FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION GUIDE

Urban Surfaces' SPC Floating Floor planks require minimal training, allowing any installer to slide, drop, and lock planks without the need for special tools or equipment.

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REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTALLATION

Pre-Installation

Urban Surfaces' Floating Floors are highly durable floor covering systems composed of a Stone Polymer Composite (SPC) core. Following the instructions in this guide is required to ensure your floor is attractive, long-lasting, and covered by the company's warranty. These instructions apply to residential, light-commercial/multi-unit, and commercial flooring installations. SPC Floating Floors are intended for interior use only and are suitable for above-grade, on-grade, and below-grade applications.
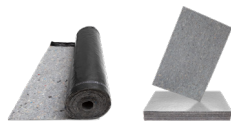
Expansion

Floating Floors should be allowed to expand and contract freely. Make sure to not glue, nail, or fasten the Floating Floor (or any part of it) to the subfloor in any way. Doing so may lead to a flooring failure. Exceptions to this are stair treads and risers (see stair installation requirements). Permanent cabinets, vanities, islands, and similar items should be installed before installing a Floating Floor. Ensure to leave a ¼" gap around the perimeter. Undercut all door jambs. Floating Floors can be installed under vanities with legs. Avoid using acrylic caulking or anything intended as an adhesive to hold planks in place at expansion joints, baseboards, doorways, and transition moldings.

Recommended Products

FLOOR SILENCER *Underlayments*

Provides subfloor imperfection smoothing, auditory and thermal insulation, antimicrobial moisture control, and cushioning for every step without compromising adhesives or clip systems.

INFINITI
3535 | MOISTURE PROTECTION

Provides 100% moisture protection, no RH, pH, or MVER testing required. Before applying adhesive, use Infuse Encapsulator & Primer.

PLANK CUTTER
FOR CLEAN LVT/SPC CUTS UP TO 7" WIDE

Clean and quick LVP and SPC cuts up to 7" wide. Aluminum-frame with detachable guide for angle cuts, an extendable arm for more cutting power, and built-in handle for easy transportation.

Protect

Protect your floor from direct sunlight exposure via the use of window treatments or UV-tinting on windows. Discoloration to SPC Floating Floors may occur due to UV-fading resulting from direct sunlight exposure. UV/radiant heating from direct sunlight can also cause the temperature of the flooring to rise well above the ambient room temperature, leading to damage.

Overage Allowances

Order 5-10% more square footage of flooring than needed to account for cuttings and waste. Failing to purchase enough materials for the job, or not keeping materials for repairs, may result in different dye lots on a future order or products being discontinued. Dye lots (batch numbers) are not recommended to be mixed.

Product Inspection

Check to ensure your flooring is in its original packaging and free from any visible damage or defects. Inspect all material for correct color, design, batch number, size, and quantity needed to finish the job, prior to beginning installation.

NOTE:
Some patterns are intended to have high shade variation. Single sample chips may be part of a set from a variegated pattern. It is the responsibility of the dealer and buyer to seek out pattern info, before purchasing/installing. Avoid installing material from different batches, especially across large areas. It is possible for there to be slight shade and milling variations across products from different batches/dye lots. This is due to slight variations within industry tolerances that occur during different dates of manufacturing. Generally, this will not be noticeable unless batches are mixed or side-matching is attempted, such as during repairs or later installations. Batches that are close in production runs may be able to be mixed. This should be verified by the contractor/installer before installation to verify product batch compatibility. Intermixed batches that are not compatible or do not match are the responsibility of the contractor/installer.

Subfloor Requirements

1. The subfloor must be level to within ³⁄₁₆" in a 10ft. (4.76mm in a 3m) span, ⅛" in a 6ft. (3.175mm per 1.8m) span, or otherwise appropriate ratios of this requirement with no high or low spots.

2. Subfloors should not slope more than ½" per 6ft. (25mm per 1.8m). The subfloor must be structurally sound and without deflection.

3. The subfloor must be clean with no construction debris, dust, soil, mud, or any other objects on or adhering to the floor. If necessary, scrape and sweep away before the installation; no protrusions of nails, debris, or metals should remain.

4. Even though SPC Floating Floors are waterproof, moisture levels must still be checked in order to protect the surrounding structure and the subfloor. Testing helps prevent pH damage, damage arising from hydrostatic pressure, and situations in which mold and/or mildew could grow. For this reason, SPC Floating Floors should not be used to seal

an existing floor from moisture. SPC Floating Floors will not act as a waterproofing barrier for the subfloor and/or any surrounding structure.

