

## ◆ Installation ◆

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING CHESAPEAKE FLOORING

Properly installed and cared for your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years.

**WARNING:**

**EXISTING IN-PLACE RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING AND ASPHALTIC ADHESIVES. DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVE OR OTHER ADHESIVE.**

These **existing in-place** products may contain **asbestos fibers** and/or **crystalline silica**.

Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard.

Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm.

Unless positively certain that the existing in-place product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern removal and disposal of material.

See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication [Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings](#) for instructions on removing all resilient floor covering structures or contact your retailer.

**The floor covering or adhesive in this package does NOT contain asbestos.**

**Installation:**

Location: All grade levels

Fitting: All methods

**Tools:**

Tape measure, chalk line, utility knife, pencil, spacers, straight edge, vacuum or broom optional tile cutter or cutting shear. Subfloor prep supplies.

**General Information**

The locking installation system allows the planks to be installed without using adhesives as a floating floor installation. The planks should be installed 1/4" away from all vertical surfaces such as walls, cabinets, pipes, etc.

When installed in bathrooms, the gap should be filled and sealed with a good quality siliconized or acrylic caulk. The gap will then be covered with molding or wall base. Base cabinets should not be installed on top of the planks.

**Keys to Successful Locking Installation**

- Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring with locking installation should not be exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. Direct sunlight can result in discoloration, and excessive temperatures may cause expansion. The use of drapes or blinds is recommended during peak sunlight exposure.
- Most installations will need approximately a 10% cutting allowance added to the square footage of the room.
- Always work out of three cartons to mix shade and visual.
- Proper conditioning of both the jobsite and the flooring is necessary. Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring should not be exposed to sudden changes in temperature.
- Store, transport and handle Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring so as to prevent any distortions. Store cartons flat, never on edge. Distortions will not disappear over time. Ensure that the planks are laying flat at time of installation.
- Installations of carpet, metal strips and other transition moldings should not push fully into the flooring and should allow for some slight movement wherever practical.
- Protect the floor from heavy-rolling loads, other trades and replacement and/or movement of appliances by using sheets of plywood or similar.
- Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring alone is waterproof but excessive subfloor moisture may promote mildew or mold issues.

**Suitable Substrates**

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All substrates listed must be properly prepared and meet certain requirements. There may be other exceptions and special conditions for these substrates to be suitable for the locking installation system as noted below.

- Concrete – dry and smooth on all grade levels
- Suspended wood subfloors with approved wood underlayments – must have minimum of 18” well-ventilated crawl space underneath
- Suspended hardwood flooring that is fully adhered, smooth and square edge without texture
- Single-layer, fully-adhered, existing resilient floors – must not be foam-backed or cushion-backed
- Ceramic tile, Terrazzo, Marble
- Polymeric Poured (seamless) Floors
- Fully-sanded OSB

### DO NOT INSTALL OVER

- Particleboard or wafer board
- Existing resilient tile floors that are below grade
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring
- Carpet
- Hardwood flooring that has been installed directly over concrete
- On stairs or in rooms with sloping floors or floor drains

Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement. Optimum performance of floor covering products occurs when there is little horizontal or vertical movement of the subfloor. If the subfloor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete.

### Adhesives:

If a full spread glue down installation is desired with this Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring, please use a commercially available, pressure sensitive LVT adhesive. Please follow the manufacturer’s instruction for the adhesive application.

### Job Conditions/Preparations

- Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring should only be installed in temperature-controlled environments. It is necessary to maintain a constant temperature before, during and after the installation. Therefore, the permanent or temporary HVAC system must be in operation before the installation of resilient flooring. Portable heaters are not recommended as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.
- All substrates must be structurally sound, dry, clean, flat, and smooth with minimal deflection. Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, other foreign matter and contaminants that could cause staining.
- High spots on the substrate should be leveled and low areas filled with appropriate underlayments.
- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.
- In renovation or remodel work, remove any existing adhesive residue so that 100% of the overall area of the original substrate is exposed.
- Embossed existing resilient floors, ceramic tile floors, ceramic and marble grout joints, and irregularities in concrete should be filled and leveled using cement based patch, to fill and smooth any embossing in the old floor.
- The area to receive resilient flooring materials should be maintained between 55°F (13°C) and 85°F (29°C) for 48 hours before installation, during installation and after completion. Maintain temperatures between 32°F (0°C) and 85°F (29°C) thereafter.
- For concrete substrates, conduct moisture testing (moisture vapor emission rate {MVER}) <8 lbs. and/or percent relative humidity < 90% (in-situ probe). If installing with adhesive bond tests must also be conducted for compatibility with the substrate.

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- Embedded radiant heated substrates must not exceed a maximum surface temperature of 85°F (29°C). Turn off heat and let subfloor cool down to room temperature 3-4 hours prior to starting the job. Then after installation incrementally raise the temperature 5 degrees at a time to avoid over-heating the Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring.
- The subfloor panels must have a smooth, sanded face and show no swelling of edges or surface due to exposure to weather conditions or construction traffic. “Base grade” subfloor panels are not recommended as they generally do not provide a sanded face or the moisture resistance of “better” and “best” grade panels. The panels cannot be contaminated by staining agents. Otherwise, an additional 1/4” or thicker underlayment is recommended.
- There are numerous products available for use as floor fills, patches, self-leveling underlayments, and trowel-able underlayments. They include proprietary blends of compounds such as portland cement, calcium aluminates, and gypsum-based products. These are recommended by their manufacturers for smoothing rough or uneven subfloors, enhancing acoustical and fire characteristics of structures or as substrates to receive floor covering for otherwise unsuitable subfloor conditions.

