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# Hybrid SPC -Installation & Maintenance Guide

## Tools Required:

Saw - Tape Measure - Straight Edge - Spacers

Do not use foam underlayment under HYBRID SPC floors

## Prior to installation:

- Room temperature shall be no less than 18°C for 24 hours before, during and after installation.
- Remove quarter round, baseboard molding or cove base.
- Undercut doorway moldings the thickness of the flooring.
- Cartons must always be stored in horizontal position.
- Protect carton corners from damage

## Wood Substrates:

Wood floors must be double and free from spring / deflection.

## Concrete Substrates:

HYBRID SPC may be installed over on grade, above grade or below grade concrete subfloors. **Prior to installation, it is the installer's responsibility** to ensure that the internal site conditions are stable and are suitable for the installation of the engineered/solid flooring. **A room temperature of between 15-28°C and relative humidity of between 45-65% must be maintained. Screed/concrete subfloors must be under 4% moisture content.** Failure to do this could cause ongoing behavioral problems with the floor and will invalidate the warranty.

Existing Floors HYBRID SPC may be installed over most smooth, single layer, hard surface existing flooring. Check flooring for any curled areas around the perimeter or at seams and repair if necessary. Use of a good quality cementitious based embossing leveler to smooth and fill the existing floor.

**WARNING:** Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt or asphaltic "cutback" adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust.

## Substrate Preparation:

- All substrates must be dry, clean, smooth, level, free from all existing adhesive residues, and free from movement or deflection.
- The substrate must be level within 3mm in 2m.
- Maximum span allowed is 8-10m x 8-10m, please use T-moulding/reducer is required for installation if the area is larger than 8-10m x 8-10m.
- Fill and level all plywood seams and concrete cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves or other irregularities. Use a latex fortified, cementitious patching compound.
- Sweep and/or vacuum substrate to remove all dust and debris.

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## Getting Started

1. HYBRID SPC is a floating floor and should not be glued or nailed to the substrate.
2. HYBRID SPC is intended for indoor use only.
3. Determine in which direction the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger or if installing in very small rooms or hallways, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension.
4. Do not install cabinets on planks.
5. Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and also to determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row of planks is less than 50mm, excluding the tongue, the width of first row of planks will have to be cut accordingly.
6. A minimum 10-15mm expansion space is required around the perimeter of the room and all vertical objects.
7. Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Do not install damaged planks. will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects. During installation, inspect the groove area and remove any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks.

## Installation

1. Begin laying planks from the left side of the starting wall and work to the right side. The tongue side of the plank shall face the starting wall.
2. Place 10-15mm spacers between the short and long side of the planks and the wall. Always position one spacer between the wall and where the planks join.
3. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side of the previous plank at a low angle. Gradually lower the plank down lat until the end joint closes, ensuring that the planks are perfectly aligned. Install remaining full planks in the first row.
4. The last plank in the first row will need to be cut. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank. Subtract 10-15mm from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 30cm, the length of first plank in the row must be cut. This will allow for a longer plank at the end of the row. The first and last plank in each row must be at least 30cm in length. Planks are cut using a sharp utility knife or table saw and straight edge/carpenters' square. Score the surface of the plank with a utility knife, and then snap the plank at the score line.
5. The remaining piece cut off from the last plank in the first row may serve as the first plank in the second row provided it is at least 30cm long. Always stagger end joints from row to row a minimum of 15cm.
6. Install the long side of the first plank of the second row. Remember to place a 10-15mm spacer between the wall and the short side of the plank. Insert the tongue side into the groove side of the previous row at a low angle and lower lat to the substrate.
7. Install the second plank in the second. Position the long side of the plank with the tongue side overlapping the groove of the planks in the previous row. Then, angle the end joint into the previous plank. Angle the plank up and gently push forward until the plank locks into the previous row. Continue installing remaining planks in second row. It is important to make sure that the first two rows are straight and square as they can affect the entire installation.
8. Continue working from left to right, row by row. Be sure to maintain a space around all walls and vertical objects and maintain a random appearance. Offset end joints a minimum of 15cm.

