

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 400m² 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 tips

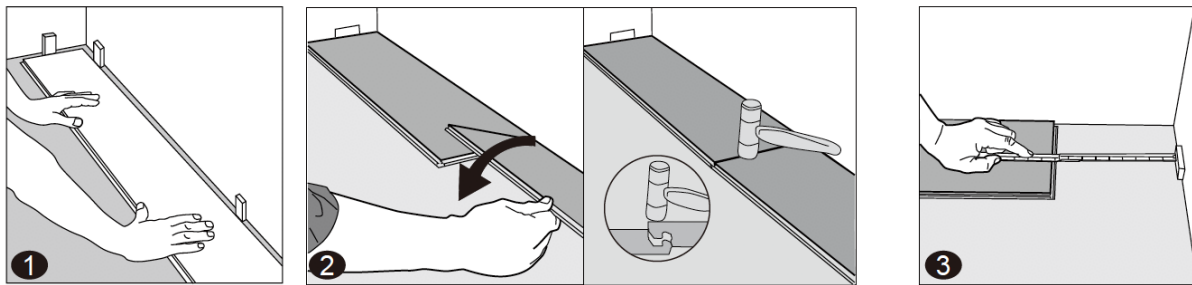
- Sweep and vacuum after prep.
- Leave a 6mm expansion gap around the room.
- Where possible, avoid joints in tiles lining up with joints in the subfloor.
- Avoid installing pieces shorter than 30cm at the beginning or end of rows.
- Underlay helps with acoustics performance and absorbing irregularities from the subfloor.
- A recommended underlay of between 1-1.5mm thickness should be used when fitting this floor.
- **Click fitting tip:** Place the short end tight to another perpendicular plank. Click it into the long end of the parallel plank 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.
- For the best result, work from different boxes at once, mixing the tiles during installation.
- Decide the installation direction. It is recommended to install the tiles perpendicular to the window following the direction of the main source of light.
- Measure the area to be installed: The tile width of the last row shall not be less than 50 mm. If so, adjust the width of the first row to be installed. In narrow hallways, it is recommended to install the floor parallel to the length of the hall.

Installation

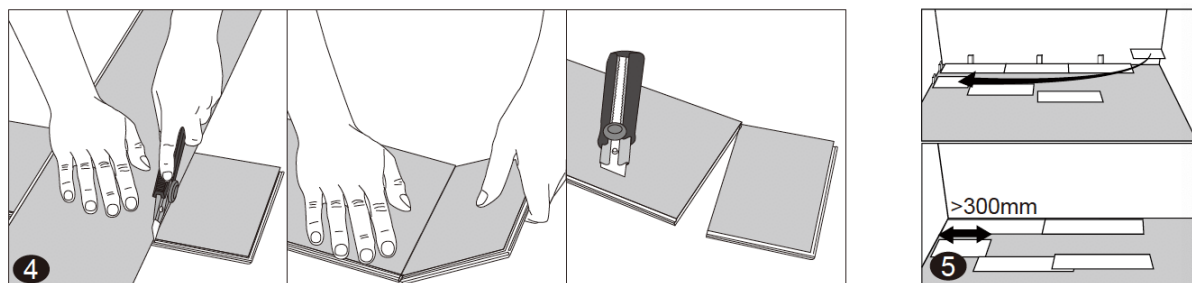
1. First row, first plank: After thoroughly cleaning the subfloor, you should begin laying from left to right. Position the first plank so that grooved edge is facing you. Place the floorboard 6 mm from the left wall. Use spacers between the wall and the floorboard to allow for the recommended expansion gap.
2. First row, second plank: Drop the plank and gently tap down the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are at the same height. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned. It is crucial that after the short edges of two connecting planks are correctly aligned, and the rubber mallet contacts the plank in the area directly above the short edge, allowing for a correct locking.

Note: Tapping the area close to the short edge, but not directly above it, may result in permanent damage to the joint. Continue installing the first row until you reach the wall on the right. If you notice both planks aren't at the same height or are not well locked together, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble and check if any debris are stuck inside the lock and obstructing. 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 joint.

3. First row, last plank: At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of 6 mm to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.

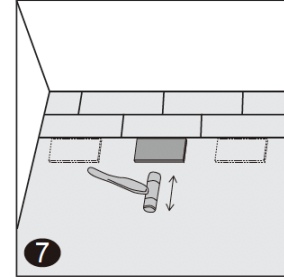
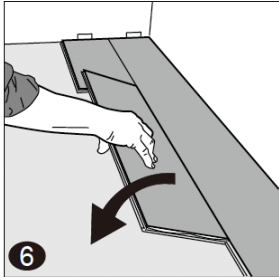


4. To cut the plank: Use a utility knife and ruler and, with the top side facing up, cut heavily and several times on the same axis. The knife will not go through the plank but will make a deep cut. Using one hand to hold down the one side of the plank close to the cut, you can use your other hand to lift the other half. The plank will split naturally.
5. Second row, first plank: Start the second row with the leftover cut of the last plank of the previous row. This small plank should measure at least 12" / 30cm. If smaller than this, cut a new plank and use it to begin the second row. The end joints of each adjoining row should not be closer than 20cm to each other. Whenever practical, use the piece cut from the preceding row to start the next row.

