



**STEP[®]
GUARD[®]**
Inspire Every Square



**Wood Look
SPC Flooring Installation
and Maintenance Guidelines
(OriginWood Collection)**

VER. 2021.08

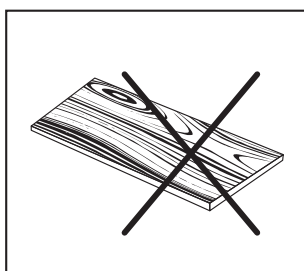
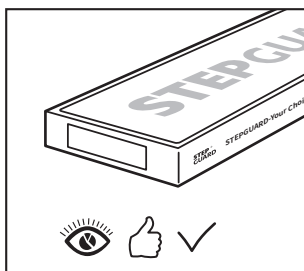
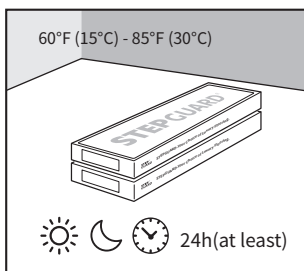
Installation and Maintenance Guidelines

Thank you for choosing STEP GUARD luxury flooring. Inspired by nature and designed for real life, with all the features you desire, this is the flooring you would love for years to come.

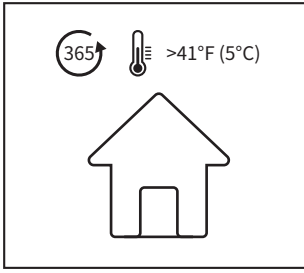
These instructions are written as a guide to be used by when installing STEP GUARD flooring. This product is a SPC flooring with excellent durability, stability, acoustic and waterproof properties made for easier installation. It will not absorb, swell or be damaged by water when installed properly and under normal use. Damp mopping and topical spills cleaned up promptly will not harm the performance of the floor.

Please read all instructions before installing and should be followed for a satisfactory installation. Incorrect installation will invalidate and void warranty.

I . GENERAL INFORMATION



- Before installation, the floor covering should be installed in a climate controlled environment with an 60°F (15°C) and 85°F (30°C), 35%-70% RH.
- For installations involving 3 season scenarios, meaning, the dwelling or installed space is without climate control for extended periods during certain seasons of the year, make sure that the flooring is not exposed to temperatures less than 41°F (5°C) or greater than 95°F (35°C).
- Portable heaters are not recommended as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.
- SPC Flooring can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper lifting techniques when handling these products. Whenever possible, make use of material-handling equipment such as dollies or material carts. Never lift more than you can safely handle.
- Prior to installation, inspect the flooring for damage before installing. If you have any concerns, please contact the supplier. Claims will not be accepted for flooring that has been cut to size and/or installed.
- Calculate the room surface prior to installation and prepare extra 5%-10% of flooring for cutting waste.
- It is preferable to lay boards following the direction of the main source of light. And to minimize shade variation, mix and install planks from several cartons at a time.
- The environment where the flooring is to be installed is critically important with regard to successful installation and continued performance of the flooring products. The flooring is intended to be installed in interior locations only. These interior locations must meet climatic and structural requirements as well.



- This product is also not to be installed in areas that have a risk of flooding such as saunas or outdoor areas.
- Although this product does not need acclimation, it would be better to place the flooring in the room where you will install it for a minimum of 24 hours.

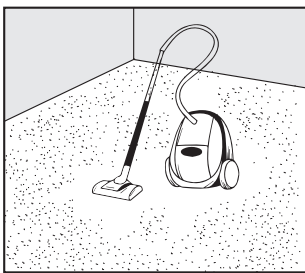
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Flooring may be installed with a direct glue-down method on approved wooden (or) concrete substrates that are on or above grade only. Use only premium pressure-sensitive vinyl flooring adhesive. Please consult with adhesive manufacturer to determine if suitable for use with this material. For glue down method follow adhesive manufacture installation instructions.

II . SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

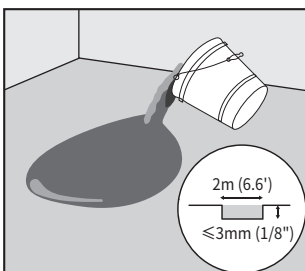
Careful and correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation.

