

SPECTRUM
FLOORING

RIGID CORE PLUS

INSTALLATION & CARE MANUAL

SPECTRUM FLOORING
6mm Premium Clic Floating SPC

I. General Information:

These installation guidelines apply to SPECTRUM RIGID PLUS SPC (Stone Polymer Composite) mineral core flooring products only. All instructions and recommendations should be followed for a satisfactory installation.

- Acclimation of material prior to installation is not required, however, the floor covering should be installed in a climate controlled environment with an ambient temperature range between 55° - 85°F (13°-29°C) or average temperature of 70°F (21.1°C).
- For installations involving 3 season scenarios, meaning, the dwelling or installed space is without climate control for extended periods during certain seasons of the year, the post installation temperature range allowed is an ambient room temperature between -25°F and 155°F (-31.6°- 68.3°C). This allowance is for floating floors only and does not apply to glue-down installations.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, doing so may result in discoloration. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the drapes or blinds is recommended.
- Regardless of new construction or remodeling projects, keep flooring stored in rooms that are not being worked in and only install product after all other trades have completed work that could damage the flooring.
- To minimize shade variation, mix and install planks from several cartons. Inspect all planks for damage before installing. If you have any concerns about the product fit or finish, call ACF-GARDNER Claims Department @ 973-887-3700. Claims will not be accepted for flooring that has been cut to size and/or installed.
- Use cementitious patching and leveling compounds that meet or exceed maximum moisture level and pH requirements. Use of gypsum-based patching and/or leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3,000 psi are acceptable.
- For cracks or saw cuts deeper than 1", follow the preparation and application instructions for Latricrete Fast Fix, which is a 2-part urethane treatment that prevents future damage from moisture penetrating to the surface of the slab that may damage or breakdown adhesives or unapproved patching compounds.
- Installation - Floating installed on, above, or below grade.
- Required perimeter expansion spacing for floating installation is as follows:
    - For areas less than 2500 sq ft., use 1/4" gap
    - For areas larger than 2500 sq ft., use 1/2" gap.
- Cut outside whenever possible to minimize airborne contaminants that may become embedded in the grain.
- A masonry blade is required to keep from fraying the edges.
- When cutting inside, dust collection bags should be clean and in place.
- Always wear adequate eye protection and safety masks.
- Crumb rubber underlayments are not an acceptable option for use with resilient floor coverings due to performance issues resulting from chemical incompatibilities.

Tools needed: Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Saw (masonry blades are required), Guillotine Cutter, Tapping Block or Rubber Mallet, Pull Bar, ¼" Spacers, T-Square, Safety Glasses, Broom or Vacuum and, if necessary, tools for subfloor repair.

II. Subfloor Information

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Subfloor must be flat – 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.

Adhesive removal through the use of solvents or citrus adhesive removers is not recommended. Solvent residue left in or on the subfloor may affect the new adhesive and floor covering.

WARNING! *DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEAD BLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERISE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT,ASPHALTIC CUT BACK ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.*

These products may contain either 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 serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to **www.rfci.com.**

A. Wood Subfloors

Do not install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete. Refer to ASTM F1482 for panel underlayment recommendations.

1. Do not apply sheet plastic over wood sub floors.
2. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist is to be no less than 18" and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
3. DO NOT install over sleeper constructionsubfloors or woodsubfloors applieddirectly over concrete.
4. All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local

building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance. If needed add an additional layer of APA rated underlayment, fasten and secure according to the underlayment manufacturer's recommendations.

B. Concrete Subfloors

1. Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
2. Concrete slabs must be dry with no visible moisture.
3. Required Moisture Testing - maximum moisture level per ASTM 1869 CaCl is 8 lbs. and ASTM 2170 In-situ Relative Humidity 90% per 1000 sq.ft. in 24 hours. If moisture test results exceed these limits, we recommend use of a moisture remediation system.
4. Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions.
5. pH level of concrete should be between 7-10
6. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.

Radiant Heat: Radiant-heated subfloor systems can be concrete, wood or a combination of both. The heating systems components must have a minimum of 1/2" separation from the flooring product. The system must be on and operational for at least 2 weeks prior to installation to reduce residual moisture. Three days prior to installation lower the temperature to 65 degrees, after installation gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5° F to avoid overheating. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating. Contact the manufacturer of your radiant heating system for further recommendations.

Electric Radiant Floors: consist of electric cables (or) mats of electrically conductive materials mounted on the subfloor below the floor covering. Mesh systems are typically embedded in thin-set. When embedding the system components, use cementitious patching and leveling compounds that meet or exceed maximum moisture level and pH requirements. Use of gypsum-based patching and/or leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3,000 psi are acceptable.

Hydronic Radiant Floors: pump heated water from a boiler through tubing laid in a pattern under the flooring. Typically installed in channels under a wooden subfloor (or) imbedded in concrete slabs. Requires the installer follow a specific nailing pattern to avoid penetration of the heat system.

