

This product features a patented 5G fold down lock system with attached underlayment pad for easy installation and is installed as a glueless floating floor. The tiles lock together to provide a tight water-resistant seam, can be installed over most floor surfaces, and are suitable for both residential and light commercial interior applications.

### General Information:

1. This product should be stored in conditions between 63°F and 75°F (17°C and 24°C) and transported and stored in a neatly stacked fashion on a smooth, flat surface.
2. The heating and cooling system must be installed and activated for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation and the rooms to be installed should be between 63°F and 75°F (17°C and 24°C) with a relative humidity between 40% and 65% for a minimum of 5 days prior to delivery of the flooring. The rooms must be maintained at these conditions for the life of the product.
3. This product must be allowed to acclimate to the environment of the installation area. Remove any plastic wrap that may have been used to ship the material and open the ends of the cartons. Leave the closed packages in a horizontal position in the room for at least 48 hours prior to installation. The room temperature must be between 17°C - 24°C (63°F - 75°F) before and during installation, with a relative humidity of 45% - 60%. Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 30% as this may cause gapping.
4. This product should only be installed after other trades have finished and the jobsite has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage a finished installation.
5. Inspect flooring for damage, defects, or shading issues before installation; claims for visual defects will not be accepted after cutting and/or installation.
6. Mix and install pieces from several different cartons during installation to achieve desirable piece variation. Only use one run-number (production lot) on a particular job.
7. Leave a minimum of 3/8" (10 mm) for expansion around the entire perimeter of the flooring up to 50'x50' (15.2m x 15.2m), as well as around all vertical obstructions. For larger installations up to 100'x100' (30.4m x 30.4m), it is recommended to leave 1/2" (13 mm) spacing around the perimeter. Commercial installations with continuous spans larger than 100' are not recommended.
8. Flooring should be protected from prolonged direct exposure to sunlight.
9. Underfloor heating is possible with warm water heating systems. The temperature of the floor surface must not exceed 85°F at any point in time.
10. This product is not suitable for damp rooms such as saunas, rooms with damp concrete, rooms with floor drains, rooms subject to flooding, or for outdoor use.

### Tools and Materials Needed:

1. Utility Knife
2. Straight Edge Saw
3. Power Saw
4. Measuring Tape
5. 3/8" or 1/2" Spacers
6. Tapping Block and Pull Bar
7. Rubber Mallet or Hammer
8. PPE (goggles, dust masks, etc.)

### Hints for Measuring

Measure the length and width to determine the square footage of the room. Alcoves or offsets should be measured separately. Purchase at least 10% extra to cover waste, trimming, and for future replacement needs.

**Note:** It is the duty of the person installing the floor to inspect all flooring before installation. If during inspection the installer or buyer feels the floor is the wrong color, improperly manufactured, is off-grade, or is the wrong gloss level, they should NOT install the flooring. Please immediately contact the retailer from which the flooring was purchased. No claims will be accepted for flooring which is visibly wrong if such flooring is installed. Installed flooring is deemed to be visibly acceptable.

### Subfloors General:

Flooring can be installed over a variety of subfloor surfaces including concrete on all grade levels, wood, and many existing hard surface floors. The subfloors must be clean, smooth, flat, solid (no movement), structurally sound and dry. Do not install flooring on ramps or over floors that are sloped for drainage. Any uneven areas greater than 3/16" (4.76mm) in a 10 foot (3.05m) radius (1/8" in a 6 foot radius) must be leveled with a Portland cement based patching compound. An uneven subfloor can contribute to multiple problems, including joint damage during installation, post installation joint failure and post installation gapping of planks. This product is resistant to water damage but will not prevent the transmission of moisture. Care should be taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of the floor to prevent the growth of unhealthy mold and mildew.

### Concrete Subfloors:

Flooring can be installed over concrete of all grade levels if a proper moisture barrier is used. A minimum 6 mil polyethylene moisture barrier must be used with all concrete subfloors. Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 5 lbs./24 hours per 1,000 sq. when tested with the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test in accordance with ASTM F 1869 or 80% RH in accordance with ASTM F 2170 Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Slabs using in situ Probes. Any uneven or out of flat areas greater than 3/16" (4.76mm) in a 10 foot (3.05m) radius (1/8" in a 6 foot radius) must be leveled with a Portland cement based patching compound. Large holes and cracks in the cement should be patched, and expansion joints should be filled with a latex patching compound. Newly poured concrete floors must cure for a minimum of 90 days. Please note it is the person installing the floor and/or the homeowner's responsibility to ensure any moisture or alkalinity issues are resolved prior to installation.

### Wood Subfloors:

Flooring can be installed over a smooth, flat, level, wood subfloor, underlayment grade plywood, and any other underlayment recommended by the manufacturer for use with a vinyl plank/tile floor. Subfloor must be level and flat within 3/16" (4.76mm) in a 10 foot (3.05m) radius (1/8" in a 6 foot radius). Wood subfloors must be suspended at least 18" above the ground. Adequate cross-ventilation must be provided, and the ground surface of the crawl space should be covered with a vapor barrier.