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## Finishing the installation

- After all planks have been installed, remove spacers from perimeter of room.
- Install transition moldings. Do not fasten any moldings through the flooring.
- Predrill and install quarter round or baseboard molding. Molding must be sufficient size to cover the 10-15mm space. Do not fasten moldings through the flooring. Fasten into the wall.
- Use plywood to cover the top of the flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
- Use proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture.
- Post installation temperature MUST be maintained between 15° C and 28° C (flooring temperature). Relative humidity must be maintained between 35% and 55%.
- A dehumidifier should be promptly turned on in the room to reduce the moisture levels back to normal. Do not dry the room below the normal moisture level that existed previously.

## Maintenance

Please follow the recommendations in this guide to retain the fresh look and protect the finish. After installing the floor, we recommend a first cleaning to remove any loose dirt or debris that may have been introduced during the installation process. Also, in order to protect the flooring surface from abrasive dirt and debris we recommend installing an effective barrier system to limit the amount of moisture, dirt, and grit that may enter the flooring area. Please check any new cleaning agents on a small test patch of the floor in an inconspicuous area, and avoid using harsh cleaners or ammonia based cleaning products.

1. First, sweep and vacuum the floor surface to ensure removal of all loose dust, dirt, and debris. Using a mop scrub the flooring surface. Use warm, clean water to mop several times or as needed, then use a dry mop or wet vacuum to remove the water and allow to dry.
2. Do not allow pets with unclipped nails to damage your Hybrid/SPC flooring. It may result in severe scratching to the surface. The same is true for any high-heeled shoes without proper tips on the heels.
3. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. During peak sunlight hours, use drapes or blinds to minimize the direct sunlight on the Hybrid/SPC flooring. Most types of flooring will be affected by continuous strong sunlight. In addition, excessive temperatures are not good for resilient floors. Some natural ventilation or intermittent air conditioning in vacant homes should be considered. Long term continuous inside temperatures over 35 degrees combined with strong direct sunlight will damage the flooring and cause the installation to fail.
4. Do not wax your Hybrid SPC flooring. The surface of your floor is very dense and nonporous, which prevents wax from penetrating and thus builds up a bed for yellowing and dirt collection. The same non-porous feature also provides all the protection against wear and staining that you will need.
5. If your floor has been exposed to excessive amounts of water due to flooding, do not panic, Hybrid SPC Floor is waterproof. Simply remove the water as quickly as possible.

## Cleaning the floor:

1. For daily cleaning, vacuum or sweep the floor, or wipe with a damp mop or cloth. Mopping or sweeping the floor will minimize wear from abrasive grit and dirt.
2. Wipe up spillages as soon as possible with a damp mop or wiping cloth which has been well wrung out to remove all excess water.
3. We recommend *Bona* floor cleaning products mopped dry with an anti-static or similar mop.
4. Do not use a steam mop. This will cause moisture to penetrate and discolor the floor joints and will void the warranty.

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**Protecting the floor:**

1. Use quality area rugs and doormats by outdoor entrance areas to prevent dirt, sand, grit and other substance such as oil, asphalt or driveway sealer from being tracked onto your floor.
2. Use floor protectors and wide-beating leg bases/rollers to minimize indentations from heavy objects. Generally, the heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be for maximum protection.
3. Felt or rubber protector should be used under chair and table legs.
4. Avoid walking on the SPC Hybrid floor with metal tipped stiletto-heeled shoes.
5. Avoid gouges or cuts into your floor from sharp objects. Small objects dropped from a height have immense impact pressure and steps should be taken to protect the floor from such impacts.
6. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor without precautions.
7. Rolling loads from castors under furniture and trolleys may damage the surface. The smaller the castor the greater the likelihood of damage occurring.
8. Keep pets' nails trimmed.
9. Rearrange rugs and furniture periodically so the floor ages evenly. UV sunlight will soften the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees.
10. Use a humidifier to maintain humidity levels between 35-55%.

**Condition of Warranty: the flooring system must be installed by an accredited floor installer in accordance with *Quality Flooring installation and maintenance instructions.***