

Diamond Core SPC+ installation instructions

Read completely before beginning installation

IMPORTANT

Improper installation may void the warranty. Inspect every plank and confirm site conditions before installation. Installed material is considered accepted by the installer and owner.

Product overview

Diamond Core SPC+ is a rigid Stone Plastic Composite vinyl floor engineered for dimensional stability and resistance to swelling and warping. It is a floating click floor for indoor residential and suitable light-commercial applications.

CONSTRUCTION	Rigid-core vinyl SPC	OVERALL THICKNESS	6.5 mm
CORE	5 mm; 2,000 kg/m ³ density	ATTACHED UNDERLAY	1.5 mm IXPE
WEAR LAYER	0.5 mm SUPER UV protective coating	PLANK SIZE	1,500 × 228 mm
LOCKING SYSTEM	Unilin click system	WARRANTY	30-year heavy domestic; 10-year light commercial
MAXIMUM COVERAGE	15 × 15 linear m in any direction	EXPANSION GAP	Minimum 10 mm
MOISTURE BARRIER	80-micron HDPE vapour barrier required	WATER RESISTANCE	100% waterproof surface against topical, pure uncontaminated water

Key installation requirements

- Install only indoors over a dry, clean, sound and sufficiently flat subfloor.
- Acclimatise closed cartons flat for at least 24 hours in the conditioned installation area.
- Use an 80-micron HDPE vapour barrier over the complete subfloor, with joints overlapped and continuously taped.
- Do not add a separate soft underlay: Diamond Core SPC+ already includes 1.5 mm IXPE.
- Maintain a minimum 10 mm expansion gap around the perimeter and every fixed vertical obstruction.
- Install transition profiles when the continuous floor exceeds 15 × 15 linear m in any direction. Separate adjoining areas where site conditions or layout restrict natural movement.
- Never trap or anchor the floating floor beneath fitted cabinetry, fixed islands, partitions, profiles or other permanent objects.
- Embedded underfloor heating must not exceed 28°C at the floor surface. Heating mats must not be placed directly beneath the SPC planks.

Environmental conditions

Maintain an indoor temperature of 12-32°C and relative humidity of approximately 35-70% before, during and after installation. Avoid extreme temperatures and prolonged direct solar heat. The website notes dimensional stability up to 60°C as a product-performance feature; this does not replace the stated installation and in-use environmental controls.

LIGHT EXPOSURE AND SOLAR CONTROL

SPC flooring is designed for general indoor applications under normal residential and commercial lighting conditions. Slight colour variation or gradual colour change caused by normal natural-light exposure is a natural characteristic of flooring materials and cannot be completely avoided.

Failure to provide adequate protection in areas with abnormal or concentrated lighting conditions may result in colour changes or alterations to the surface appearance. Where such conditions occur, use suitable solar-control measures such as blinds, curtains, sunshades or other shading protection. If a change in colour or surface appearance is observed, take immediate measures to prevent continued prolonged exposure.

Pre-installation and subfloor requirements

All subfloors

- Dry, clean, structurally sound and free of dust, debris, grease, curing compounds and adhesive residue.
- Flat within 3 mm over 0.95 m or 4.7 mm over a 3.3 m radius. Correct high and low areas with appropriate grinding or levelling products.
- Protect the floor from moisture vapour, hydrostatic pressure and alkalinity with the required 80-micron HDPE vapour barrier. The finished floor is not a substitute for a subfloor moisture-control system.
- Confirm that doors, frames and trims allow the finished floor to move freely. Undercut door frames; do not fill the expansion gap.

Concrete

- Concrete must be fully cured; allow at least 60 days for new concrete unless verified otherwise by the screed-system manufacturer.
- Test and document moisture conditions before installation. The legacy guide cites a maximum of 85% RH / 8 lb MVER; follow the current warranty, adhesive requirements where applicable and local professional guidance if readings are elevated.
- Repair cracks, depressions and joints that affect flatness. Do not bridge active structural or movement joints with the floating floor.

Wood-based subfloors

- Ensure boards and panels are dry, stable and securely fixed. Eliminate movement and squeaks, sand high areas and fill low areas using a compatible product.
- Provide adequate cross-ventilation beneath suspended wood floors. A wood substrate is not waterproof and must remain protected from moisture.
- Do not install over an unstable, moisture-damaged or unsuitable glued wood-floor assembly.

Existing hard finishes

- Ceramic tile, resilient tile and sheet vinyl must be sound, firmly bonded, clean and flat.
- Fill grout joints wider or deeper than 3 mm and correct embossed or uneven areas that could telegraph through or affect joint support.
- Never install over carpet or carpet tiles. Do not sand old resilient flooring or adhesive that may contain asbestos; obtain specialist advice.

Tools and accessories

Tape measure	Pencil and chalk line	10 mm spacers
Fine-tooth saw or guillotine	Rubber mallet	Manufacturer-approved tapping block
Pull bar / heel iron	Straightedge and level	80-micron HDPE and vapour tape

Before laying

- Inspect planks in good daylight for visible damage, shade and décor variation. Do not install unacceptable material.
- Work from several cartons and dry-lay enough planks to agree the visual blend with the end user. Décor variation is intentional.
- Measure perpendicular to the laying direction. Plan the first row so the final row is at least 50 mm wide, preferably half a plank.
- Lay toward the main light source where practical. Over suspended timber, laying across the existing boards may improve support, provided the substrate complies.
- Use starter pieces at least 350 mm long and maintain at least 350 mm between adjacent end joints. Avoid repetitive stair-step patterns.