**NOTE:** Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection because subfloor movement will telegraph through to the finished installation. Indications of excessive deflection are: subfloor fastener release, squeaking, compromised or sectional contours such as bowing or dipping in floors and uneven flooring material. Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure boards with excessive vertical movement or deflection prior to installation of the flooring material. Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of substructures.

### Existing Flooring:

This product can be installed over a variety of finished floors including single layer resilient sheet flooring/tile, ceramic, marble and terrazzo. The surface must be in good condition and show no signs of excessive moisture conditions. Grout joints should be filled and leveled so they are flush with the flooring surface. Carpet, heavily cushioned vinyl floors, or vinyl floors consisting of multiple layers are NOT a suitable subfloor for installation.

### Underpad / Cushion:

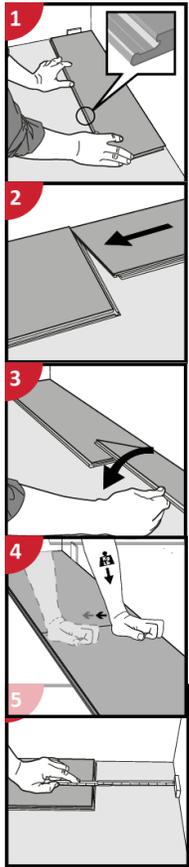
DO NOT install this product over an additional underpad or cushion as this may cause excessive deflection and movement in the floor and damage the locking system and will void the product's warranties.

## Planning the job:

- First, determine how you want the flooring to run. Typically for plank and tile products, the flooring runs the length of the room. There may be exceptions since it is a matter of preference.
- To avoid narrow widths or short lengths near the walls/doors, it is important to do some pre-planning. Using the width of the room, calculate how many full pieces will fit into the area and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial pieces.
- Lay the first row along a chalk line and trim to fit the wall allowing 3/8" expansion space. If you start the first row with a full width piece, it will be necessary to trim the tongues next to the wall and then place the cut edge next to the wall. Use a utility knife and a straight edge to score the top surface of the tile and then bend it downward to separate. If the starting wall is out of square, it will be necessary to scribe the first row to match the wall, allowing the opposite side of the row to present a true square base for the rest of the floor.

- Use expansion gap spacers to keep the flooring a minimum of 3/8" away from the walls. You need to maintain a 3/8" gap around all vertical obstructions including cabinetry, stone fireplaces, and around doorways. Larger installations require 1/2" expansion gaps.
- Remove wall base and undercut door jambs. Do not secure individual tiles to the subfloor as it is designed to be a floating floor. Do not install cabinets or other permanent fixtures on top of the flooring. Transition moldings and baseboards cannot be tight to the floor but must allow the floor to move beneath them. Do not nail, screw or glue transitions or baseboards through floating floor to the subfloor.
- It is critical that the finished floor not be pinched or restricted from floating in any way as even just a few seemingly minor restrictions can negatively affect a large area of an installation.

## Plank Assembly Steps:



### 1 First piece, first row.

Starting from the left with the tongue facing the wall, carefully place the first piece in place. Use spacers along the wall to allow the required expansion gap (3/8" for spans < 50'; 1/2" for spans > 50'). Refer to Planning the Job above and step 10 below to determine if less than a full width piece is required for the first row.

### 2 Second piece, first row.

Place this piece gently close to short end of the first piece. Place spacers against the wall to restrain movement and maintain the expansion gap.

When folding down it is important to start from the corner closest to the wall (or to the previous row in subsequent rows), folding down toward the center, and continue towards the opposite long side. During the fold down, make sure the pieces are close to each other.

Afterwards press slightly along the short end just installed.

At the end of the first row, put a spacer to the wall and measure the length of the last piece to fit.



### 6 First piece, second row.

You can often use the leftover piece from the end of the first row to begin the second row. The piece must be at least 1/4 of a full piece length and no more than 3/4 of a full piece length. Visually, the installation will look more natural if the starting planks are a variety of length. Place a spacer against the left wall.

The staggered (overlap) distance between the short ends of pieces in parallel rows must never be less than 1/4 of the length of a full piece. This ensures a strong fit.

### 8 Second piece, second row.

Place the piece gently and close to the short end of the previous piece and fold it down as per the procedures outlined in steps 3 and 4.

### 9 After 2 or 3 rows

Check and confirm that all of the spacers placed along the outside length of the first row and row ends are still properly and appropriately in place.

### 10 Last row

The minimum width of the last row should be 1/4 of width of a full piece. Remember to allow for the proper amount of expansion space when measuring the remaining width. Measure the width required along the entire length of the last row before beginning to cut pieces as rooms are very rarely perfectly square.

## REPAIRS

In the unlikely event that a piece is damaged for whatever reason, the simplest method is to disconnect the pieces carefully (lift up entire row to separate long sides, and slide pieces side to side to separate short sides) until the damaged piece can be removed. Then replace the damaged piece with a new one and re-assemble the disconnected pieces.

**CAUTION WOOD DUST WARNING:** Drilling, sawing, or machining of wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood).