

# SPC & WPC Installation & Maintenance 12/15/20

## **INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE GUIDE :**

### **Tools needed**

Measuring tape, Rubber mallet, Spacers, Utility Knife, Straight edge  
- Shears for cutting around irregular shaped objects

### **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.

### **Prior to Installation**

**Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for color, finish, and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. Check cartons to ensure that the color name, item#, and lot number are for the same material to be installed.** 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.

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. **Planks installed with a defect will not be warranted.**

**Acclimate flooring (in carton) for minimum of 12 hours prior to installation in area where it is to be installed.** Floorcovering should be installed in a **climate-controlled environment** with an ambient temperature range **between 55F – 85°F or average temperature of 70°F and a humidity range of 35%-55% during installation and life of floor.** It is necessary to maintain a constant temperature before, during, and after the installation.

**Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolong periods.** During peak sunlight hours, the use of curtains, drapes, blinds or solar film is required. Excessive temperatures due to sun light through windows can reach over 140°F and result in thermal dimensional changes, UV fading, and damage your floor. Do not install in sunrooms, solariums or saunas.

### **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' or 1/8" in 6'.** **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 to the underside of the joists. A 6-mil black polyurethane is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth with joints lapped 6" and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. 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 or existing embossed sheet vinyl with grout line greater than 1/16"/1.5mm, it will be necessary to skim coat the grout lines with a floor leveler.

### **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 and Hydrostatic pressure can create issue with flooring and 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. Do not use any additional Underlayment or install over heavily cushioned sheet vinyl. Soft underlayments and soft substrates will diminish the products inherent strength in resisting indentation and joint integrity. Do not install over carpet, carpet pad or existing vinyl floors with more than 1 layer.***

### **Over Hydronic Radiant Heat**

*Flooring can be installed over Hydronic radiant heat only 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 80F 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.*

### **Installation**

1. Remove baseboard, quarter round, wall base, appliances, and furniture from room. For best results, door trim should be under-cut to allow floor to move freely without being pinched. Decide the installation direction. It is recommended to install the length direction of the planks parallel to the main light direction.

Start in a corner by placing the first plank with the tongue side facing the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain a consistent expansion **space of 3/8"-1/2"** between the wall and the flooring. **With a floating floor you must always ensure you leave expansion in all**

areas including under trim molding used to cover the expansion. Undercut all doorjamb. For installations in areas larger than 50' x 50', 2,500 sq.ft. provide a minimum of ½" expansion around the perimeter.

**NOTE: Spacing must also be maintained between the floor and all vertical surfaces including cabinets, posts, partitions, door jambs, pipes, pillars, stairs, and door tracks etc. 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 or caulk, nails, screws, furniture, doors, closet door tracks, Base Boards, transition molding etc. to flooring. Leave at least credit card space between all moldings, vents etc. door jams and flooring. Installations greater than 75' lineal feet in any direction will require the use of transitions moldings.**

**Cabinets or heavy equipment should never be installed or placed on top of flooring.**

**Furniture should have evenly distributed weight. Ensure distribution points are not directly positioned over side or end joints of plank.**

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 and adjust the width of the 1<sup>st</sup> row to be installed. In narrow hallways, it is recommended to install the floor parallel to the length of the floor.

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. Do not 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 and lay plank. **Be sure to leave a minimum of 3/8"– 1/2" (2-3mm) expansion space** around all fixed objects, floor vents, door jambs and doorframes. **Do not attach or glue, caulk anything** directly to floor to prevent floor to move. Allow Floor to expand and contract freely. Remove the spacers once the floor is completely installed.

8. Finish the Installation. Replace molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance (credit card) between the molding and the planks.. Nail the moldings to the wall surface, not the flooring. At the doorways and at the other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a T mold, or like cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks. Leave small gap between the planks and the adjoining surfaces.

### **Glue down Instructions**

*On, above, or below grade, Flooring is approved for glue down installations over wood & concrete subfloors.*

**Recommended adhesive Mapei 360 or 373.** Follow adhesive label instructions including temperature ranges during installation for the adhesive. Spread rate will vary depending on subfloor, environment, and towel size used. Do not glue down over Particle board. Maintain 1/4" perimeter expansion. **Be sure to leave a minimum of 1/4" expansion space** around all fixed objects, floor vents, door jambs and doorframes. When installation is complete, **roll flooring in both directions using a 100 lb. (45-50 kg) sectional floor roller.**

Install trim to cover any exposed space or uneven cuts at walls or vertical obstructions. Do not affix trim to the floor.

### **Basic Cleaning & Maintenance**

Sweep or vacuum 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 Hard Surface Cleaner or Professional Series Stone Tile, Vinyl & Laminate cleaner in pre-mixed spray bottle. Cleaning products should be sprayed on to the sponge mop or hand towel never on to the floor itself. 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.