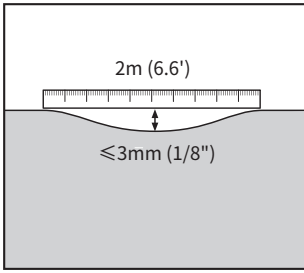
After the subfloor conditions meeting the requirements, use a non-permeable moisture vapor barrier (max.thickness \leq 0.1mm) on top of the subfloor. It is recommended to use STEP GUARD professional moisture vapor barrier. And it is workable for flooring with or without the built-in underlay.



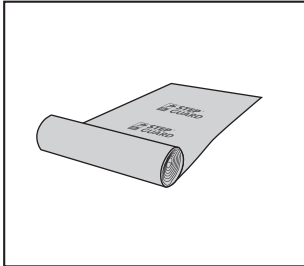
ALL SUB FLOORS MUST BE:

- **CLEAN**—All the subfloors must be clean and free from dirt or debris. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, any foreign matter and contaminates.
- **FLAT**—All subfloors must be flat to within 1/8" (3mm) in 6.6' (2m), or 3/16" (5mm) in a 10-foot radius (3m). And if the standard is not met, self-levelling treatment must be carried out.
- **DRY**—Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Although this floor is waterproof, it is not aimed to be used as a moisture barrier. The subfloor must be dry. Moisture emission from subfloor cannot exceed 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test in accordance with ASTM F1869-04 or ASTM F2170 In-Site Relative Humidity not to exceed 70%.
- **STRUCTURALLY SOUND**—Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Replace any delaminated or damaged sub flooring or underlayment.





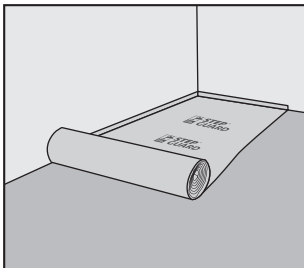
- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.
- Our warranties **Do NOT** cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.



Install Moisture Vapor Barrier

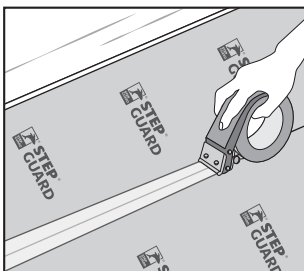
Once the subfloor is inspected, and prepared, you are ready to start installing the moisture vapor barrier.

Always remember to clean the area of adhesion first to ensure that it is free from any dust, dirt, moisture, and frost—allowing maximum adhesion.



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- Roll out the independent moisture vapor barrier to cover the entire surface area with extra 5cm around the edge. Make sure it is flat and even on the subfloor. The side without logo printing should face the subfloor.
- Tape the edges of the moisture barrier down to the subfloor and seal the vapor barrier seams. Always remember to clean the area of adhesion first to ensure that it is free from any dust, dirt, moisture, and frost—allowing maximum adhesion. **Note: the vapor barrier should not overlap each other.**



- To ensure the moisture barrier is fully secured, walk around the entire room and ensure every area is fully covered.

Don't forget to seal around all blackouts and pipe penetrations using the vapor barrier seam tape.

Radiant Heat:

Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath the floors. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath the floors could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install the flooring over embedded radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the guidelines listed above.

Radiant heat systems must have a minimum of 1/2" separation from the product. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 27°C (80°F). Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

In-floor Radiant Heat: Flooring can be installed over 1/2" embedded radiant heat using the floating or glue down method.

When employing the direct glue down installation method, DO NOT include a 6-mil poly lm vapor barrier in the assembly. Flooring material must be adhered directly to the subfloor. Flooring should NEVER be glued to a polyfilm vapor barrier.

- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.
- Failure to turn the heat off may result in significantly shortened working time of the adhesive.
- Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system. Moisture emission from subfloor cannot exceed 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test in accordance with ASTM F1869-04 or ASTM F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity not to exceed 70%.
- Make sure that the temperature in the room is at least 60°F (15°C) during installation.
- Floor temperature must not exceed 27°C (80°F).
- Once the installation has been completed, the heating system should be turned on and increased gradually (5 degree increments) until returning to normal operating conditions.
- Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.
- Failure to strictly follow adhesive manufacturer's guidelines may result in failure and void the warranty.

