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.
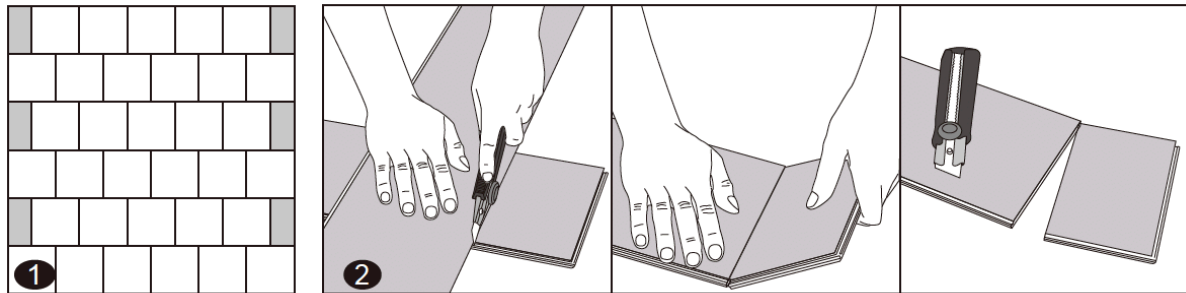
Subfloor
- This flooring can be installed over most hard coverings if they are clean, dry, and structurally sound. High spots and bumps must be levelled.
- Ceramic tiles, ceramic and marble grout joints and irregularities in concrete should be filled and levelled. More than 4mm x 1mm must be filled and 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 an 8mm expansion gap around the room.
- Where possible avoid joints in tiles lining up with joints in subfloor.
- Avoid installing pieces shorter than 30cm at the beginning or end of rows.
- Underlay is recommended and helps with acoustics performance and absorbing irregularities from the subfloor.
- **Click fitting tip**: Place the short end tight to a 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.
- For the best result, work from multiple 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 50mm. 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.
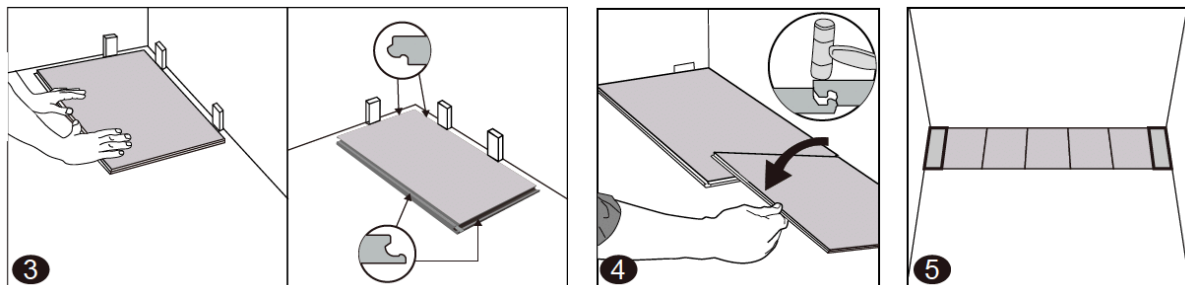
Installation

1. IMPORTANT: Measure the area to be installed, perimeter rows of opposing walls should be the same width. Adjust the width and the length of the first tile to be installed accordingly.
2. To cut the tile: Use a simple 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 tile 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.

3. First row, first tile: After adjusting the measurements of the first panel as described above, begin laying at the left-hand corner of the longest wall and proceed from the wall with the tongue sides facing the wall and the groove facing outward (groove sides are marked with arrows on the back of each tile), away from the wall. Use spacers to create an 8mm expansion gap around the room.
4. First row, second tile: Lay down the second tile on the right-hand side of the first tile, aligning its left side over the right-side groove of the first. Make sure both tiles are perfectly aligned. Gently tap down with a rubber mallet to lock it into the groove of the first tile until both are at the same height. The mallet should hit the tile directly above the locking system, allowing for a correct engagement.

