



Rigid Core Installation & Maintenance Instructions

Suitability

Rigid Core Click Vinyl Flooring is completely waterproof floating floor and has got exceptional acoustic and insulation properties due to the pre-attached high density underlayment. Designed with Click Lock System which makes the installation easy and quick without the need for adhesive or underlay.

Rigid Core is only suitable for indoor installation and temperature controlled conservatories. It can be used in residential and commercial properties.

Underfloor heating systems: you can use our product with underfloor heating system however the system must be insulated so the temperature of the surface will remain under 27 °C. Please contact with the manufacturer of the heating system to make sure their product is suitable with our flooring. Rigid Core can only be used with electric heating system if there is a minimum 10-12mm of appropriate levelling compound covers the system. Temperature requirements: minimum 18°C for acclimatisation period and after 24 hours of installation increase gradually the temperature by 5°C/day until it reaches the standard temperature with a maximum of 27°C.

Storage

- Cartons should be stored and transported on a flat surface in neat piles and never stood on their ends.
- Cartons should not be stored in humid, very hot or very cold places.

Subfloor Requirements

Good preparation is paramount for installation of our Rigid Core flooring. Please make sure that your subfloor is flat, stable, dry and clean prior the installation, it cannot be soft, damaged or loose laid. Repair larger cracks and major surface imperfections.

- Over a concrete subfloor: if the subfloor is uneven, deeper than 5mm measured over 3m width, a suitable smooth leveling compound needs to be used.

Relative Humidity should be near to 75% which is generally the required limit for floor coverings.

Moisture content of the subfloor:

Unheated cement based screed max. 2% CM – 75% RH (UK) Underfloor heated cement based screed max. 1.8% CM – 75% RH (UK) Unheated calcium sulphate based screed max. 0.5% CM

Underfloor heated calcium sulphate based screed max. 0.3% CM

- Tiles, Mosaics, Ceramics: grout lines which are deeper than 3mm need to be leveled.
- Glued down vinyl, Linoleum, Parquet and Fixed Wood Board: does not have to be removed, although these floor coverings must be solid and gaps must be filled. We recommend to check wood based subfloors for moisture with a test kit. Moisture level should not exceed 13% and any moisture issues must be fixed prior to installation. E L Flooring Rigid Core should not be used to seal raising moisture from an existing floor covering.
- Cushion vinyl, Carpet, Needle Felt, Floating Laminate and Floating Parquet: will have to be removed.
- All floor preparation materials should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and national standards for floorcoverings.

Pre-Installation

- Please inspect product for defects and check the quantity. If material is questionable, contact the retailer immediately and do not proceed with installation. Please note we cannot accept responsibilities for flooring installed with visible defects.
- We do suggest that you always use materials from a single production as we cannot guaranty the shade match from different batches.
- All flooring should be acclimatized in the room of installation for at least 24 hours for residential and 48 hours for commercial application prior to fitting. This is a minimum of 18°C and maximum of 27°C.
- Stack the flooring away from direct sunlight, heating and windows to achieve gradual acclimatisation.
- For best visual effect we recommend to shuffle planks from cartons before installation.

Installation Step by Step

Tools you require: pencil, tape measure, utility knife, tapping block, rubber mallet, 5mm spacers (for expansion gaps), carpenter's square, hand roller and saw are suggested.

Calculate the number of rows of whole planks and determine the width of the first and last row of panels.

- Measure your room in the direction of the width of the plank and subtract the expansion gaps (2x 5mm).