A. WOOD SUBFLOORS

- If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wooden floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation.
- Nail or screw every 6" (15 cm) along joists to avoid squeaking.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6-mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth.
- We recommend laying on wooden floors crossways to the existing floorboards.
- All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.
- **Do NOT** install over sleeper construction subfloors or wood subfloors applied directly over concrete.

B. CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Concrete subfloors must be smooth, permanently dry, clean and free from dust, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, asphalt sealing compounds and other extraneous materials. The surface must be hard and dense and free from powder or flaking. Curing agents and hardeners could cause bonding failure and should not be used.
- New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry (at least 60 days) and completely cured.
- Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a high quality cementitious patching & leveling compound, troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.
- Concrete substrates must be flat to within 1/8" (3mm) in 6.6' (2m), or 3/16" (5mm) in a 10-foot radius (3m). The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch (2.5cm) per 6 feet (2m) in any direction.

- All concrete slabs must be checked for moisture before installing material. Moisture emission from subfloor cannot exceed 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test in accordance with ASTM F1869-04 or ASTM F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity not to exceed 70%. If results are higher than the reference, then a minimum 6mil polyethylene plastic moisture barrier must be applied.
- The Limited Warranty does not cover discoloration from mold or from flooding, floods, leaking plumbing or appliances, water entering through sliding glass doorways, as well as floor covering failure due to hydrostatic pressure or moisture vapor emission.

WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEAD BLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERISE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC “ CUT BACK” ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

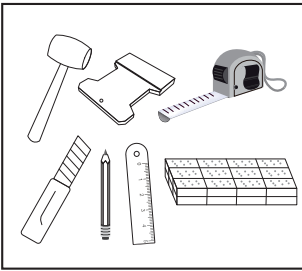
These products may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non - asbestos - containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

C. EXISTING FLOOR COVERINGS

Flooring can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is fully clean, flat, dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and free of deflection.

- Ceramic tiles should be made smooth by applying an overlay such as a cementitious patching or levelling compound.
- Existing floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will compromise the product's locking ability as well as diminish its indentation resistance.
- Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.
- **Do NOT** install over any type of carpet.
- **Do NOT** install over any existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring.
- **Do NOT** install over hardwood flooring / wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.
- **Do NOT install over** floating floor of any type, loose lay, and perimeter fastened sheet vinyl.

III. INSTALLATION



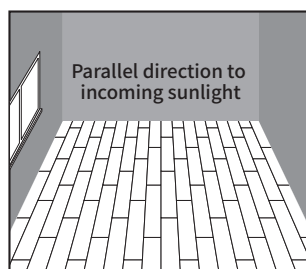
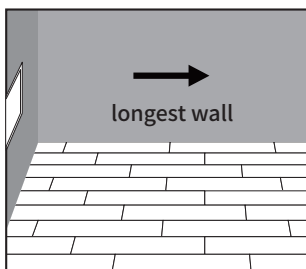
Tools Required: Pull Bar, Rubber Mallet, Tapping Block, Utility Knife, Pencil, Try Square, Tap Measure, 8-10mm Wedge Spacers.

Important: The flooring should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure proper color and shade mix.

- Remove baseboard, quarter-round moldings, wall base, appliances and furniture from room. For best results, door trim should be under-cut to allow flooring to move freely without being pinched. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.
- Before you start with the installation, it is important to determine the layout of the flooring. For best appearance, planks should be installed parallel to the length of the room and preferably perpendicular to outside light sources.
- With a floating floor you must always ensure you leave a 5/16"-3/8" (8-10mm) gap between walls and fixtures such as pipes and pillars, stairs, etc. These gaps will be covered with trim moldings after the floor is installed. Tip: When installing around pipes, drill the holes 1/2" (12mm) larger than the diameter of the pipes.
- Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. The end joints of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 8" (20.32 cm) apart. Do not install over expansion joints. Avoid installing pieces shorter than 12" (30 cm) at beginning or end of rows.
- Measure the area to be installed: The board width of the last row shall not be less than 2" (50mm). If so, adjust the width of the first row to be installed. In narrow hallways, it is recommended to install the floor parallel to the length of the hall.
- **For the installation area longer than 10 meters in any direction, leave a 10mm-12mm expansion gap and covered with T-molding for better performance after installation.**

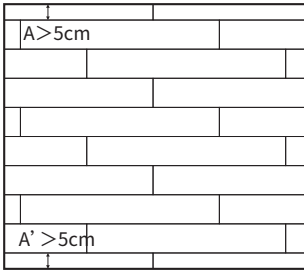
Layout:

It is recommended to install wood look SPC flooring in random straight pattern, and at least 1/3 offset is suggested.