WARNING! *Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection.*

C. Existing Floor Coverings

- Mineral core flooring can be installed over most existing hard–surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat dry and structurally sound.
- Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will compromise the product's locking ability as well as diminish its indentation resistance.
- Ceramic tile and terrazzo: All wax and sealers must be removed with an appropriate cleaner/stripper. Ceramic tile and terrazzo should be abraded to allow for proper adhesion. Check for loose tiles by tapping and re-adhere. Fill grout lines with a cementitious latex fortified leveling compound.Installation is NOT allowed over any type of carpet.
- Do NOT install over wood floors adhered to concrete.
- Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.

Raised Access Panels

- Must be stable, level, flat, free and clean of existing adhesives
- 24"x 24" panels are recommended.
- Lippage (variation of height) between panels must not exceed 0.0295" (0.75 mm)
- Gaps between panels must not exceed 0.039" (1mm)
- There should be no deflection of the individual panels – Concave less than 0.0295" (0.75 mm) Flatness 1/8" in 10'
- Stagger the flooring tiles/planks to overlap the access panels
- Telegraphing of access panel seams may be visible and is not considered a product defect nor warranted by the flooring manufacturer.
- If needed overlay the panels with a /4" (6 mm) plywood and properly fasten to the access panels prior to the installation of the floor covering. Prior to underlayment installation, repair any loose or unstable panels. Use the appropriate installation methods for the product

III. Installation

Installation of 6 mil Poly Film Underlayment is recommended only for loating applications over concrete subloors.

For use only over concrete substrates - seams MUST be taped.

- Begin at the starting wall. Roll underlayment out parallel to the starting wall and allow the poly film to run 2 inches up the wall.
- After the flooring has been installed trim back the poly film from the wall.
- Roll the next course of poly film parallel to the first run and overalap a minimum of 4 inches. Smooth out any wrinkles or creases in the poly film. Use clear tape to tape the seams together when installed over concrete substrates.

- Continue to install the flooring over top of the poly film taking care not to damage the poly film.

NOTE: Do not cover the entire area of the substrate to prevent damage or present a slip hazard. Roll the poly film out one row at a time.

Floating Installation

Mineral core flooring is designed to be installed utilizing the floating method. Never secure the planks to the subfloor when using the floating installation method. Proper expansion space (1/4”), 6mm is required. Undercut all doorjambs. Do not fasten wall moldings and or transition strips to the planks.

If cabinets are to be installed on top of the flooring (including islands), that area of material must be fully adhered to the subfloor (including an additional 2’ft beyond the cabinets and islands). If gluing down the flooring, follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions with regards to moisture and temperature limitations.

NOTE: This product may only be glued down underneath cabinets and at flush mount stair nosing.

For wet areas such as bathrooms caulk the perimeter of the floor with a silicone caulk.

Must be installed in a staggered (offset) pattern.



INSTALLING THE FIRST ROW:

1. Starting from the LEFT with the tongue facing the wall, carefully place the first board in place. Use spacers along the wall allowing the required expansion spacing (1/4").
2. Align the next piece by overlapping the end of the first board so that the joint is tight when the board lays flat. Some slight adjustment of the board may be necessary to assure a tight fit. Place spacers against wall to restrain movement and maintain expansion gap.
3. Continue in this manner until reaching the final plank in the first row.
4. Cut the final board piece to length allowing for the required expansion gap.
5. Place spacers against wall to restrain movement and maintain expansion gap.

CONTINUING THE INSTALLATION:

1. Begin the second row with the cut piece from the first row. If the cut piece is shorter than 8", do not use it. Instead, begin with a new board that is at least 8” in lengthand allows 8" between the endjoints on the adjacent planks.

2. Position the first board in place by angling it up slightly, pushing forward and interlocking the side tongue. Slide the board to the left as necessary to align the edges of the end joint.
3. Carefully pushthe board downuntil the tongue andgroove lock together on the side and ends.
4. A slight tap with a tapping block is necessary for the long side joint only.
5. The lippage from the previous row will come into proper placement as the next row is tapped into place.
6. Restrain the movement of the board by inserting a spacer in the expansion gap at the end of the board.
7. Install the remaining boards and rows in the same manner.
8. Cut the last board to size allowing for the required expansion gap. Place spacers against wall to restrain movement and maintain expansion gap.
If use rows as the starter necessary, complete the tight fit by tappingthe board into place with a pull bar
9. Whenever practical, use cut pieces from previoboard to reduce waste..
10. 10. Maintain 8” spacing between end joints after the first four rows for best appearance.

TRANSITION MOLDING

For floating installation, transition T-molding is required in the following cases: floors spanning greater than 30ft.in width and 50 ft. in length; doorways and archways less than 4 ft. wide.

INSTALLING THE FINAL ROW:

1. The last row may need to be cut lengthwise (ripped).
2. Place the last row of planks to be fit on top of the last row of installed planks. Use a piece of plank as a scribe to trace the contour of the wall.
3. Mark where the board will be cut. If the fit of the wall is simple and straight, simply measure for the correct fit and cut.
4. After boards are cut, position planks and tighten the fit using the pull bar.