Installation procedure

First row

1. Begin at the left with the tongue facing the wall, following the Unilin locking orientation supplied with the product.
2. Place 10 mm spacers along both the long and short sides. Position spacers close to plank joints to keep the first row straight.
3. Engage the end joint at a low angle and lower carefully until closed. Do not force, hammer directly on or damage the locking profile.
4. Continue the first row, checking alignment continuously. Cut the final piece to length; it must be at least 350 mm long.
5. Use the offcut to start the next row only if it is at least 350 mm and produces a minimum 350 mm stagger. Otherwise cut a new starter plank.

Continuing the floor

6. Angle the long side into the previous row and engage the end joint as directed for the locking system. Lower the plank carefully and confirm both joints are fully closed.
7. Use only a suitable tapping block or pull bar where necessary; never strike the click edge directly.
8. Keep the first three rows straight and square, as they establish the complete installation.
9. Continue across the room while checking for closed joints, correct stagger and consistent expansion gaps.
10. For the final row, measure at several points, deduct the 10 mm expansion gap, scribe the wall profile and cut to width. Use a pull bar for the final engagement if required.

Maximum continuous floor area

MAXIMUM AREA	15 × 15 linear m in any direction
WHEN EXCEEDED	Divide the floor with a suitable transition/expansion profile fixed to the subfloor only.
FIXED OBSTRUCTIONS	Keep at least 10 mm clear around walls, pipes, columns, door frames, fixed cabinetry, islands and other permanent objects.

Finishing

- Remove every spacer and confirm the floor is free to move.
- Install reducers, end profiles and transition mouldings without fixing through or into the SPC floor.
- Install skirting or quarter round to the wall only. It must cover the expansion gap without pressing down on or trapping the planks.
- Do not install fitted cabinets, fixed islands or permanent partitions on top of the floating floor.
- Protect the completed floor from construction traffic and rolling loads using clean, rigid protective sheets that do not trap moisture.

FLOATING FLOOR RULE

Never nail, screw, silicone or glue the floor to the subfloor or vertical surfaces. Glue-down installation is not the standard method; stairs or specially designed commercial applications require written, product-specific guidance and a compatible adhesive system.

Protection, cleaning and maintenance

Routine care

- Remove installation dust and debris with a soft broom or vacuum; switch off rotating beater bars.
- Use an effective non-staining entrance-mat system to reduce water, grit and abrasive dirt. Avoid rubber-backed mats, which may discolour vinyl.
- Damp-mop with clean water and a suitable diluted vinyl-floor cleaner. Test unfamiliar products in an inconspicuous area.
- Do not use steam mops, abrasive pads, harsh chemicals, ammonia-based cleaners, detergents, waxes or “mop and shine” products.
- Wipe spills promptly and allow the floor to dry before walking on it; smooth floors can become slippery when wet.

Furniture and traffic

- Lift furniture into place or move it over rigid hardboard runways. Never drag heavy items directly across the floor.
- Fit non-staining felt pads or broad floor protectors beneath furniture and appliances. Check and replace protectors regularly.
- Use large, soft, non-staining castors suitable for resilient flooring. Do not use narrow or ball-type castors.
- Keep pet nails trimmed and ensure stiletto or high heels have sound protective tips.

Heat, sunlight and vacant properties

- Limit prolonged direct sunlight and localised heat with blinds, curtains or other suitable solar control. Excessive heat can cause thermal movement or degradation.
- Maintain natural ventilation or intermittent climate control in vacant and holiday homes.
- Keep embedded underfloor heating at or below 28°C at the floor surface and change temperatures gradually. Do not place heating mats directly beneath the planks.

Water exposure

The Diamond Core SPC+ surface is described as 100% waterproof against topical, pure uncontaminated water. This means the flooring structure is designed not to degrade from ordinary surface-water contact; it does not waterproof the building, protect the subfloor, or prevent water travelling through perimeter and joint openings.

- Remove surface water and spills promptly.
- After flooding, plumbing leaks or water beneath the floor, stop the source and obtain professional advice. Lift panels where necessary, dry and assess the subfloor and vapour-control layers fully, then reinstall only undamaged planks.
- Do not use the product as a waterproofing membrane, and do not install where permanent water exposure or hydrostatic pressure is expected.

Warranty and document control

Warranty: 30 years for heavy domestic use and 10 years for light commercial use, subject to the current FINfloor SPC warranty terms, approved installation, normal use and maintenance. Retain proof of purchase, batch details, site moisture records and installation photographs.

WARRANTY - FADING AND DISCOLOURATION

Fading or discolouration caused by abnormal or concentrated sunlight exposure - including direct sunlight through large windows, glass doors, skylights, reflective surfaces, or areas without suitable shading protection - is excluded from warranty cover. Minor colour variation or gradual fading from normal natural-light exposure is considered a normal characteristic and is not a manufacturing defect. Claims relating to fading or discolouration must include installation-location information, exposure conditions, photographs, product details and maintenance records. Responsibility will be assessed with reference to product quality, installation conditions, environmental factors and maintenance.

CURRENT PRODUCT BASIS

This 2026 guide has been updated to align with the current FINfloor Diamond Core SPC+ Agate product page. Product specifications and warranty documents may be revised; always check www.finfloor.co.za before installation.