Direction:

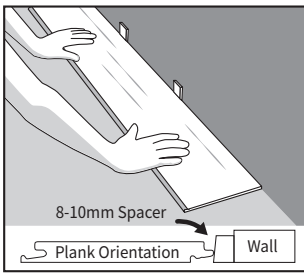
For better effect, it is recommended to align the planks parallel to the longest wall, and choose to install the floors in the parallel direction to incoming sunlight if the room layout is close to the square shape.



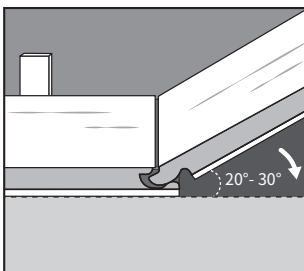
Note:

Before starting, carefully measure the length and the width of the room to plan a precise layout for a better result. This will also ensure that you won't end up with the last row being too narrow. If the last row will be less than 2" (5cm), the installation will be easier and better if you reduce the width of the planks of the first row.

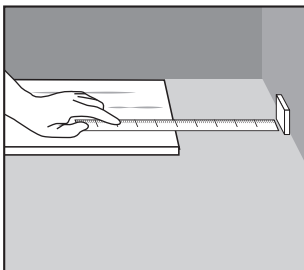
Be sure to install the first row of boards with the tongue side facing the wall.



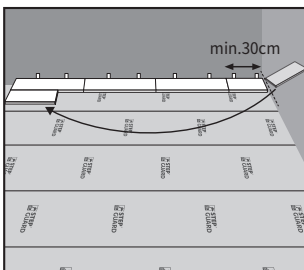
Step 1: Begin installation working from left to right with tongue side facing wall using 5/16"-3/8" (8-10mm) spacers where planks meet wall.



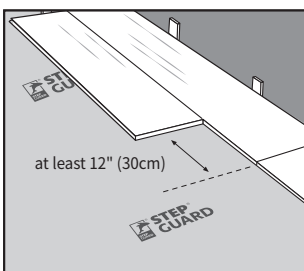
Step 2: Second plank, first row. Press the short end of the next plank at an angle of 20°- 30° to the first one, and then drop in place. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned. Continue installing the first row until you reach the wall at the end of the first row.



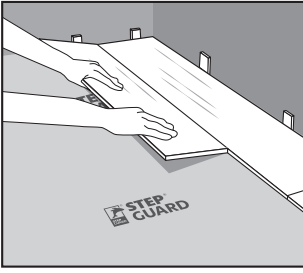
Step 3: At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of 5/16"-3/8" (8-10mm) to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.



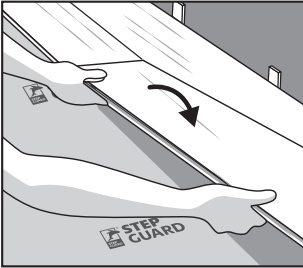
Step 4: Second Row. Use leftover plank from the first row as a starter for the second row. To achieve a better effect, the small plank should measure at least 12" (30cm). Otherwise, cut a new plank in half and use it to begin the second row. Whenever practical, use the piece cut from the preceding row to start the next row.



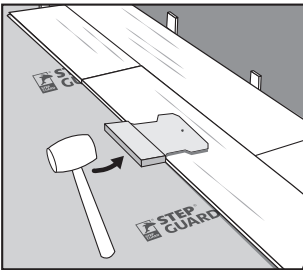
Step 5: General distances between short ends. It is recommended that there should be at least 12" (30cm) space between the short ends of the plank in parallel rows.



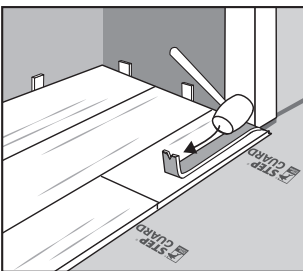
Step 6: Place the plank at an angle against the flooring in the previous row, press forward and fold down at the same time.



