

# Installation Guide

## Life Rigid Core

### Preparation

- Acclimatisation is only needed if the boards are exposed to extreme temperatures (under 10°C/over 40°C) for over 2 hours in the 12 hours prior to installation. In this case, keep flooring in the boxes at room temperature for 12 hours before installation.
- The room should be 20 - 25°C during installation.
- After installation, room temperature should not be below 10°C or above 50°C.
- Floors over 400m<sup>2</sup> or 20m in length will need expansion moldings.
- Direct sunlight over prolonged periods can cause fading.
- Do not install in areas that have a flood risk, such as saunas.
- Flooring products can be damaged by rough handling before installation. Exercise care when handling and transporting these products. Store, transport and handle the flooring tiles in a manner to prevent any damage. Store packs flat, never on edge.

### Subfloor

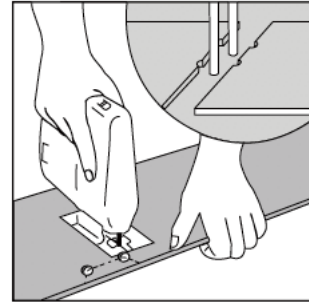
- This flooring can be installed over most hard coverings if they are clean, dry, and structurally sound.
- High spots and bumps must be levelled.
- Ceramic tiles, ceramic and marble grout joints and irregularities in concrete should be filled and levelled. More than 4mm x 1mm must be filled and levelled.
- The subfloor should be free of moisture, dirt, alkali, paint, varnish, wax, oil, solvents, or other foreign matter.
- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents, or citrus oils to prepare subfloor as they can cause staining.
- While rigid core vinyl is waterproof it should not be used as a moisture barrier and a suitable barrier should be employed.
- Do not install over carpets, cushioned backed vinyl, flooring floors or hardwood/wood flooring/plywood laid directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber.

### Installation

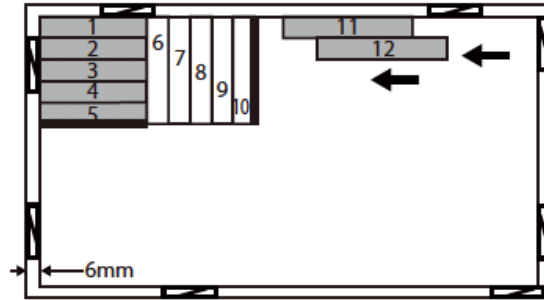
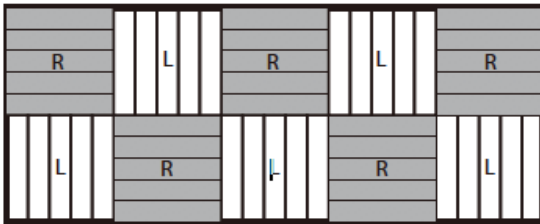
- Remove furniture, appliances, skirting and beading. Door trims should be under cut, using a board and underlay as a guide laying the saw on top for the correct height.
- Sweep and vacuum after prep.
- Leave a 6mm expansion gap.
- Where possible avoid joints in planks lining up with joints in subfloor.
- Underlay is recommended and helps with acoustics performance and absorbing irregularities from the subfloor.
- **Cutting tip:** Use a simple utility knife and ruler with the top side facing up, cut heavily and several times in the same place. This won't cut through completely but folding the board along the cut will allow the board to split naturally.
- **Click fitting tip:** Place the short end tight to perpendicular plank. Click it into the long end of the parallel panel at a 45° angle. Fold down in a single movement. It is recommended to slightly tap the planks on the edge after clicking them together to make sure they are tightly fixed.



- Herringbone planks have L or R marked on the back of each board to indicate the different profiling directions. Each box contains the same number of L and R planks and should be paired together. In the below diagrams, R will be grey, and L will be white.
- **Measuring for pipes:** Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 20 mm larger. Saw off a piece and lay the board in place on the floor. Then lay the sawn piece in place.

