

# SELECT SURFACES RIGID CORE VINYL PLANKS

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS - MADE IN GERMANY

This document provides the installation instructions for Select Surfaces Rigid Core Vinyl Planks.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The owner/purchaser must inspect for color, Gloss, finish, and the quality before installation. The manufacturer cannot be held responsible for costs incurred when a floor with visible defects has been installed.

**CAUTION:** If you contemplate the removal of a resilient floor covering structure that contains (or is presumed to contain) asbestos, you must review and comply with all applicable regulations. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphalt “cutback” adhesive, or other adhesive. These 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 bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. See “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” (rfci.com) for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

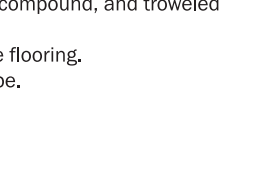
All instructions and recommendations are based on the most recent information available. They should be followed for an ideal installation.

- Additional underlay must be removed prior to installation.
- Should NEVER be installed in an outdoor/ exterior setting or in any type of garage.
- SPC planks should only be installed after the jobsite has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage a finished installation.
- Use a dust mask, safety glasses and gloves when cutting SPC flooring.
- Never wax, polish or use abrasive cleaners on SPC floors as they may damage the floor’s finish beyond repair.
- During the installation, mix and install panels from several different cartons to minimize shade variation.
- Do not directly hit or press SPC with any installation tools such as tap blocks, hammers, mallets or seam rollers as this can cause damage to the product’s locking system.
- Any moisture or risk of moisture existing should be mitigated prior to installing SPC.
- The finished installation should be protected from exposure to continuous sunlight.
- SPC planks cannot be installed with adhesives. The use of any sort of adhesive during the installation will void the warranty.
- If cabinets need to be installed after SPC is installed, they should be mounted to the wall and in a manner that does not pin SPC and prevent it from performing as a floating floor. Always install cabinets and islands prior to installing SPC floors.
- Rigid core vinyl planks cannot be installed in an unheated environment such as a cottage, RV or solarium.
- Rigid core vinyl planks should be acclimated in the climate-controlled locations for 48 hours before starting installation.
- Installation temperatures should be a approx. 64°F-84°F (18°C-29°C). Do not install cold or frozen planks.

### SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

Although rigid core vinyl planks are designed to be a “floating” floor installation, proper preparation of the subfloor is still a major part of a successful installation.

- Variations in the subfloor flatness should not exceed 5/64” per 3 ft (2mm per m). Floors must be leveled to meet this specification prior to installation. Level by filling depressed areas with floor leveling compounds and grinding down any raised areas.
- Abrupt height differences of more than 3/64 in per 4 in. (1mm per 10cm) must be corrected (for example, nail heads, concrete ridges and other similar small protrusions).



#### A. Concrete Subfloors

- Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth, and free from dust, solvent, grease, oil, asphalt sealing compounds and other extraneous materials. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
- New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry (at least 60 days) and completely cured. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.
- Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a floor leveler compound, and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.
- Concrete subfloors must have a minimum of 6-mil poly film between the concrete and the flooring.
- Overlap vapor barrier edges by 8 in (20 cm) and seal with moisture resistant adhesive tape.
- Run vapor barrier 3/4 in (2 cm) up wall and install wall base trim over it.

#### B. Wood Subfloors

- Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and screwed or nailed to supporting beams.
- Subfloor moisture must be tested prior to installation and should not exceed 12% throughout the installation area.
- Do not install SPC floors over wood subfloors applied directly to concrete.

#### C. Existing Floor Coverings

- Rigid core vinyl planks can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings provided the existing floor surface is smooth or can be made smooth and is solid.
- Any existing textile floor covering must be removed prior to the installation of the SPC floor.
- Ceramic tiles should be made smooth by applying a cementitious overlay such as patching or leveling compound manufactured specifically to smooth out ceramic grout joints.
- For existing resilient floor, it may be required to apply a skim coat of embossing leveler over a deeply embossed floor. Heavily cushioned vinyl floor or vinyl floor consisting of multiple layers are NOT suitable subfloor for installation.

#### D. Indoor Radiant Heat

- In-floor heat systems must be operating for a minimum of 3 weeks prior to installation of SPC floors.
- Floor temperature must not exceed 84°F (29°C).
- Do not install SPC directly over electric wires or mats.

**WARNING:** Heating mats are not recommended for use with rigid core vinyl flooring. It is best to install the rigid core vinyl floor over embedded Water floor heating systems.

### TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED

Crosscut power saw, chalk line/string, pencil, tape measure, 3/8” (10 mm) spacers, pull bar, painter’s tape, safety glasses, carpenter square, utility knife, 100% flexible neutral curing silicone caulking and PE backer rod (if installing in moisture prone areas).

### INSTALLATION

#### PLANK LAYOUT

Do not secure individual rigid core vinyl planks to the subfloor as they are designed to be a floating floor. All doorjambos should be undercut, and cabinets cannot be installed on top of the rigid core vinyl planks. Wall moldings and transition strips should be installed over any exposed plank edges but should not be fastened through the planks.

