

# WPC & SPC Installation & Maintenance 05/01/19

## INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

WPC & SPC Flooring offers a Lifetime Residential and 10-year Commercial Limited warranties against manufacturing defects.

### Tools needed Utility knife and straight edge

- Measuring tape
- Shears for cutting around irregular shaped objects
- 1/8" spacers

### Planks needed to complete your project

Measure the length and width of your room. If the room has alcoves or offsets, measure these separately. This will give you the square footage of the room. Purchase a minimum of 10% extra to cover mistakes, trimming and for future needs or replacement. Most installations require about 10% overage. However, this can vary depending upon the room size and layout. CAUTION: Do not install over Carpet or Carpet Pad. This product is not suitable for any outside use, sunrooms, solariums or saunas. Exposure to long-term direct sunlight can cause damage to your floor.

### Prior to Installation

CHECK THE PLANKS BEFORE INSTALLING THEM TO BE SURE OF APPEARANCE:

Color, shade or texture variations between samples, print color photography & the actual material are not warranted. Mix & install planks from several different cartons to minimize shade variations.

***Planks should always be inspected for any dye lot variations. The Manufacturer will not warrant that different dye lots will match each other.***

We maintain strict quality control at the factory, but it is a good idea to check each plank for blemishes or flaws.

**ACCLIMATE** Flooring BEFORE INSTALLATION: You must place vinyl horizontally in the room where it will be installed for 48 hours prior to installation. Maintaining an optimum temperature between 65°F to 85°F and a humidity range of 30-50% is recommended during installation and life of floor. Do not remove the planks from the case during this acclimation period! Do not install where flooring is exposed to temperatures greater than 140°F.

### Subfloor preparation

The subfloor surface must be smooth, flat, dry, clean and solid. Carpet staples or adhesive residue must be removed to ensure proper installation. Subfloors should be flat within a tolerance of 3/16" per 10'. Any unevenness over 3/16" must be sanded down or filled with a floor leveler. Voids or humps in the subfloor will prevent vinyl from locking properly. Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" from the ground. Use of a 6-mil black polyurethane is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Wood subfloors nailed or screwed every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. Subfloors must be carefully checked for moisture problems. Any moisture problems need to be addressed prior to installation. New concrete floors need to cure for a minimum of 60 days.

HELPFUL NOTICE: If laying the flooring over existing ceramic tile, it will be necessary to skim coat the grout lines with a floor leveler. If you install vinyl over an existing floor that has an embossing or grout line on it, you must skim coat with a floor leveler if the embossing or grout line is greater than 1/16" (1.5 mm).

### Moisture

*It is the contractor's as well as the installer's responsibility to test all concrete substrates, both new and old, for moisture content to determine if it is sufficiently dry to install flooring. Maximum level per CaC1 test method is 5 lbs. per 1000 in 24 hours. Maximum level for ASTM2170 i-SITU Relative humidity test method is 85%. Relative humidity levels should never exceed 85%. For on or below grade we recommend 6 mil polyfilm moisture barrier (such as Moisture Block by Medallion) for floating installations, to help prevent the growth of mold and mildew. Moisture will not damage the flooring, but it can get in walls & structure of the home and create an unhealthy environment.*

**NOTE: WPC & SPC Flooring does not warrant or guarantee unsatisfactory installations due to the presence of excessive alkali, moisture or hydrostatic pressure in subfloors. Do not install where flooring is exposed to temperatures greater than 140°F.**

### Over Hydronic Radiant Heat

*Flooring can be installed over Hydronic radiant heat if the following guidelines are followed. Complete system must be operational for a minimum of one week. System should be turned off 72 hours prior to installation of Aquarius flooring and remain off 72 hours after installation is complete. Turn system back on to its normal room temperature setting. The subfloor surface must never exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the life of the floor. Flooring and adhesive should never come in direct contact with heating system. All other standard installation instructions apply.*

## **Underlayment's**

*The Flooring (If does not have attached pad) can be installed over approved dense sound underlayment's such as Deciblock, Deciblock MC, & dBarrier. Must tape seams with water proof duct tape.*

**Do not use any additional Underlayment if Flooring already has attached underlayment.**

## **Installation**

1. Start in a corner by placing the first plank with the tongue side facing the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 3/8"-1/2" between the wall and the flooring.