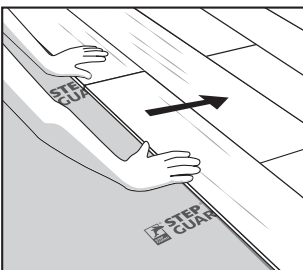
Step 7: Second plank, second row. Place the short end of the plank with an angle against the previous installed flooring and fold down all the way.



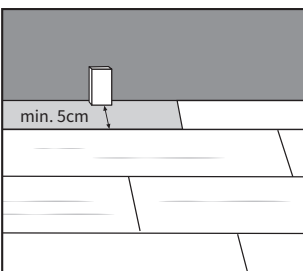
Step 8: Use the rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the long edge of the plank to make sure a tight fit at the same height. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned.



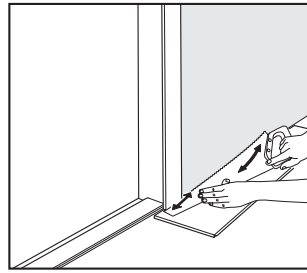
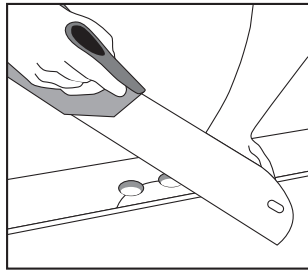
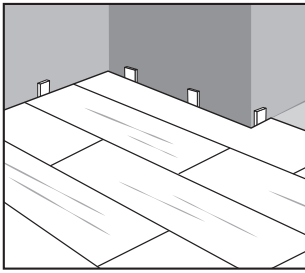
Step 9: Use the rubber mallet and the pull bar to lock the final piece in row. Insert spacers at the end of row. Continue installation to the final row.



Step 10: After the first 2-3 rows of planks are installed, they should be checked with a string line to ensure that rows are still running straight. If they are not, it could be that the starting wall has some irregularities that caused bowing in the installation.



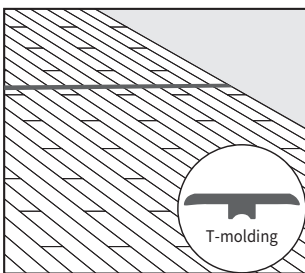
Step 11: Last row (and perhaps also first row). It is recommended that the minimum width of the last plank should be NOT LESS than 2" wide.



Step 12: Special installation: Radiator pipes: drilling the holes which there is a vertical object, and make sure the holes are bigger than the diameter of the object;

Around projections: measure the protruding object and mark the dimensions of the respective plank. Cut it and break off the excess.

Underneath door jambs: when the flooring meets a threshold or a door way, it is recommended undercutting the door frames or moldings. To secure the correct cut, turn a plank upside down with the underlay below, and place it on the floor up to the door frame. Cut through the frame to allow plank to slide freely. Tap long side edge with hammer and tapping block to lock long edge.

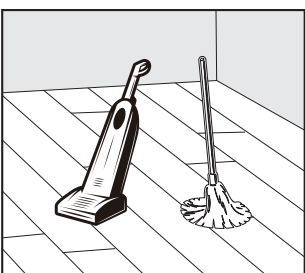


Step 13: For continuous flooring longer than 10 meters in any direction, do leave a 10mm-12mm expansion gap and covered by T-molding.

IV. COMPLETION

- Remove all spacers.
- Protect all exposed edges and achieve a better effect by installing wall base and/or matching moldings, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface, not through the flooring. At doorways and at other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a "T" molding, or similar, to cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks. Leave a small gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.

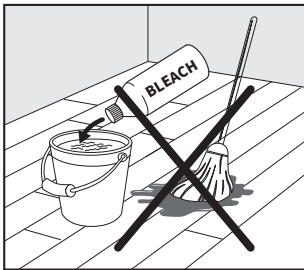
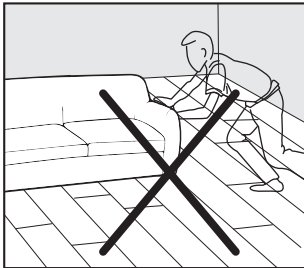
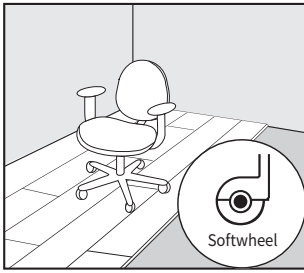
V. MAINTENANCE



Lasting beauty can be achieved through proper ongoing maintenance.