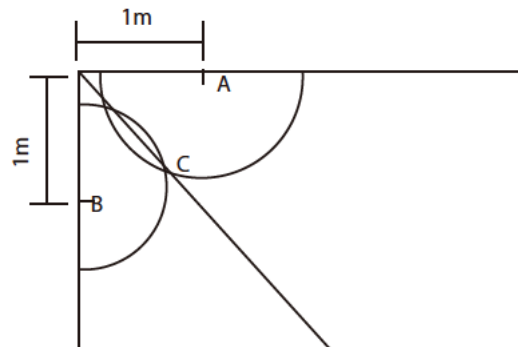
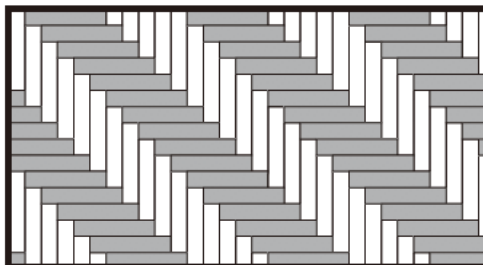


**Method 1 – Block Pattern**

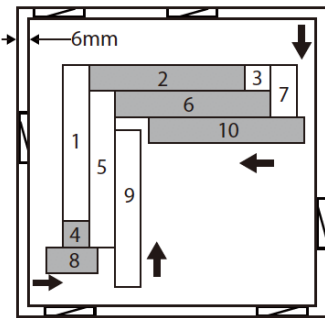
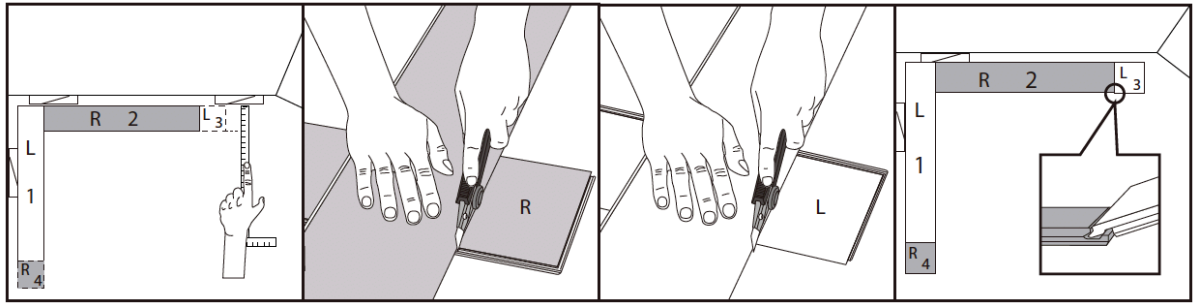


- Keep to the 6mm expansion gap.
- Group 5 boards of the same profile together (L or R).
- Start in the left corner away from the main entrance. With R profiles, put the tongue side against the wall and follow the pattern as above.

**Method 2 – Diagonal fishbone pattern**

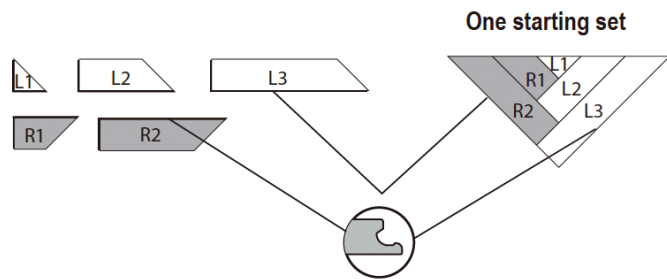
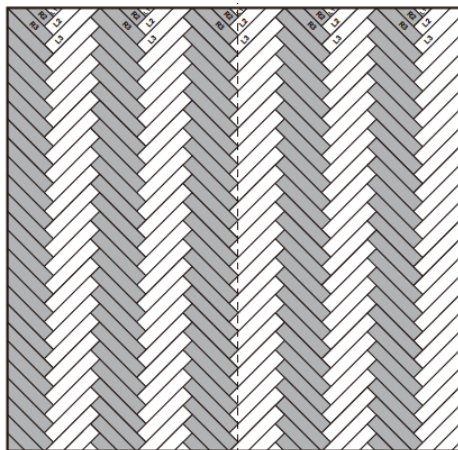