### Installation Procedure

Remove baseboard, quarter-round moldings, wall base, appliances and furniture from the room. For best results, door trim should be under-cut to allow flooring to move freely without being pinched. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.

**Note: Planks are cut with a tile cutter, Cutting Shear, or by using a straight edge and utility knife. Score the face of the plank several times and snap it.**

Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. The end joints of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 6” apart. Do not install over expansion joints. Avoid installing pieces shorter than 8” (20.32 cm).

Determine which direction the plank will run. Find the center of each of the end walls (the walls perpendicular to the long dimension of the planks) and place a pencil mark on the floor. Connect these points by striking a chalk line down the center of the room. Do a dry layout of planks from the center line to the wall running parallel to the long direction of the planks to determine the width of the last row of planks. (Fig. 1)

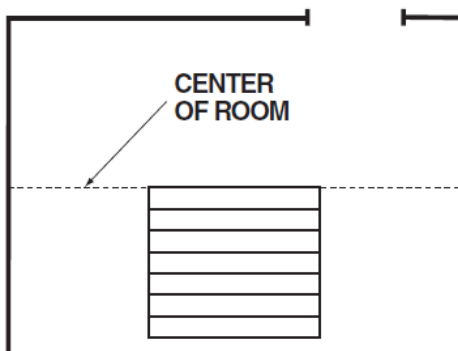


Fig. 1 – Dry layout to determine width of border plank.

Avoid having border pieces less than half the width of the planks. If you find the border planks will be less than 1/2 the width of the plank, the center starting line should be shifted a distance equal to 1/2 the plank width. This will “balance” the room and provide for a larger cut piece at the wall.

### Installation

**Note:** The subfloor must be thoroughly free from dust and debris. If the subfloor is dusty this may affect the product performance.

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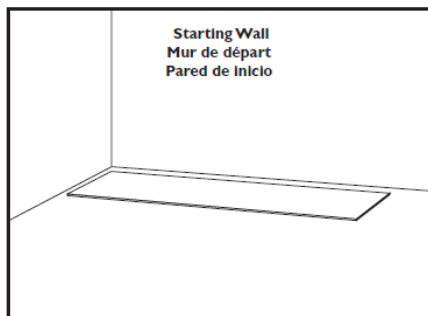


Fig. 2 – Left corner of starting wall.

### – Stagger end joints by 6", cut pieces at ends of row should be 8" or greater for planks.

If the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so a clean, solid edge is toward the wall. Position the first plank so that grooved edge is facing you. Install the product from left to right in the room. (Fig. 2) Occasionally, it may be necessary to install backwards. This may be done by sliding the grooves under the tongues and working them right to left, but this is more difficult.

Install the second plank in the row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first plank. Install second and subsequent full pieces in the first row by aligning short ends of the planks and locking into place. Be careful not to bend the corner of the plank. Be sure to maintain an expansion gap of approximately 1/4" from the wall.

Begin the second row of planks with the piece cut from the last piece in the first row. If the piece is shorter than 8" (20.32 cm), cut a new plank in half and use it to begin the second row. Whenever practical, use the piece cut from the preceding row to start the next row. End joints of all planks should be staggered 6" or more. Install the long end of the first plank at an angle to the plank in the previous row. Keep this at its natural angle slightly raised off the subfloor. Continue installing full planks in the second row by angling the short end of the next plank in the row to lock into the previous plank. Angle up and push forward until the planks lock together. Continue installing full planks in the second and subsequent rows until you reach the wall on your right.

After the first 3 rows of planks are installed they should be checked with a string line to ensure that rows are still running straight. If they are not, it could be that the starting wall has some irregularities that caused bowing in the installation. If so, the starting row of planks may have to be scribed and re-trimmed to account for any unevenness in the wall. This can be done without having to disassemble the beginning rows.

Continue installing remaining rows. Maintain a random appearance by offsetting the end joints by least 6", and maintain the gap at perimeter and vertical surfaces. Always be certain that the planks are fully engaged. When fitting in areas such as door casings it may be necessary to use a flat pull bar to engage the lock.

### Finishing the Installation

Replace molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface, not through the flooring. At doorways and at other areas where Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a "T" molding or similar to cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks. Leave a small gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.

### Proactive Protection for Your Floor

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- When moving appliances or heavy furniture it is always good practice to lay a plywood panel on your floor and “walk” the item across it. This protects your floor from scuffing and tears.
- Use floor protectors, under furniture to reduce indentation. As a general rule of thumb, the heavier the item, the wider the floor protector needed.
- Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. We strongly recommend mats without a latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration.
- Use floor care products that have been specifically developed to care for Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring floors.

### Caring for Your Floor

- Sweep or vacuum regularly, to remove loose dirt which can scratch your floor. **Note:** We do not recommend vacuums that have a beater bar since it can visibly damage your flooring surface. Additionally, we do not recommend electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding as use may result in discoloration and de-glossing.
- Wipe up spills as soon as possible. Never use highly abrasive scrubbing tools on your Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring.
- Wash your floor regularly with a vinyl floor cleaner, such as Bruce® Multi-Surface cleaner
- Do NOT use detergents, abrasive cleaners, or “mop and shine” products. These products may leave a dull film on your floor.
- Over time, if the shine on your floor begins to dull, apply an Acrylic Low Gloss Floor Finish to restore the appearance of your Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring. Do NOT use paste wax or solvent based polish.
- Vinyl flooring, like other types of smooth floors, can become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after washing. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substance, or wet feet.