

# Rigid Core Installation Instructions

## General Information

**Rigid Core** is a fully waterproof\* floating floor with excellent acoustic and thermal properties made lightweight and rigid to assist installation over uneven subfloor surfaces. It is essential that these installation instructions are followed to ensure a quality fit.

**Rigid Core** is suitable for commercial and residential use but it is not suitable for installation outdoors nor in rooms that will be continually wet. It is suitable for use in traditional residential bathrooms, kitchens, laundry/ utility rooms.

Install permanent fixtures prior to installation of **Rigid Core**, leaving a space for expansion and contraction, see below.

Fill expansion spaces around potentially wet areas with a flexible acrylic or flexible silicone sealant (neutral cure).

A separate underlayment is not normally recommended for products with attached pad, refer to supplier.

## Acclimation of Material

For commercial installations make sure flooring materials are removed from packaging at least 48 hours prior to installation, (planks may be stacked, but must be rested flat) and allowed to condition in the room where the installation is to take place. Room temperature must be kept between 64-81°F (18-27°C).

For residential installations acclimatisation is not essential if the product temperature is already in the range 64-81°F (18-27°C). To achieve a more natural look the product should be shuffled prior to installation.

## Subfloors

Before **Rigid Core** may be installed, all subfloors should be solid and sound, smooth and level, clean and swept free of all debris. Measured moisture must be less than 95% RH, (or no more than 5 lbs. moisture/ 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> /24 hours: - calcium chloride test). Any unevenness in the subfloor should be limited to a maximum of 3/16" (5 mm) below the level in any 10 ft (3 m) diameter.

Any isolated highpoints/ridges should first be removed in order to avoid damage to the product.

- **Concrete/Screeds:** Where the subfloor is uneven an appropriate smoothing compound should be selected.
- **Quarry Tiles/Mosaics/Terrazzo/Ceramics:** Make sure these floors are solid; fix any loose tiles. Level any grout lines with a width and/or depth of more than 3/16" (5 mm).
- **Wood floors:** These should be solid with little flexibility. All loose boards must be firmly fastened, and gaps filled. Wood block floors laid direct to earth/bitumen/ pitch must be removed prior to installation.
- **Laminate/Floating or non-attached floors:** It is normally recommended that this is uplifted.
- **Linoleum/Thermoplastic/Vinyl/Cork Floors:** Make sure these floors are solid; fix any loose tiles.

- **Misc.:** Any existing floors installed with cutback adhesive must first be suitably covered/ encapsulated.
- **Moisture Barrier:** A minimum moisture barrier of 8mil thickness should be used under all LVP/SPC flooring when installing over a concrete substrate.
- **Metal and Painted Floors:** Remove any loose paint or other finishes.
- **Textile floor coverings (including carpet):** must be removed.
- **Under floor Heating:** It is possible to install **Rigid Core** over floors incorporating underfloor heating, but these must be controlled to keep the temperature at the interface between the backing and subfloor surface at no more than 81°F (27°C).
- **Electrical under floor heating:** please consult manufacturers to ensure their system is compatible with our flooring. Mesh/wire systems must be bedded into the recommended basecoat of reinforced fibre smoothing compound to a minimum depth of 3/8" (10 mm), installed to the manufacturer's instructions. **Rigid Core** must always be installed over a solid base. The room temperature must be between 64-81°F (18-27°C) prior and during installation.
- **Other Floors:** Consult your supplier.

## Installation

**Rigid Core** should be laid with an expansion gap of 3/16" (5 mm) around the perimeter of the room and all fixed objects, including pipes. This must be increased to 5/16" (8 mm) for areas larger than 1000 sqft (100 m<sup>2</sup>). Consult your supplier for larger areas.\*\*

Baseboards boards should be removed or undercut, and door frames undercut to allow for possible expansion. Alternatively, a suitable edge trim should be used to cover the expansion gap. Plank products should be laid with staggered joints, at a distance of at least 10" (250 mm).

## Tools

For a successful installation, the following tools will be necessary – pencil, utility knife, ruler/straight edge, spacers, carpenter's square, saw, hand roller, pull bar, hammer and rubber mallet are recommended.

## Exclusions

Special care must be taken when installing **Rigid Core** in rooms that are exposed to large temperature fluctuations e.g. unheated rooms, conservatories, atriums or direct sun/ through south facing patio doors/glazing. In these cases, a 3/8" (10 mm) expansion gap should be used.

Adhesives are not recommended in the installation of this product.

\* Water will not penetrate through the product from one side to the other. This does not include joints between individual tiles/plank.