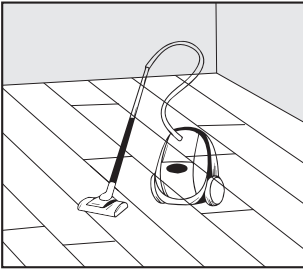
Post Construction Maintenance

- Dry mop floor using a microfiber mop pad or appropriate floor vacuum to remove dust particulate from the floor.
- Light damp mop to remove any remaining residue from the floor.



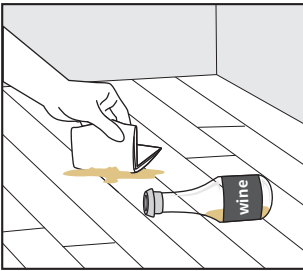
Preventative Maintenance

- If you need to move heavy furniture and/or appliances across the floor, always use strips of wood, plywood, or hardboard runways to protect the floor. Always use runways even if you have an appliance dolly, or even if the heavy objects are equipped with wheels or rollers.
- 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 casters or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. **Do NOT** use ball-type casters as they can damage the floor.
- It would be better to have furniture equipped with felt pads, and as a general rule of thumb, the heavier the item, the wider the floor protector needed.
- Some disinfectants contain chemicals that can stain, discolor and cause general harm to your flooring product. Take care to choose pH neutral products only.
- Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. **Do NOT** use mats with a latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Protective mats are required under office chairs.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight as this will result in discoloration and expansion. The use of drapes, blind systems or protective window film is required.
- **Do NOT** recommend putting your furniture right on the click joints of the SPC flooring.
- **Do NOT** use abrasive cleaners, bleach or wax to maintain the floor.
- **Do NOT** use harsh cleaning products that may damage the floor.
- **Do NOT** drag or slide heavy objects across the floor.
- **Do NOT** expose STEP GUARD floors to temperatures below 41°F (5°C) or above 95°F (35°C).
- **Do NOT** use oil soaps, dish washing detergents and other alkali cleaning products.
- **Do NOT** use ammonia products, bleach, chemical agents.
- **Do NOT** soak or saturate the floor.
- **Do NOT** acid cleaning.
- Due to the high temperatures, **Do NOT** use steam mops.
- 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.



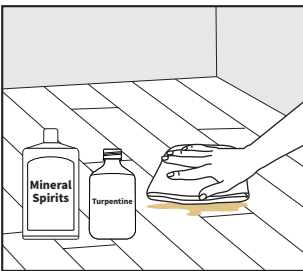
Routine Maintenance

- Daily removal of dirt and dust is important to prevent particles from abrading the surface of resilient floors. Sweeping, dust mopping, and vacuuming are recommendations to remove soil particles that can result in scratches and worn appearances. **Do NOT** use vacuums with rotating beater bars on hard surfaces.
- Periodic wet cleaning will be necessary to help maintain the floor's appearance. Always pre- vacuum or dust mop before any type of wet cleaning. Appropriate vinyl floor cleaning equipment and cleaning agents (neutral pH floor cleaners) are recommended. **Do NOT** use abrasive cleaners or cleaning agents that leave dull residues on the surface of the floors.
- Products containing bleach and steam mops are not recommended.

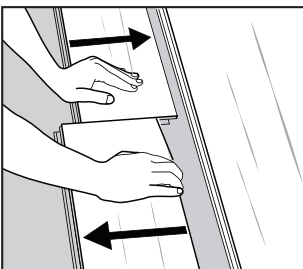


Spot and Spill Removal

- Absorb wet spills as quickly as possible by blotting with paper or cloth towels.
- Use rubbing alcohol (isopropyl alcohol) with a clean white cloth for spots requiring a solvent type cleaner that water and cleaning agents cannot remove.
- If the stain still shows, use odorless mineral spirits or turpentine on a clean, white cloth.
- Stains from coffee, milk, wine, liqueurs, fruit juice, etc. can be removed with a damp cloth. Stains from asphalt, shoe polish, paint, ink, nail varnish etc. can be removed with a damp cloth with a few drops of pure acetone.



VI. DISASSEMBLING



Separate the whole row by carefully lifting up and slightly knocking just above the joint. Fold up and release the whole long side. Disassemble the panels by sliding horizontally. (Do not fold up!)



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