**NOTE: Spacing must also be maintained between the floor and all vertical surfaces including cabinets, posts, partitions, door jambs and door tracks. You may need to use transition strips in doorways and between rooms. Failure to do so may cause buckling or gapping. When installing as floating floor, do not adhere, nails, screws, furniture, doors, molding etc. to flooring. Leave at least business card space between all moldings, vents etc. and flooring. Installations greater than 75' lineal feet in any direction will require the use of transitions moldings.**

2. To attach your second plank, lower and lock the end tongue of the second plank into the end groove of the first plank. Line up edges carefully to ensure a close and tight fit. Using a rubber mallet and a **scrap piece of flooring with groove end (to prevent damaging edges)**. Engage scrape piece to protect flooring and lightly tap the scrape piece, so the first and second planks lock together without damage. The planks should lay flat to the floor.

**WARNING: FAILURE TO PROPERLY LINE UP THE END JOINT AND ATTEMPTING TO FORCE IT IN WHILE OUT OF ALIGNMENT COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT DAMAGE TO THE END JOINT. ALWAYS USE SCRAP PIECE TO PROTECT EDGES WHEN TAPING WITH RUBBER Mallet.**

Repeat this procedure for each subsequent plank in the first row. Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last full plank.

Fit the last plank by rotating the plank 180° with the pattern side upward and placing it beside the first row of planks with its end up against the far wall. Line a ruler up across the end of the last full plank and across this new plank. Draw a line across the new plank with a pencil and cut with a saw.

Rotate the plank 180° so that it is back to its original orientation. Lower and lock its end tongue into the end groove of the last full plank. Lightly tap using a scrape piece with a rubber mallet until the planks are flat on the floor.

3. You will begin the next row with the off-cut piece from the previous row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 8" long and joint offset should be at least 16". Cut pieces should be no less than 3" in width. Adjust layout for a balanced look.

4. To start your second row, tilt and push the new plank's side tongue into the side groove of the very first plank. When lowered the plank will click into place. Engage Scrap piece and with rubber mallet lightly tap the long side of the new plank to lock it with the planks of the first row. The planks should lay flat to the floor.

5. Attach the second plank of the new row first on the long side. Tilt and push plank into place making sure edges are lined up. Lower plank to the floor. Engage Scrap piece and with rubber mallet lightly tap the long side of the new plank to lock it into place. Next, lightly tap down on the top of the end joints with a rubber mallet to lock them together. Continue laying remaining planks in this manner.

6. To fit the last row, lay a plank on the top of the previous row with its tongue to the wall. Lay a ruler across the plank so that it is lined up with the side of the planks of the previous row and draw a line across the new plank with a pencil. Don't forget to allow room for spacers. Cut the plank with a saw and attach into position.

7. Fitting around irregular objects is not a problem. Simply make a pattern out of heavy paper to fit around pipes or irregular objects. Place the pattern upon the plank and trace. Cut along trace lines using a utility knife or heavy-duty scissors, and lay plank. Be sure to leave a minimum of 1/8" (2-3 mm) expansion space around all fixed objects, floor vents and doorframes... Remove the spacers once the floor is completely installed

### **Gluedown Instructions**

*On, above, or below grade, Flooring is approved for gluedown installations over wood & concrete subfloors. Recommended adhesive Mapei 360 or 373. Use 1/32" x 1/16" x 1/32" trowel. Follow above subfloor, moisture instructions. Follow adhesive label instructions including temperature for the adhesive. **Do not gluedown over Particle board.***