> Note: Tapping the area close to the edge, but not directly above it, may result in permanent damage to the joint. If you notice both tiles aren't at the same height, are not well locked together, or are not properly lined up, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the guide. Disassemble and check if any debris are stuck inside the joint. Missing this and continuing the installation could result in permanent damage to the joint or entire installation.
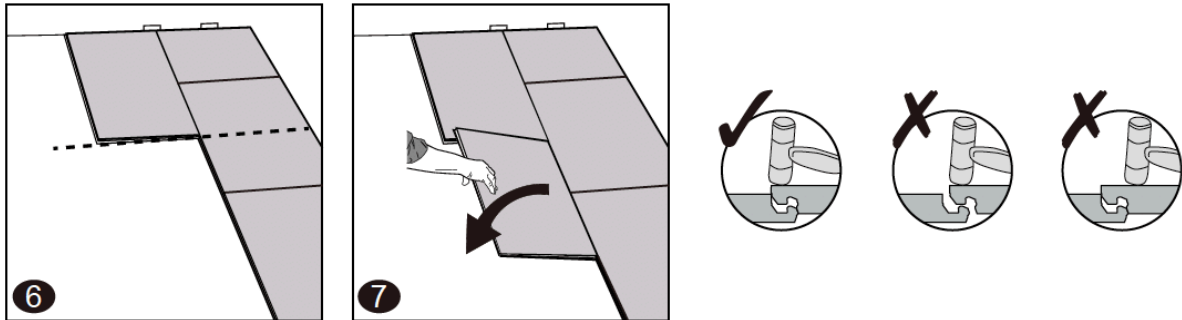
5. First row, last tile: At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of 8mm to the wall and measure the length of the last tile to fit.
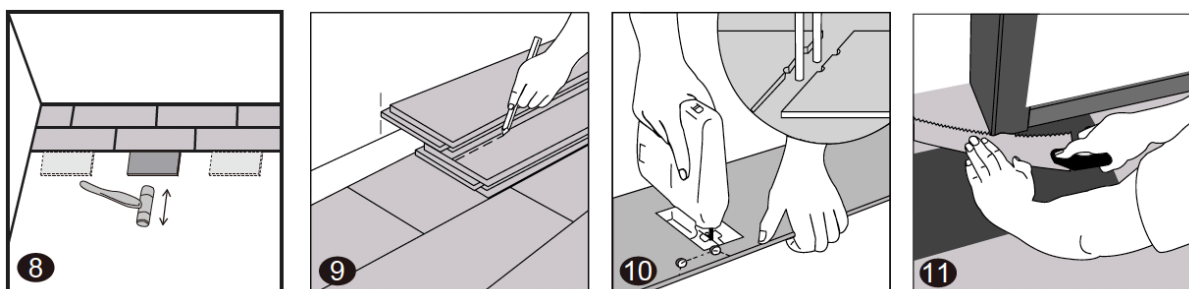

6. Second row, first tile: Before starting the second row, it is crucial to mark the centre of the second tile in the first row and draw a chalk line/place a string at a 90° to the first row following the central line to the opposite wall. Adjust the size of the first tile in the second row, so that the right edge is perfectly aligned with the chalk line/the string in the middle of the second tile of the first row. Click the tongue side of the tile into the previous row with both groove sides facing out at an angle of 25-30°, slide towards the wall and fold

down. Ensure the long side is fully engaged with no visible gaps and that the right edge of the tile is perfectly aligned with the first tile of the first row.

7. Second row, second tile: Lay the second tile on the right-hand side of the first tile by clicking it into the previous row at a 25-30° angle, aligning its left side over the right-side groove of the first. Make sure both tiles are perfectly aligned. Gently tap down with a rubber mallet to lock it into the groove of the first tile until both are at the same height. The mallet should hit the tile directly above the locking system, allowing for a correct engagement.

8. After finishing the installation of each row: Use scrap pieces and a small hammer or rubber mallet to gently tap the tiles into the click of the previous row to make sure they are tightly engaged together and make sure there is no gap between the long side of the tiles installed. Any gapping can compromise the whole installation.

9. Tip: After the first 2-3 rows of tiles 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 tiles 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 other rows.

10. To lay the last row: Position a loose tile 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 these tiles, to mark the first tile. Cut along the edge to mark the first tile. Cut along this line for the required width. Insert this tile against the wall and repeat these steps for the remaining tiles in the row. The expansion gap spacers can then be removed.

11. Holes for pipes: Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 16mm larger. Saw off a piece as shown in the no. 10 figure below and lay the sawn piece in place.

12. Door molding and skirting: Lay a tile (with the decorative side down) next to the door molding and saw as shown in the no. 11 figure 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 8mm expansion gap between planks and adjoining surface.
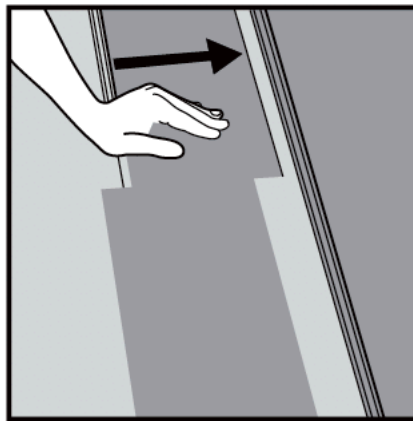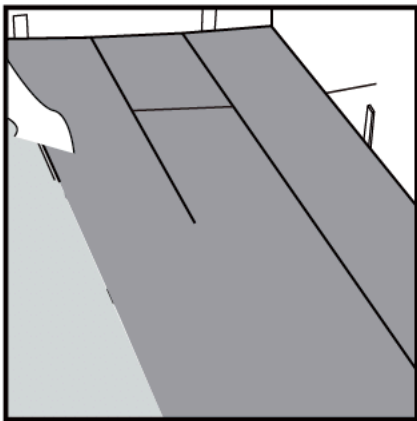
Warning

- Kitchen cabinets shouldn't be installed directly over floating floors as this will stop them naturally moving.
- 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 whole row by lifting it up delicately 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.