- Draw a line at a 45° angle that will be used to align the pattern with according to the image.
- Start from the left corner opposite the door, ensure a 6mm expansion gap is maintained around all edges of the room.
- Use an L marked plank first and place with the tongue side against the wall. The second R marked plank should then be placed perpendicular to it. Click together.
- For plank 3 and 4, and anywhere else where the short side is against the wall, measure the length to fit and cut the plank accordingly. Ensure you use the correct end of the plank.

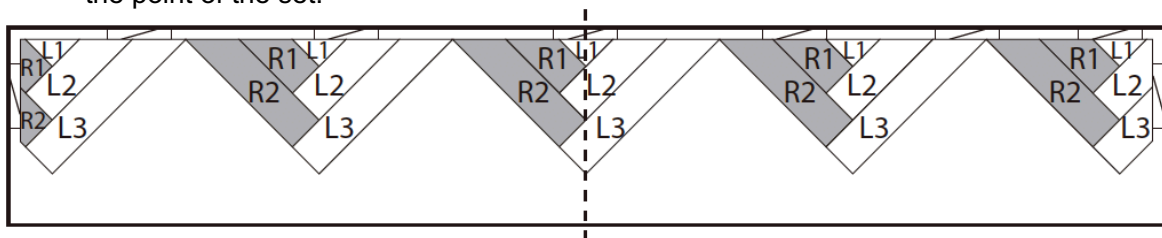


NB. This sequence is given as an example, it will depend on the shape of the room. It is important to always start with the planks placed against the walls.

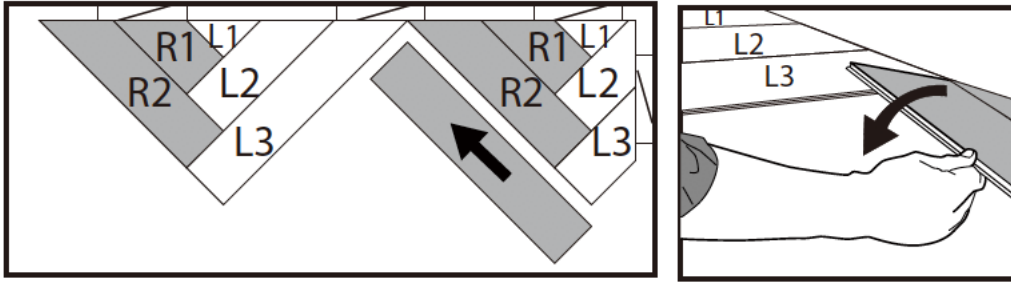
**Method 3 – Fishbone pattern**



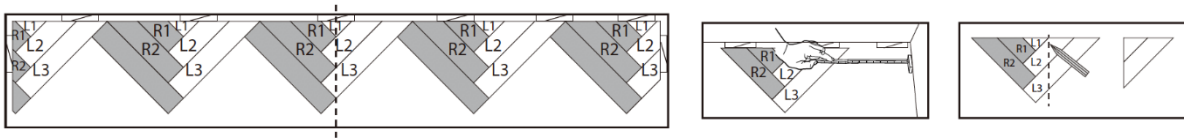
- Draw a line through the centre of the room.
- Use the cutting template on the inside of the box to cut the 5 pieces (L1, L2, L3, R1 and R2) for your first starting set.
- Align your starter set with the line in the centre of the room, ensure the line goes through the point of the set.



- Each starter set is 870mm wide, measure how many sets you will need based on the width of your space, create your additional sets.
- Join together with a whole plank.