NOTE: Adhering tape to the surface of your resilient flooring could damage the surface. Do not use tape to secure floor protection directly to the floor during construction or renovation. Instead, adhere tape to the material used to protect the floor and secure it to the base moldingalong the wall. A material suchas ram board can also be used to protect your flooring.

INSTALLING UNDER A DOOR JAMB:

1. Installation under moldings (such as door jambs) may require that the top lip of the groove on the end be reduced in size
2. Using a small plane or knife plane, carefully shave off the ledge of the groove.
3. After the groove ledge has been trimmed, place the board in place and tighten with a pull bar to test for fit. The installer must be sure that the required expansion gap has been maintained and the flooring is not pinched.

4. If fit is not correct, re-trim as necessary.
5. Place a bead of adhesive on the bottom lip of the groove.
6. Insert the tongue into the groove and tighten the fit with a pull bar. Hold the board in place with painters tape until the adhesive is dry. Do not use masking tape or duct tape as they may damage the floors finish.

MOLDINGS

PATTERN/COLOR MATCHED SPECTRUM MOLDINGS ARE AVAILABLE AS PART OF THE SPECTRUM RIGID CORE COLLECTION: 3-IN-1 MOLDING (T-MOLDING, REDUCER, END CAP), STAIR NOSING, STAIR TREADS/RISERS.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

Immediately following installation; During the first 48 hours after installation:

Keep foot traffic to a minimum (recommended).
Sweep the floor to remove loose dirt.
Use only a non-abrasive cleaner, such as a hard surface cleaner.
Do not use a vacuum with a rotating beater bar.
Wait 24 hours before putting furniture on the floor (for glue down products).

Following these instructions will ensure proper curing of the product.

Use protective mats:
It is important to use a good quality entry mat to trap dirt, sand and other substances such as oil that would otherwise be tracked onto your floor. These mats will also help protect your flooring from premature wear. Mats are also suggested at heavy pivot locations, such as in front of your kitchen sink or stove. If mats are placed directly on top of the resilient floors, use mats without latex or rubber backings to avoid possible discoloration.

Use chair and appliance pads to protect your vinyl floor:
Make sure furniture legs have large surface, non-staining floor protectors. Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat guides that are in full contact with the floor. Heavy furniture or appliances that are not moved often should be equipped with flat, non-staining composition furniture casters or cups of appropriate size.

Follow a simple maintenance plan:
The type and frequency of foot traffic on your luxury vinyl floor will determine the frequency of maintenance needed. Regular attention to a simple maintenance program should include:

Remove dirt and grit by sweeping or dust mopping daily.
Wipe up spills as quickly as possible.
Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time.

Sweep your floors regularly to remove loose dirt and grit.
Wipe up any spills as soon as possible.
Clean your floors using a hard surface cleaner. Simply spray the cleaner on the floor and use a dry mop.
For spills, use a hard surface cleaner and wipe clean with a dry white cloth. No rinsing necessary!

Do not use harsh chemicals.
Do not use steam.
Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar or brush.

Repairs

In the unlikely event that a 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 re-assemble 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-inch strip attached to the adjacent planks.
2. Carefully cut back from the four corners of the plank to the inside edges. Carefully remove the plank edges from the adjacent planks making sure the tongues and grooves of the adjacent planks are not damaged.
3. Using a sharp 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.
4. Spray or Trowel Premium Pressure Sensitive Vinyl Floor Adhesive or Place double face carpet tape with one half under the 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 double face carpet tape should be removed. Leave the bottom side of the release paper in place - NOT taped to the subfloor.
5. Position the replacement plank by engaging the groove of the long side into the tongue of the adjoining plank, remove the bottom side release paper of the double face carpet tape and pushing down on the other three sides. The pressure sensitive adhesive or carpet tape will hold the replacement plank in place with its adjacent planks. Use a hand roller to further secure the bond to the adhesive or tape.

NOTE: Rooms larger than 1500 sq. (50 ft.x30 ft.) require the use of coordinating T-molding transitions. Doorways and archways less than 4 ft. wide also require the use of T-molding transitions. Save any leftover planks. Do not discard as they are color matched (dye-lot) to your floor. They can be used for replacement in the event you need to replace a plank in the future.

ATTENTION: THIS IS A FLOATING FLOOR

- Expansion joints are required.
- Transition moldings are required for area longer than 40ft.
- Subfloors need to be flat.
- Proper floor chair protectors are required under chairs.
- Any rolling chairs require a plastic floor protector.
- Heavy weighted fixures/furniture may not be placed on top of a floating floor.
- Vibrating equipment (i.e. commercial refrigeration units, etc.) may not be installed on top of floating floors.

YOUR WARRANTY WILL BE VOID IF PROPER INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT FOLLOWED ALONG WITH (THIS MANUAL) WHEN INSTALLING A FLOATING FLOOR.