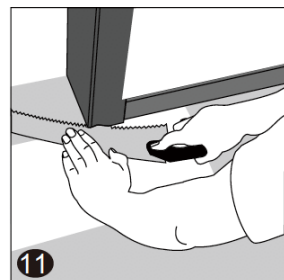
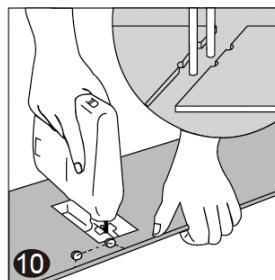
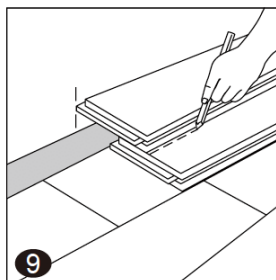
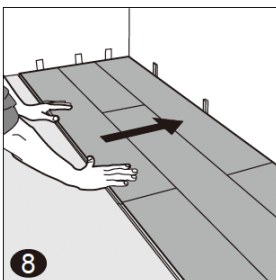


6. Second row, second plank: Click the long side of the plank into the previous row and place it tight to the short end of the previous plank at an angle of 25-30°. Drop the plank and gently tap on the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are at the same height. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned.

7. Tip: After the first 2-3 rows of planks are installed, use a string line to check and ensure that rows are still 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.
8. After installing each row, use scrap pieces and a small hammer or rubber mallet to gently tap the planks into the click of the previous row to make sure they are tightly clicked together and make sure there is no gap between the long side of the planks installed. Any gapping can compromise the whole installation.



9. To lay the last row: Position a loose board exactly on top of the last row laid. Place another board on top with the tongue side touching the wall. Draw a line along the edge of this board, to mark the first board. Cut along the edge to obtain the required width. Insert this cut board against the wall. The expansion gap spacers can then be removed.
10. Holes for pipes: Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 12mm larger. Saw off a piece as shown in figure 10 below and lay the board in place on the floor. Then lay the sawn piece in place.
11. Door molding and skirting: Lay a board (with the decorative side down) next to the door molding and saw as shown in figure 11 below.



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.

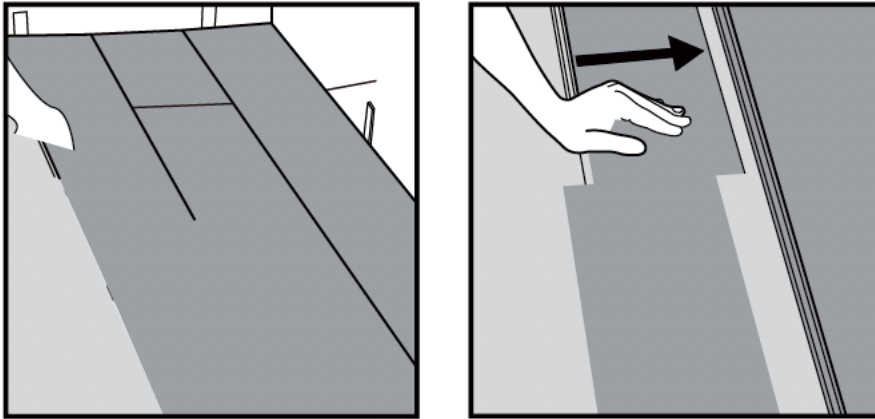
Warning

- Kitchen cabinets shouldn't be installed directly over floating floors as this will stop them 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.
- This product is designed to be resistant to wear, however, no product is guaranteed against scratches or loss of gloss. Please be sure to follow our maintenance instructions to ensure that your floor remains new as long as possible.
- A combination of heat and sunlight can cause most furnishings to fade and discolour. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. During peak sunlight hours, the use of blinds or drapes is recommended.

Disassembling

Separate the row by delicately lifting it up at an angle. To separate tiles within a row that have been “tapped” together, leave them flat on the ground and slide them apart. If tiles do not separate easily, you can slightly lift the tiles (5°) when sliding them apart. Please ensure not to lift more than 5° as this will break the locking system.

Tip: If the tiles are difficult to slide apart, it may be the lock is not fully engaged. Try tapping down with a rubber mallet, making sure the full length is engaged, then slide apart keeping tiles flat on the ground.

**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.