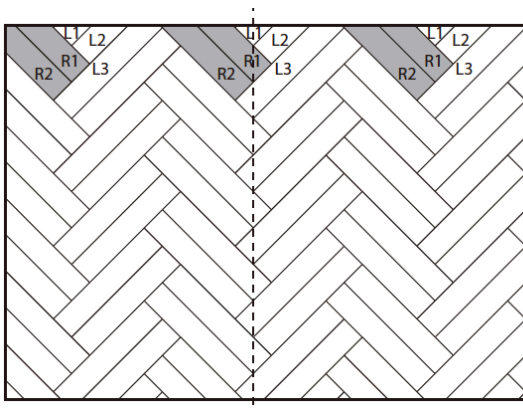


- When you reach the wall, measure the distance between the wall and your last whole starter set and make the distance needed on your assembled set. Disassemble the set to cut the planks and install in the gap.



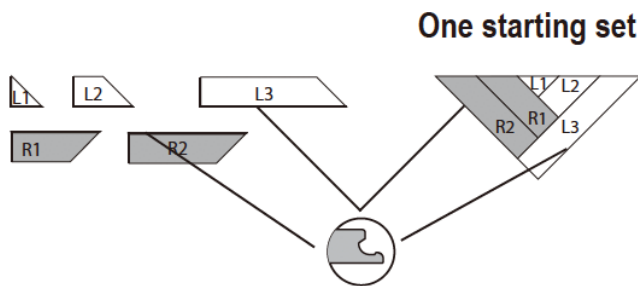
- Continue with the pattern to cover the entire space.

#### Method 4 – Double fishbone pattern

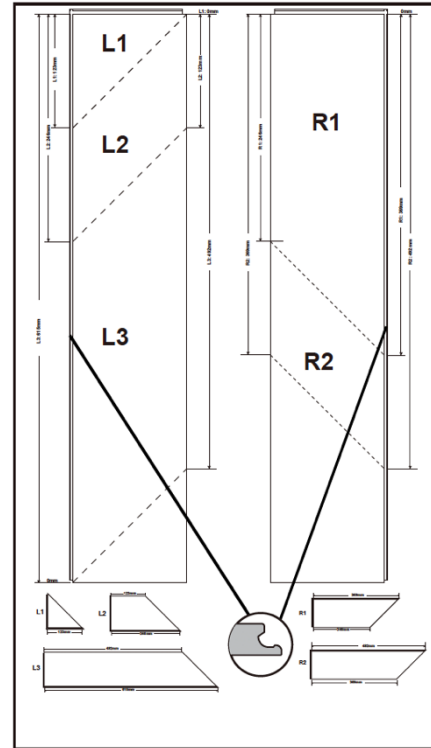


*Please note the pattern for the starter set for the double fishbone is different from the starter set for the single fishbone. The dimensions and proportions below should be followed for the double fishbone. You won't be able to use offcuts of the same planks within one set.*

Plank	Groove side	Tongue side
L1	123 mm	0 mm
L2	246 mm	123 mm
R1	369 mm	246 mm
R2	492 mm	369 mm
L3	615 mm	492 mm



**STARTING SET**



- Follow the same steps as the fishbone pattern with this alternative starter set.

**Finishing the installation**

- Replace/add skirtings, mouldings, or beading to cover the expansion gap.
- Secure any mouldings to the wall, not the flooring.
- Use transition fixtures where the flooring meets other flooring surfaces, leaving the same 6mm expansion gap between planks and the adjoining surface.

**Warning**

- Kitchen cabinets shouldn't be installed directly over this floor as it will prevent it moving naturally.
- 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.

**Underfloor heating systems:**

- Flooring can be installed over 1/2" / 12 mm embedded underfloor heating systems using the floating method.
- Ensure the underfloor heating is turned off 24-hours before installation and left off until 24-hours after installation.
- Before installing over newly constructed underfloor heating systems, run the system at its maximum temperature to force any residual moisture from the topping of the system.
- Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 30°C. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.
- Once the installation has been completed, the heating system should be turned on and increased gradually (in 5-degree increments) until returning to normal operating conditions.
- Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath this floor. The use of which could void the warranty of your floor.