    4.1. Moisture requirements vary from one subfloor material to another. The subfloor must be free from moisture-related conditions that can damage the installed flooring. All subfloors must fall within the parameters of ASTM F710.

    4.2. Moisture Testing: Test all subfloors for moisture content and document the results. Visual checks are not reliable. The relative humidity must not exceed 85% RH.

    4.3. pH Testing: The subfloor should have a pH level between 5.0 and 9.0. Readings below 5.0 and above 9.0 can affect resilient flooring and adhesives negatively.

    4.4. In the absence of such testing, Urban Surfaces' Infiniti™ Moisture Protection must be applied, or a suitable moisture vapor barrier must be in place before installing a Floating Floor. Suitable moisture vapor barriers are non-permeable (6 mil plastic sheeting or roll-on elastomeric membranes).

Crawl Spaces

The concrete slab or ground must be dry. Ensure that crawl spaces have open ventilation year-round to ensure proper air circulation and prevent moisture buildup. Crawl-space clearance between the earth and underside of joists should be no less than 18" (45.7cm) and the perimeter vent area should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space or as mandated by code. Crawl spaces should be insulated and have a vapor barrier covering exposed earth.

Acceptable Subfloor Types

It is possible to install a Floating Floor over many existing floor coverings, provided they are stable and firmly fixed in place to a structurally sound subfloor.

Existing flooring cannot be soft, damaged, loosely laid, more than a single layer, or exceed ½" thick. Remove all carpet, needle felt, cushion vinyl, perimeter glued products, or any existing Floating Floor, prior to installing new Floating Floor.

You may install directly over any existing hard-surface flooring provided they are a single layer, meet flatness requirements, are attached to a structurally sound subfloor, and are suitable for receiving vinyl flooring.

Mexican pavers, many textured ceramic tiles, and similar types of flooring may not be flat and even enough to receive vinyl Floating Flooring. This unevenness may require correcting to make it flat and suitable for receiving vinyl flooring. Existing floors must be firmly attached to the structural subfloor. Fill in grout lines larger than ¼" (6mm) on any form of tile or similar floors with a cementitious leveling and patching compound. All substrates (including existing flooring) to receive vinyl flooring must be dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound.

The substrate shall be free of: residual adhesive (including cutback adhesive), adhesive removers, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation/laitance, mold, mildew, dust, wax, oil, grease, solvent, paint, curing compounds, sealing compounds, hardening/parting compounds, or any other foreign materials. DO NOT apply moisture barriers over wood subfloors. DO NOT install any Urban Surfaces product over sleeper floor construction, wood that lies directly on concrete, etc. Sleeper floors and other wood structures on top of concrete that do not meet the crawl space requirements can create moisture issues beneath the subfloor that will be trapped by the flooring's waterproof properties. This can lead to mold, mildew, or even wood rot of the subfloor construction.

Non-Approved Subfloors

- Carpeting/Carpet Pad
- Parquet Over Concrete
- Cork
- Cushioned Vinyl Flooring
- Engineered Hardwood
- Sleeper Substrates
- Floating Floors
- Rubber
- Laminate
- Solid Hardwood

Radiant Heating System

Ensuring stable job site conditions, subfloor suitability, and proper acclimation are especially important when installing over a radiant heat system. It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to ensure that the recommended environmental conditions are met for installation.

Refer to your radiant heat system manufacturer to determine its compatibility with vinyl flooring and to learn the specific requirements for installation. It is recommended that the user consults with the radiant heating provider for best practices, installation methods, and proper subfloors. In-floor radiant components must be within the substrate below the flooring, separated by a minimum distance of ½" (13mm). The surface temperature of the slab should never exceed 85°F (29°C). The heating system should be operational for at least two weeks prior to installation to calibrate temperature settings.

Flooring cannot be laid directly over radiant heating mats. 3-days prior to installation, lower the temperature to 65°F (18°C). After installation, gradually adjust the temperature in increments of 5°F per day to avoid rapidly heating and cooling the flooring which could lead to damage. The use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

Available Moldings

Exact-match moldings and transitions are available for all of our Floating Floor products. These are necessary to allow expansion clearance in runs longer than 50' and to allow for the transition of one installation area to another (around doorways, between flooring products of differing heights, areas where the flooring flows into other hallways or rooms, etc). Follow the molding requirements outlined above in conjunction with the molding installation instructions.