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

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

*Always sweep, mop or dry vacuum (beater bar off) the floor regularly. Do not use treated dust mops.*

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

*Follow manufacturer's recommended dilution rates. Do not mix cleaning products from different manufacturers.*

*Never use a steam mop on Vinyl flooring. Use of steam cleaners & steam mops may cause damage to your floor.*

*Do not use Wax, harsh cleaners, chemicals, abrasive cleaners & scrubbing tools, detergents, caustic cleaners, other household cleaning agents or "mop and shine" products on floor.*

### **Spot Protection & Removal**

Most domestic agents will not harm the floor. However, all residue of cleaning agents should be removed to avoid discoloration.

The following substances can cause discoloration: Tar, Nail Polish, Varnish, Spices, Shoe Polish, Paints containing acetone, Lipstick, Solvent-based Paints, Rubber Mats, Coco-Fiber Mats, Asphalt, Permanent Marker Pens, Crayons Action:

1. Wipe immediately with a paper towel or cloth.
2. Spots, which have already dried, might be removed using a plastic scraper
3. The area should then be washed with diluted cleaning agent using a damp cloth or sponge.
4. Obstinate spots might be removed with a firm nylon sponge.

### **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.*

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

Use soft vinyl castors for rolling furniture. **Protective mats are required for office use.**

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 temperature range between 55F – 85°F or average temperature of 70°F and a humidity range of 35%-55%, which could require either a humidifier or a dehumidifier.

Regularly swept or vacuumed floors (no beater bars) 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.

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

*Retain several planks for repairs in case of accidental damage.*

The Sun's UV rays can damage your floor. Use curtains, drapes, blinds, or solar film to protect your floor against thermal dimensional changes and discoloration from exposure to 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**

# FLOOR PLANK REPAIR

- Adhesive
- Carpet tape, single-sided, industrial strength, 2"–3" wide
- Chisel
- Circular saw with carbide blade
- Crowbar
- Drop cloth/floor cloth
- Hammer
- Masking tape
- Weights
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Pencil or marking pen
- Putty knife 1¼" wide
- Replacement Plank
- Safety Glasses
- Scrap plank flooring
- Tapping block
- Utility knife

**You must read and understand these instructions completely before beginning repair. It is recommended to wear your safety glasses throughout this project.**

**PLANKREMOVAL:** Make sure the replacement plank matches the rest of your flooring material. Carefully examine the replacement plank for material defect. The new plank must be acclimated a minimum of 72 hours prior to installation.

**Protect:** To protect your floor, tape around the board to be replaced such that the tape is adhered to the flooring that will remain in place and runs along the seam edges. Cover the surrounding floor with a protective cloth. To further prevent your work and resulting debris from damaging the floor, tape this cloth in place.

1. **Cut:** On the damaged plank and about one inch (1") in from all four edges, draw lines parallel to the edges of the plank to be replaced. This will result in a rectangular saw line around the plank. Drill Holes near each corner of the plank to facilitate sawing the cuts. Set saw blade depth to thickness of plank and cut on the saw lines **making sure not to over cut** into the masking tape that protects the flooring to remain.



2. **Removal:** Using the putty knife, gently pry up and remove the cut-out section of plank.
3. **Relief Cuts:** Again, careful not to over cut into the remaining planks, make several cuts along the long edge of each plank and diagonally by the corners. These cuts can be made with the saw or by using the chisel.
4. **Edge Removal:** Along one of the long sides, use the crowbar to slightly lift the flooring. With pressure relieved, you will be able to gently move a remaining segment of the damaged plank up and down. Be careful to make only slight upward movements so as not to damage the surface layer of the taped flooring. Repeat this procedure until all remaining segments have been removed.

**PREPARATION FOR NEW PLANK:** Vacuum area where the plank was removed paying special attention to the area under remaining flooring. Use the chisel and utility knife to remove residual plank particles and surplus adhesive from the uncovered tongue and groove. With an unused scrap piece of plank, check to see if the tongue and groove are clean and permit a true fit without forcing.

**INSTALLING NEW PLANK:** To confirm fit, turn plank upside down and place in opening.

1. **Grooves Removal:** Remove long and short end grooves of the replacement plank.
2. **Adhesive:** In the exposed groove of short end of the existing plank on the floor, spread a bead of Super Glue type or similar cyanoacrylate adhesive around the four side of the plank.
3. **Inserting Plank:** Install the new plank by inserting the tongue edge first, at an angle, into the groove of the remaining flooring. A tapping block will be helpful at this stage to protect the edges. Move the tapping block down the length of the replacement plank, gently tapping with a hammer as you go. **Do not** allow any portion of the carpet tape to come between the joints as the plank is maneuvered into place. Once the plank is in place, use the tapping block and hammer to set all the seams.
4. Use a clean cloth, slightly dampened with water, to remove excess adhesive.
5. **Wait to dry:** Place weights on the new board to apply pressure for 24 hours allowing the adhesive to set up. During this time, **do not** walk on or disturb the area.