**For rooms 25 ft in width or 35 ft in length, t-molding use is required.**

1. Start with a full board off the wall and measure how many full boards widths there are. If this means, there will be a very narrow plank at the end of the wall cut the first row of boards accordingly. Install the plank with the tongue side/cut edge facing the wall, fit 3/16" (5 mm) spacers between the plank and wall (Fig. 1).
2. Lay the first row, ensuring the short edges are clicked together (Fig. 2).
3. Using a knife and straight edge, cut the last piece of the row to size making sure that there is a 3/16" (5 mm) gap between the end of the row and the wall.
4. Start the second row by clicking the tongue into the groove holding the plank at an angle (approximately 30°), then tap the plank firmly into the groove of the first row. Install the next plank by easing the tongue and groove together on the longside (Fig. 3).
5. Continue to install planks across the room until the row is complete using a hand roller to assist (Fig. 4). Only if really necessary use a rubber mallet and off-cut of product to gently tap the product together. A pull bar can be used to pull the product together around the edges of the room (Fig. 5).
6. Repeat section 4 and 5 until the installation is complete.
7. Under door frames: If plank/tile cannot be lifted use an adapted tapping block (or cut off material) and mallet to carefully tap the plank/tile together flat on the floor (Fig. 6).
8. When installing either convex corners, around corners or complex profiles, mark the shape on the plank and cut using a saw.
9. Once the floor is installed, remove the spacers; sweep the floor with a soft brush. Fix the base boards or suitable edge trim (available from your local distributor) to cover the expansion gaps. These should be attached to the wall and not the floor, such that the Rigid Core remains free to move (Fig. 7 & 8).

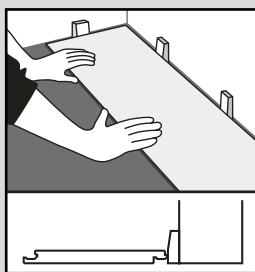


Fig. 1

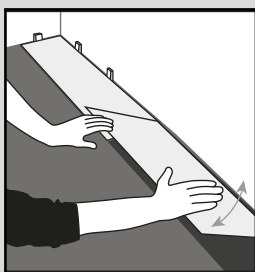


Fig. 2

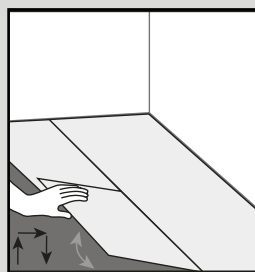


Fig. 3

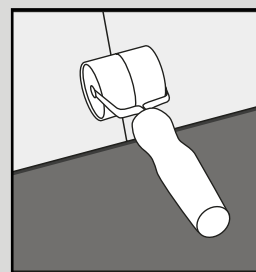


Fig. 4

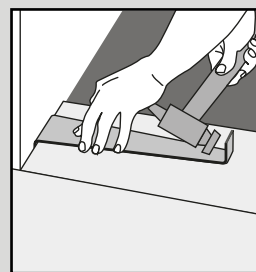


Fig. 5

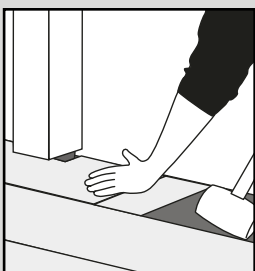


Fig. 6

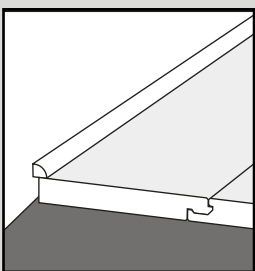


Fig. 7

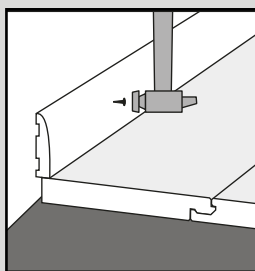


Fig. 8

### Taking care of your floor

- Regularly sweep the floor to remove loose dirt or grit as these can cause fine scratches.
- For a thorough clean, a range of cleaning products is available (Clean, Remove and Refresh). Avoid the use of regular household cleaners and bleach-based detergents. These could make the floor slippery or cause discolouration.
- Always mop up spills as soon as possible, to reduce the risk of slipping and possible staining.
- Use entrance mats to protect against grit and moisture. Ensure they are of non-staining variety (not rubber-backed) to prevent any discolouration of the floor.
- Avoid sliding or dragging furniture or other objects across the floor - use floor protector pads to prevent scratching.
- Use castor cups to protect against indentation from heavy furniture.
- Maintain room temperature between 55-81°F (13-27°C) for optimum performance.
- Do not subject Rigid Core to standing water as this will present a slip hazard.