Visit **www.urbansurfaces.com/moldings** to learn more about available moldings.

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Underlayments

Urban Surfaces' Floating Floor planks already have attached pads. While additional underlayment is not required, our FloorSilencer™ underlayments can provide several additional benefits and are highly recommended.
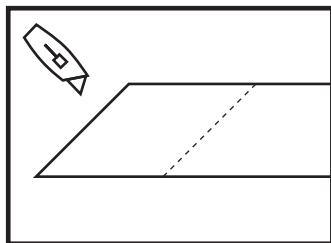
BEFORE INSTALLING

Acclimation

- Stack boxes flat on the floor no more than 4 cartons high, and space out the stacks. Keep the boxes away from direct sunlight.

- Flooring does not need to be taken out of the boxes. Simply open the boxes at the ends.

- It is important that flooring products maintain a constant temperature between 65°F (18°C) and 85°F (29°C) for 48 hours prior to, during, and 72 hours after installation.

- Thereafter, maintain a room and floor temperature between 60°F (15.5°C) and 95°F (35°C). An HVAC system must be on and functional.
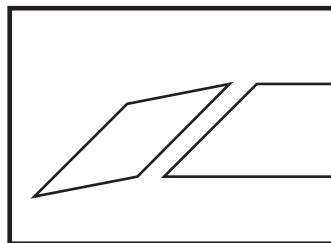
Prep

Prepare subfloor to be dry, smooth, level, clean and dust-free. See subfloor and substrate requirements prior to installation.

Cutting

To cut a plank, simply measure and mark the plank with a pencil. Then, use a straight edge and utility knife to score and snap. The same steps apply when ripping a plank lengthwise. A guillotine can also be used to cut the width of the plank.

Score   **Snap**

TIP: For cutting around irregular objects, use the original packaging of the flooring box to cut out a rectangle equal to the size of the plank. Use the cardboard as a template to trace on, and cut it to fit around pipes and other irregularities. Place the cardboard pattern on a plank, trace the outline, and cut along the traced lines.

CAUTION: Cutting the product into a fine point may lead to delamination which would not be considered a defect. If this occurs, fuse the point utilizing an ethyl cyanoacrylate-based super glue. Be sure to clean all of the glue from the surface immediately.

BASIC INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

Follow these critical steps for a successful installation.
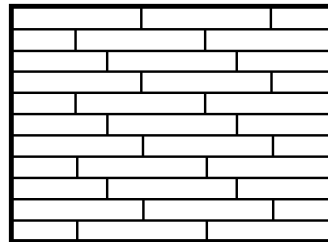
Starting Wall

Choose a starting wall to begin installation. It is recommended to install along the length of the room.
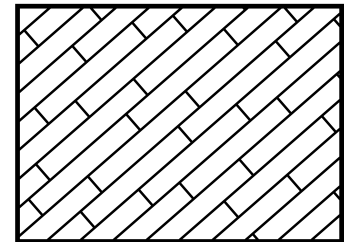
Pattern Separation

Before installation, unbox the planks and set them in stacks of similar plank patterns. Pull from the stacks purposefully to ensure an evenly distributed installation. If the pattern has a high variation in color, then this process becomes even more important. To ensure the most natural look, avoid installing the same plank patterns next to each other in groupings.
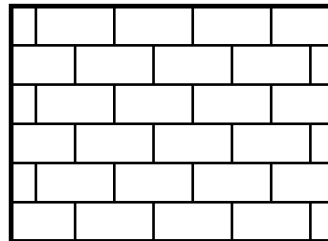
Installation Pattern

Determine the desired pattern of installation prior to beginning installation. Due to how the clip system is designed, installation patterns are limited to "Random", "Subway", or their 45-degree equivilents (see figures below).
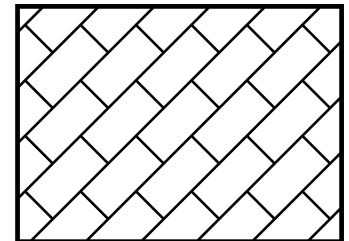

Random   **45° Random**

Subway   **45° Subway**

Plank Count And Placement

To know the quantity of product needed and to prevent cutting and placing edge planks smaller in size than what is approved (as any plank cut smaller than 8 inches long or 3 inches wide will compromise the integrity of the installation and void the warranty), determine how many planks are needed length-wise and width-wise from wall to wall, then calculate how far to offset the first row so all edge rows and planks maintain adequate size.

