the side and ends.
4. It is important to make sure that the first three rows are straight and square as they can affect the entire installation.
5. Install the remaining boards and rows in the same manner. (figure 3 and 4)
6. Cut the last board to size. If necessary, complete the tight fit by tapping the board into place with a pull bar.
7. Whenever practical, use cut pieces from previous rows as the starter board to reduce waste. (figure 2)
8. Maintain 300mm spacing between end joints after the first four rows for best appearance. (figure 2)

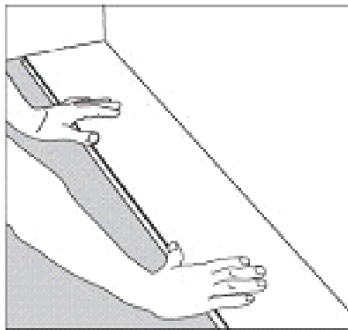


Figure 1

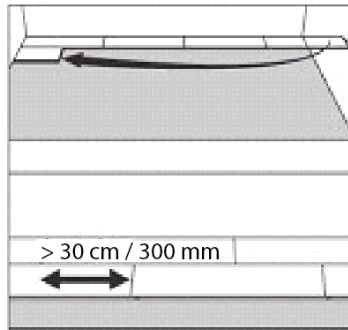


Figure 2

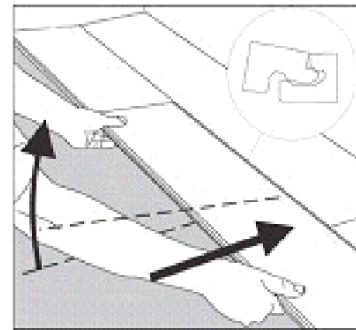


Figure 3

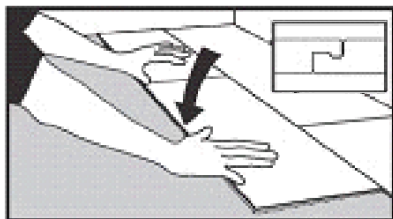


Figure 4



Figure 5



WARNING:
Avoid direct sunlight and
temperatures -3-50°C

FINISHING THE INSTALLATION:

- After all the planks have been installed, remove all the spacers from the perimeter of the room.
- Install transition/reducer/end mouldings. Do not fasten any floor finishing mouldings through/to/on the floor.
- Predrill and install quarter round or skirting. Mouldings must be sufficient to cover the 10mm expansion gap. Always fasten these to the wall and not the floor planks.

Warning: Heating mats work very well under carpet, tile and stone; however, we do not recommend placing them directly underneath the Sapphire vinyl floor. It is best to install Sapphire vinyl flooring over embedded floor heating systems. Refer to manufacturer/distributor for installation & operating instructions.

Protection and Maintenance of Your Floor

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance. Please follow the recommendations in this guide to retain the fresh look and protect the floor finish.

- After installation, we recommend a first cleaning to remove any loose dirt or debris that may have been caused during installation. Also, in order to protect the floor surface from walked in abrasive dirt and debris we recommend the use of an effective barrier system to limit the amount of moisture, dirt and grit that may enter the area, by using a good walk on/off mat.
- Check any new cleaning agent on a small test patch of the floor in an inconspicuous area.
- Avoid using harsh cleaners or any cleaner with an ammonia base.
- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways, or pulled on towels/blankets into position and be fitted with felt pads to protect your flooring surface.
- 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 protect the floor.
- Natural ventilation or intermittent air conditioning in vacant/holiday homes should be used.
- 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.
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber will discolour the floor surface or cause it to turn yellow.
- 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 swivelling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do NOT use ball type castors as they can damage the floor. For office chairs soft-wheeled castors must be used.
- Use felt floor protectors under furniture.
- Do not allow pets with unclipped nails to damage your flooring. It may result in severe scratching to the surface. The same is true for any high/stiletto heeled shoes that do not have proper tips on the heels.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Do NOT use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off.
- Do NOT use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Micro mop (damp) 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 and shine" products.
- Vinyl Flooring, like other smooth floors, may become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after washing. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substances or wet feet.
- If your floor has been exposed to excessive amounts of water due to flooding, do not panic, Sapphire RCB is waterproof. Simply remove the water as quickly as possible. A humidifier should be promptly turned on in the room to reduce the moisture levels back to normal. Do not dry the room to below the normal moisture level that existed previously.