1. First, determine how you want the flooring to run. Typically for plank products, the flooring runs the length of the room. There may be exceptions since it is all a matter of preference.
2. To avoid narrow plank widths or short plank lengths near the walls/doors, it is important to do some pre-planning. Using the width of the room, calculate how many full boards will fit into the area and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial planks. Divide the remaining space by two to calculate the width of the partial planks. Do the same along the length.
3. Note that 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 that a clean, solid edge is toward the wall.
4. Use spacers to maintain the 3/8 in (10 mm) expansion space around the perimeter of the room and all other objects (e.g. toe kicks, plumbing, etc.).
5. SPC floors can be installed in a single room up to 39 linear feet (12 m) in length and/or 39 linear feet (12 m) in width. Installations in rooms that are over 39 linear feet (12 m) in length or width must use transitions.
6. The planks should be installed from left to right. From the top left corner of the room, put the first plank in place so that both the head and side seam grooves are exposed.
7. Lay the first plank with its long edge tongue facing the wall.
8. Lift the right side of the second plank to a 30-degree angle and place its short end tongue into the short end groove of the first plank.
9. Align both planks perfectly and slowly lower the plank to lock the two together.
10. Continue in this manner until the row is complete.
11. Use the remainder of the last plank of the first row provided that it is longer than 16 in (40 cm).

- It’s important that the long edges of the first row be perfectly straight and aligned in order to facilitate ease of installation of all other rows.
- The first and last row of the installation should be wider than 4 in (10 cm).
- The first and last plank in a row should be a minimum of 16 in (40 cm) long.
- Stagger the planks from row to row by a minimum of 16 in (40 cm).

12. To install the first plank of the second row, place its long edge tongue into the previous row’s long edge groove.
13. Lift the long edge groove side only to approximately a 30° angle so the edge you are holding is lifted off the floor, but the opposing long edge is resting in the previous row’s groove.
14. Lower the plank to lock it into the previous row (a slight up/down, oscillating movement together with some force in the direction of the previous row may help to lower the plank).
15. Install the second plank of the second row by installing its short edge to the previous row’s groove.
16. Hold a plank at approximately a 30-degree angle and connect short end joints together about half-way down the width of the short edge. Before lowering the right edge of the plank, slide it forward towards the previous row.
17. Lower the right side of the plank so that its long edge tongue is sitting in the previous row’s groove. The short end seam is now engaged.
18. Lift the long edge of the plank you are installing 2 in. to 3 in. (5 cm to 8 cm) off the ground (this may lift the previously installed planks in the row as well) and apply forward pressure close to the connected short end so as to slide the long edge tongue into the previous row’s groove.
19. Lower the planks to connect the long edge (you may need to slowly oscillate the planks up and down slightly for them to engage).
20. Continue in this manner until your installation is complete.
21. Remove all spacers.
22. Install quarter rounds, base boards and all other moldings.
23. Clean the floor and inspect it to ensure all joints are locked in place.

#### INSTALLING UNDER A DOOR JAMB:

**SPC floors should be installed under door jambs. As such door jambs will need to be undercut accordingly.**

##### To do so:

- Use a SPC flooring off-cut to support your saw blade at the correct height for undercutting.
- Check door clearances and make any necessary height adjustments before installing SPC floors.
- Make sure to leave the 3/8 in (10 mm) expansion spacing from the wall under the door jamb.

**TIP: when possible, it is often easiest to start at the door of the room so that the first plank can be easily slid under the door jamb.**

- In some cases, you may have to modify a plank’s locking system as a door jamb may prevent you from angling it into place. To do so, safely remove the vertical section of the groove. This will allow you to slide planks together horizontally. Apply a small amount of adhesive suitable for gluing polypropylene into the plank’s groove and slide the plank into place.

#### Recommendation for Wet Area Installation:

When installing in moisture prone areas (eg. kitchens, bathrooms, entryways), seal all expansion spaces with compressible PE foam backer rod and 100% neutral cure flexible silicone caulk as described in the following procedure.

NOTE: Care should be taken to address any moisture related issues prior to installing SPC.  
NOTE: Do not use acrylic based caulks. Do not use acetoxysilicone caulks.

##### PROCEDURE:

1. Insert 1/2 in (12 mm) compressible PE foam backer rod into room perimeter expansion space and cover completely with flexible silicone caulk.
2. Insert 3/8 in (10 mm) compressible PE foam backer rod at transitions and cover completely with flexible silicone caulk.
3. Use 100% flexible neutral cure silicone caulking around door frames and other fixed objects (eg. plumbing).
4. Install baseboards, quarter-rounds or other applicable moldings and immediately wipe up excess caulk.
5. Ensure baseboards or quarter-rounds are attached to walls, not floors

#### AFTER INSTALLATION

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other projects are being completed, use rosin paper and painter’s tape to hold the rosin paper to the floor (other tapes may damage the finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. DO NOT USE plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from excess humidity.
- Dust mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- It is suggested that you buff the floor with lamb wool pads in order to remove any loose splinters, residues, footprints, etc.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, nosing, etc.).

#### PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and on-going maintenance.

- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways
- Avoid extended exposure to direct sunlight. It is recommended to close the blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Floor coverings exposed to excessive heat and light are subject to thermal degradation. Use the appropriate precautions to minimize potential effects on the floor covering.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile-oil drips onto the vinyl floor covering.
- Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do NOT use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Do NOT use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off.
- Do NOT use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do NOT use harsh cleansers, chemicals, abrasive scrubbing tools, detergents, abrasive cleaners, or “mop and shine” products.
- Vinyl Flooring, like other types of smooth floors, may become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after washing. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substances, or wet feet.

#### REPAIRS

In the unlikely event that a rigid core vinyl plank is damaged for whatever reason, the simplest method is to disconnect the planks carefully (protecting the tongue and groove edges) until the damaged plank can be removed. Then replace the damaged plank with a new one and reassemble the disconnected planks. This typically works for planks that are close to the two long perimeters of a room.

For damaged planks that are not close to the perimeter, you may have to remove the damaged planks and insert new pieces without the short and long end grooves.

1. Using a sharp utility knife and a straight edge, cut out the center of the damaged plank by leaving approximately 1 in strip attached to the adjacent planks.
2. Carefully cut back from the four corners of the plank to the inside edges in space left by the cut-out plank.
3. Remove the plank edges carefully from the adjacent planks making sure the tongues and grooves of the adjacent planks are not damaged.
4. Using a utility knife, remove the tongue strip on both the long and short ends of the replacement plank. In addition, remove the groove strip of the short end of the replacement plank.
5. Place some doubled sided carpet tape along the three sides of the adjacent planks where the tongues and the groove of the replacement plank have been removed. Only the top side release paper of the carpet tape should be removed. The bottom side release paper should NOT be taped on top of the subfloor.
6. Position the replacement plank by engaging the groove of the long side into the tongue of the adjoining plank and pushing down on the other three sides. The carpet tape will hold the replacement plank in place with its adjacent planks. Use a hand roller to further secure the tape.

#### WARRANTY

Select Surfaces Rigid Core Vinyl Planks are covered by a **limited lifetime warranty for residential use and a limited warranty of 10 years for light commercial use.** The stipulations of the limited residential warranty are as follows:

- The flooring will be free of manufacturing defects.
- The flooring surface will not wear through under normal household use.

##### The following conditions apply to the warranty and may void the warranty if not followed correctly:

- The flooring must be installed according to the instructions provided.
- If filing a warranty claim, it must be submitted within 30 days of the discovery of the damage.
- Any damage to the wear layer must be evident and visible, measuring at least 13 cm<sup>2</sup> (2 square inches).
- Proof of purchase, such as a bill of sale is mandatory when requesting warranty service.
- The warranty is non-transferable.
- The manufacturer reserves the right to designate a representative to inspect the floor in question and remove samples for analysis.
- The warranty includes the replacement material and excludes labor costs.

#### WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS

- If flooring not installed according to the installation guide.
- Damage due to improper installation, care, cleaning, or maintenance.
- Use of additional underlay in the installation of the flooring.
- Use of any adhesive or solvent material during installation.
- Installation of Rigid core vinyl in an outdoor/exterior setting or in any type of garage.
- Damage caused by impacts, Chips (gauges) scratching, cutting, fire, water damage, alterations, or any other wear or damage caused by acts of God.
- The use of rigid core Vinyl planks in an unheated environment such as a cottage, RV or solarium.
- Flooring dulled by soaps, detergents, harsh chemicals, dressings, one-step cleaners or wax.
- Damage caused by high heels, burns, cigarette burns, cuts, scratches, gouges, and indentations including damage from improper floor protectors and furniture rests; staining caused by dyes tracked from carpet, fertilizers, coal, tar, driveway sealers, oil drippings or other similar materials.
- Problems due to moisture and/or alkalinity of the subfloor.
- Flooring installed over unstable subfloors (particleboard, chip wood, or pressboard) or improperly prepared subfloors, and or wet/cold floor are not covered by the limited warranty.
- Discoloration from mold or from flooding, leaking plumbing or appliances, water entering through sliding glass doors or similar conditions.
- Discoloration by exposure to direct sunlight or heat generation.
- Discoloration caused by the use of area rugs or floor mats. Use non-staining mats, for rubber mats will discolor the floor.

For questions regarding installation, please contact our Technical Support by email at [techsupport@selectsurfaces.ca](mailto:techsupport@selectsurfaces.ca) or by telephone at 1-855-250-8167.

To purchase matching moldings or for customer service, please contact [info@selectsurfaces.ca](mailto:info@selectsurfaces.ca) or visit our website at [www.selectsurfaces.ca](http://www.selectsurfaces.ca)

For any questions about our warranty, please contact [warranty@selectsurfaces.ca](mailto:warranty@selectsurfaces.ca)

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