### **Basic Cleaning**

*Once all traces of adhesive have been removed, the floor should be dry vacuumed to remove all dust and loose debris. Damp mop as needed using clean water and diluted Ph. Neutral cleaner in cool water or ready to use spray cleaner that will not leave a residue such as Bona Professional Series Stone Tile & Laminate cleaner, HD PH Neutral cleaner in pre-mixed spray bottle. Do not use harsh cleaners or chemicals on floor. Do not use abrasive scrubbing tools, detergents, caustic cleaners, abrasive cleaners or "mop and shine" products. After 5-10 minutes, all dirt and residue of the cleaning agent should be removed; the floor should be rinsed with a damp mop and allowed to dry.*

*Overtime floors may begin to lose their luster and may require an application of floor polish. When and where you apply the floor polish will depend on the traffic the floor receives. A good quality floor polish such as "Hilway Direct or Johnson Diversey Floor Cleaner & Johnson Carefree Floor Finish" can provide up to a year of protection in a high traffic area. Always follow application instructions.*

*To repair minor scratches can use products such as "Dr. Schutz Scratch Fix kit" for Luxury Vinyl Floors.*

### **Maintenance**

*Always remove excess water. It not only can cause slip and fall hazards, the water can attack the adhesive, break the bond, and cause the flooring to release from the substrate.*

*Regular light maintenance is more cost effective then periodic heavy maintenance and more beneficial to floorcovering.*

*Always sweep, mop or dry vacuum the floor regularly. Do not use treated dust mops.*

*Always use clean equipment – dirty equipment only redistributes the dirt.*

*Do not mix cleaning products from different manufacturers – they may not be compatible*

*Always remove any spillage immediately*

*Always remove excess water*

*Always take precaution to prevent dark rubber from coming into contact with the floor*

*Never deviate from the manufacturer's recommended dilution rates*

*Wet floors are slippery; always use warning signs to advise that cleaning is in progress*

### **Preventative Measure & Tips on Care**

*The easiest way to reduce maintenance costs is to reduce the amount of dirt, grit and moisture brought into a building with an effective barrier mat. This should be cleaned regularly.*

*Never slide heavy furniture or fittings over an unprotected floor or severe scratching may result. The floor should be protected from the wheels or feet of fittings, avoiding rubber products, which may stain.*

*To help guard against scratches and dents, install felt floor protectors under furniture legs and equipment. Never slide furniture or fitting over unprotected floor, severe scratching may result.*

*Use soft vinyl castors for rolling furniture.*

*Use floor mats at all entrances to help keep dirt and moisture from being tracked in. Area rugs are recommended in high traffic areas and all sinks. Mats and area rugs should be slip resistant with backing that will not discolor the floor. Do not use Rubber mats or coco-fiber mats. Rubber products stain vinyl floors.*

*Do not wear high heel shoes or shoes that need repair while walking on your floor. Some types of high heel shoes can severely damage the surface of any floor covering.*

*Maintain a healthy humidity range at 35%- 55%, which could require either a humidifier or a dehumidifier.*

*Regularly swept or vacuumed floors will almost eliminate any need to "clean", the floor with cleaning product. But when a cleaning product is needed, we suggest only "Vinyl specific, non-oil non-soap based cleaner. Cleaning products should be sprayed on to the sponge mop or hand towel never on to the floor itself. Do not use wax or other house hold cleaning agents on your floor. Never use a steam mop on flooring. Use of steam mops may cause damage to your floor.*

*Furniture polish and window cleaning agents should be applied to a cloth to avoid spillage onto the floor. Contact with some agents, such as silicone, will make the floor surface extremely slippery, which may result in accidents.*

*Never use steam cleaners on your floor.*

*The Sun's UV rays can change the color of your floor. Use protective window coverings to protect your floors from excessive heat during periods of direct sunlight.*

*Occasionally move furniture and carpets around & reduce intense light source to minimize color contrast.*

**Contact your dealer for recommended maintenance and floor care products**