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Guide Line

For an even, consistent look, the flooring should be installed square to the room. Creating a guideline will make sure your installation looks professionally finished and square.

1. Choose two locations towards the ends of the starting wall. This will allow you to draw an accurate guideline across the room.

2. From both locations, measure an equal distance from the starting wall out towards the room and mark with a pencil or permanent marker.

3. Snap a chalk line between the two points, connecting them.

4. Draw over the chalk with pencil or permanent marker so the guideline is visible through the adhesive once it is spread.

Spacers

Set ¼" (6 mm) spacers along your starting wall every 8"-12". This will give the proper expansion gap along the walls.

Existing Wall Base or Trim

Door trims must be undercut to allow the floor to move freely. Door trim pieces should sit at least a ¹⁄₁₆" higher than the flooring materials to avoid pinching. A scrap piece of flooring may be used to support the blade during cutting.

Transition Moldings

Flooring runs must not exceed 50 linear feet in a single direction. Determine the best placement of transition moldings corresponding with the length and floor plan of rooms where flooring will be installed. Transition moldings must also be used in doorways to separate flooring that extends into adjoining rooms. More information about T-moldings and other transition moldings can be found on our website.

First Row

1. Install the first row along the Guide Line. Cut the starting and ending plank so they are no shorter in length than 8".

2. Do the same for the short side of the planks on the opposite walls.

3. Cut the starting and ending plank lengthwise (ripping) so the width is no smaller than 3".

4. Take your second plank and place the short tongue side on top of the first planks short groove side.

5. Gently drop the tongue side into the short groove side listening for a "click" or feeling of the tongue inserting the groove.

6. Finish the connection by tapping the tongue side plank with a rubber mallet to fully engage the tongue into the groove securing the lock.

7. Make sure the tongue and groove are secured properly before proceeding. Repeat step 4. If the planks are not secured properly. Failure to connect correctly will result in separation and damaging of the clips.

8. Be mindful of pattern repeat and design.

9. Work from multiple boxes selecting different patterns creating a more random effect, if you install the same repeat together the finished floor will look artificial.

Subsequent Rows

1. If the cut plank from the previous row is longer than 8", use it as a starting piece for the next row to be installed.

2. Working from left to right, engage the long tongue side of the new plank into the long groove side of the previous row by angling the new piece in a 45-degree angle.

3. Once the tongue side is inserted into the groove side, lay the piece flat.

    3.1 Make sure the long sides are connected tight with no visible gaps.

    3.2 Use a tapping block and gently tap the long side to make sure it is properly secured.

4. Take your second plank and angle the long tongue side into the long groove side of the previous row by angling the new piece in a 45 degree angle.

5. While inserted into the previous row at a 45-degree angle, slide the plank to the left so the short tongue side is hovering over the previously laid plank's short groove side.

6. Gently drop the tongue side into the short groove side listening for a "click" or feeling of the tongue inserting the groove.

7. Finish the connection by tapping the tongue side plank with a rubber mallet to fully engage the tongue into the groove, securing the lock.

8. Make sure the tongue and groove are secured properly before proceeding.

    8.1. Repeat step 4 if the planks are not secured properly. Failure to connect correctly will result in separation and damaging of the clips.

    8.2. Make sure the long sides are connected tight with no visible gaps.

    8.3. Take a tapping block and gently tap the long side to make sure it is properly secured.
    NOTE: You can use a scrap piece of flooring as a tapping block by inserting the tongue into the groove of the flooring and gently tapping the scrap piece to secure the clips.

9. Be mindful of pattern repetition and design.

10. Work from multiple boxes selecting different patterns creating a more random effect, if you install the same repeat together the finished floor will look artificial.

DO NOT angle or in any way bend the short end of the planks as this will damage the clip system, potentially leading to a locking mechanism failure and joint separation later on.

Disengaging The Floor

If you need to disengage planks during or after installation, follow this procedure carefully:

1. Unclip the whole row by lifting it at a 45-degree angle and separating the pieces.

2. Disassemble the planks by gently sliding the short sides apart. If the planks are not sliding apart, take a rubber mallet and gently tap the tongue side to ensure the clips are properly secured. Then, the boards should gently slide apart.

DO NOT angle or in any way bend the short end of the planks as this will damage the clip system, potentially leading to a locking mechanism failure and joint separation later on.

Finishing The Job

Remove spacers. Cover expansion spaces with quarter round or other trim, being sure not to trap or pin down the floor. Nails should go into the wall, the floor covering, or subfloor, since stray nails can prevent the floor from floating properly, which leads to damage.

Installing On Stairs

To install a Floating Floor on stair treads and risers:

1. Determine if the Floating Floor planks will be installed on the treads alone or both the tread and riser.

2. Apply an appropriate amount of adhesive to the substrate.

3. Press the planks into the adhesive starting with the treads first, followed by the riser.

4. Use a hand roller to apply pressure to planks to ensure they are firmly embedded into the adhesive.

5. Use a stair nose molding at the leading edge of the stair treads (visit **www.urbansurfaces.com** for the molding installation guide).

6. If desired, use colored silicone caulk to fill in the seam where the treads and risers meet.

NOTE: Landings are not to be glued down, fastened, or otherwise pinned. Follow standard installation instructions when installing landings.

Toilets

1. When installing in restrooms, toilets will need to be removed.

2. Once the toilet has been removed, use the same method of cutting around irregular objects to cut around the toilet flange and bolts. Make sure to leave a ¼" expansion gap, including around toilet bolts.

3. Re-install toilet.

4. Seal around the toilet using only premium waterproof 100% silicone sealant.

Door Jambs

Floating Floors require a transition molding at every threshold. Wood door jambs should be undercut and the flooring should have a ¼" expansion gap to float freely under the door jambs and transition moldings. Metal door jams can be undercut this same way, but in general, flooring is cut to fit within a ¼" around the jamb. Do not fasten, pin, or glue the flooring down in any way. Doorways are a common cause of Floating Floor failure, therefore special attention should be given to the installation in these areas.

IMPORTANT
Only when installing in wet areas, caulk around the perimeter using a permanently flexible 100% silicone sealant. Never use acrylic caulking for this purpose. Doing so can adhere the flooring in place, causing a failure as the acrylic hardens over time.

Make sure to only use adhesives that are designed and warranted by the manufacturer as safe for flooring and for use with non-porous materials such as plastics, vinyl, EVA, etc.

Use caution when using adhesives around the Floating Floor system. For example, if the installer is using adhesive to secure molding to the substrate, the adhesive must not get onto the floor. The molding intends to allow the flooring to float beneath it, and adhesive restricts this movement, leading to installation failure.

AFTER INSTALLATION

Floor Care

Heavy furniture (500+ lbs.) may obstruct the free, natural movement of a Floating Floor. Restricting this movement in certain areas can lead to problems such as buckling or separation when the floor experiences natural expansion and/or contraction.

Special attention should be given to unique cuts, such as around islands, 45-degree angles, cuts around in-floor ducting/registers, or other irregular cuts. Problems caused by unique/irregular cuts are not covered under our warranties.

DO NOT drag furniture across the floor. Use appropriate protection before moving furniture as outlined by the care & maintenance guide as well as the warranty. See the care and maintenance guide for proper care instructions.
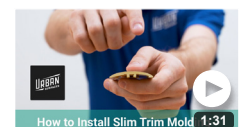
Visit **www.urbansurfaces.com** for the maintenance guide and cleaning instructions.

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URBAN SURFACES

Check Out Our Video Installation Series

We are more than just a supplier, we are a resource too. We've got what you need to properly train your team for the moment of truth, no matter when or where. Our videos thoroughly demonstrate how to install:

✔ LooseLay Flooring

✔ Floating Floor

✔ GlueDown Floor

✔ Moldings, and More!

How to Install: SPC Floating Floor — 6:37

How to Install Looselay Flooring — 4 SIMPLE STEPS — 7:01

How to Install Gluedown Floor — 4 SIMPLE STEPS — 6:37

How to Install Slim Trim Mold — 1:31

Save Time

Get the job done right the first time around. No more having to guess about how to install the product you are using. In minutes, we demonstrate everything you'll need.

Save Cost

Watch the amount of claims on previous installations plummet. Avoid the mistakes that lead to blame games, losing customers, or having to do the same job multiple times.

Build Rapport

Prepared and knowledgeable installation creates repeat business by reputation of the work that's done. Quality installation is a "Win-Win" for all parties involved.

URBAN SURFACES

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING URBAN SURFACES

Proudly serving the multi-unit and builder markets with beautiful, innovative, and high-quality flooring products since 2001.