- Divide this measurement by the width of the plank. This number gives you how many rows of whole planks you need.
- Half the remaining space to indicate the width of the first and last row of planks. If the remaining space is less than 15cm, the number of full rows need to be reduced by one and the width of the first and last rows increased accordingly.
- Make a cut in the floor panel on the decor side with a utility knife. Use the snap method to break the unneeded part off.
- Start the second row with this cut piece if you can, if not suitable, take a new floor panel and cut it in half. Hold the plank at a low angle and insert the long side tongue in to the long side locking groove of the previous row panel and fold it down. Tap the plank firmly into the groove with a soft rubber mallet and tapping block.
- Ensure that end joints are staggered at least 25-30cm between the rows.
- Take the next floor panel and fit the long side tongue into the long side groove and then lock the short side ends together by firmly pressing the plank down with your thumb along the seam. Soft rubber mallet, tapping block and hand roller can be used to fix the plank securely together.
- Check for straightness and that the planks are fully joined.
- Continue and complete the installation using this method. Around corners and complex profiles, mark the shape on the plank and use the saw to cut the board.
- Once the flooring planks are fitted, remove spacers and sweep the floor with a soft brush.
- Install wall, door mouldings and suitable edge trims last. Make sure they are fixed directly to the wall or subfloor and not to the rigid core vinyl flooring.
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- Start the second row with this cut piece if you can, if not suitable, take a new floor panel and cut it in half. Hold the plank at a low angle and insert the long side tongue in to the long side locking groove of the previous row panel and fold it down. Tap the plank firmly into the groove with a soft rubber mallet and tapping block.
- Ensure that end joints are staggered at least 25-30cm between the rows.
- Take the next floor panel and fit the long side tongue into the long side groove and then lock the short side ends together by firmly pressing the plank down with your thumb along the seam. Soft rubber mallet, tapping block and hand roller can be used to fix the plank securely together.
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- Continue and complete the installation using this method. Around corners and complex profiles, mark the shape on the plank and use the saw to cut the board.
- Once the flooring planks are fitted, remove spacers and sweep the floor with a soft brush.
- Install wall, door mouldings and suitable edge trims last. Make sure they are fixed directly to the wall or subfloor and not to the rigid core vinyl flooring.
- Use spacers to leave 5 mm expansion gaps between the floor and the wall and all vertical fixtures during installation. For rooms larger than 100m² and flooring which run over 15m in length or width, we recommend to leave 8mm expansion gap.
- Start with the first plank of the first row and put it in place so the short end tongue is next to the wall and locking groove is facing toward the room. Install the Rigid Core planks from left to right.
- Fit the second piece by placing the short side tongue onto the first plank short side groove and fold it down. Lock the pieces together by firmly pressing the plank down with your thumb along the seam. This will engage the 5G Drop-Lock mechanism. Use a soft rubber mallet and tapping block (can be an off cut of the product) to engage the joint vertically. Continue this method for the rest of the first row.
- Place the last board of the first row with face up, long side locking groove towards the wall, and the short side tongue positioned 5mm from the wall. Mark where the floor panel needs to be cut.

Note: if slight gaps are noticed between the planks or the boards will not lie flat during installation, you can remove and reposition a plank. First disengage the long side joint by lifting it at a light angle while pulling the complete rows away from each other. Then carefully “Slide” the short end joints apart. Failure to use the “Slide” action will damage the 5G Drop-Lock System and prevent proper re-installation of the affected plank.

Maintaining Your New Floor

- Maintenance will help to preserve the appearance of the floor and will extend its life. The protective UV coating makes the floor easy to clean and the 0.55mm wear-layer gives excellent protection against daily wear and tear.
- Remove daily dirt by regular sweeping, vacuum cleaning and mopping with clear water. Wipe spot with eraser or bare cloth. If you use neutral PH detergent please follow manufacturer’s instruction. Carefully avoid household detergent and bleach based products as they can cause discoloration. Please note vinyl flooring can be slippery when wet.
- Protection of sliding furniture: please place protective felt pads under table and chair legs to prevent scratches. We recommend using furniture cups to avoid high point loading.

- Entrance mats will reduce the soiling of the floor and protect from loose dirt and grit which can cause fine scratches. We suggest not to use latex and rubber backed mats, furniture feet as they may leave stain on your floor.