

## **Congratulations on your purchase of SPC Vinyl Flooring.**

To ensure a long-lasting beautiful floor covering, please read the preparation, installation and care instructions carefully and ensure the installer adheres to these instructions.

### **Important Information:**

SPC (Stone Polymer Composite) flooring is resistant to moisture, it is however not to be considered a moisture barrier.

Temporary exposure to water (24 hours or less) does not affect the integrity of the floor, however, prolonged exposure to moisture in the subfloor and environment can lead to mould or moisture related damage, or unhealthy indoor air quality.

The manufacturer is not responsible for moisture related site conditions, and/or damage to the flooring or surrounding structures resulting from extended periods of exposure to moisture.

To provide additional protection against moisture, it is recommended that the use of a 0,6mm HDPE (High Density Poly Ethelene) film or suitable alternative builders plastic with a perm rating of 1 or less is used in between the subfloor and the vinyl flooring. Ensure that the subfloor is dry prior to installation. Concrete should be cured and tested for moisture before installation and should not exceed 2 CM%. Moisture barrier is only required for ground floor use and is not a necessity for upper floors.

### **Subfloor preparation:**

The subfloor must be inspected prior to installation and the below adhered to in order to ensure it is suitable for vinyl installation:

Deviations in the subfloor must not exceed 2mm/m<sup>2</sup>. Inspect the subfloor for any undulations, should such undulations exceed 2mm per metre, the use of Pro Grip Self Levelling Screed is recommended. Should the subfloor not be even prior to installation, it may result in an uneven wavy vinyl flooring and may cause excessive movement in the clicking system with joint failure as a possible result. The manufacturer will not be liable for joint failure or damage to the vinyl flooring as a result of an uneven substrate.

SPC Vinyl should only be installed on a self-supporting structure such as concrete, screed, fibre board, natural stone or ceramic or porcelain tiles. In the case of tiles, the grout joints should not exceed 5mm wide or 2mm deep and the height difference from tile to tile should not exceed 1mm. In the case of installation on fibreboard or wood structures, no movement in the subfloor should be present as such movement could result in joint failure of the vinyl boards. Existing wood flooring installations should be breathable and adequate rear ventilation in place to prevent rotting and subsequent damage to the vinyl flooring boards.

The subfloor must be permanently dry and clean.

Textile floor coverings such as carpets and underfelt must be removed and must be free of all glue, adhesive or paint residue.

Existing cracks in the subfloor should be repaired prior to installation and SPC vinyl should not be installed on substrates that are not sufficiently firm, too porous or too rough.

For underfloor heating we recommend Proheat Underfloor Vinyl heating as per their installation guidelines taking note that the floor temperature should not exceed 27°C

### **Acclimatization:**

SPC Vinyl flooring must be acclimatized in the rooms they are to be installed for a period of 48 hours prior to installation. Conditions during the installation should be the same as the temperature and humidity level expected during normal use (between 18 - 30°C) with a relative humidity no greater than 65%. Maintain a room temperature above 15°C before installation. For best results, open the cartons at the beginning of the acclimatation period and lay the boxes flat at a minimum of 50cm from all walls.

### **Notes regarding Installation:**

SPC Vinyl should be inspected prior to installation. Although the vinyl is subject to stringent quality control during manufacturing, damage to individual boards, for example, during transit, cannot be eliminated. Damaged boards should not be installed and will be excluded from any warranty after such boards have been installed.

Ensure that expansion gaps of between 7 – 8mm is maintained on all perimeter walls, pipes, pillars, stairs, door frames or any fixed structures. SPC Vinyl should in no manner be fixed to the substrate and must be able to expand and contract freely without any obstruction.

Interleaving rooms must be separated with an expansion gap to ensure that different rooms can expand and contract individually. Such gaps can be covered with a T-piece or cover strip ensuring that expansion and contraction can occur underneath such profiles. Profiles should not be fixed in place with a hard drying adhesive, we recommend the use of Fix All High Tack adhesive that remains flexible and should only be applied to one side of the profile ensuring that expansion can freely take place underneath the opposite end. Alternatively, a plug and screw can be used to fix such profiles ensuring that an expansion gap of between 7 -8mm is provided for.

Expansion gaps should also be provided for at all doorways.

Continuous installation of SPC Vinyl Flooring should not exceed 8m x 8m (64m<sup>2</sup>) or 8 running metres to ensure that the weight of the product does not restricts the free movement thereof.

Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight. Floor coverings subject to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Rooms with floor-to-ceiling and expansive overhead glazing or larger windows that allow direct sunlight into rooms should have an appropriate window film applied to prevent and control the negative effects caused by direct sunlight such as heat, glare, UV damage and fading. If installed in such rooms, expansion gaps should be increased to 10mm to allow for the increased movement of the vinyl flooring boards.

SPC Vinyl works best if boards are installed lengthways towards incoming light. In long narrow rooms the inherent stability can be increased by laying the vinyl boards in a longitudinal direction.

Ensure that all vinyl used are from the same batch/production date.

### **Installation:**

Once the laying direction has been established work from left to right ensuring that both tongue sides of the board faces the wall and ensure that an expansion gap of no less than 7mm is left from the wall to the first board.

As with all organic materials, SPC Vinyl is subject to movement due to changing atmospheric conditions (expansion and contraction) Failure to allow for expansion and contraction can cause lifting or “tenting” of the vinyl boards with subsequent joint damage and failure as a result.

The room should be measured to determine if the width of the first row should be reduced in order to allow the last row to be greater than 5cm. It should also be determined if the length of the last board is greater than 300mm

Install the second board on the short joint into the first at an angle of 15° to 20° ensuring that the tongue and groove are exactly aligned and lay flat on the floor.

For the last board, ensure that the length is at least 30cm. Should the length of the last board be shorter than 30cm, the first board in the row will need to be cut to ensure that last board is greater than 30cm. The remaining offcut can be used to start the second row provided it is larger than 30cm and that the overlap of the joints in the first row is also greater than 30cm.

For the second row, install all the short joints first, do not click into the first row at this stage. Ensure the tongue and groove is lined up. Pick up the entire row at an angle of 15° to 20° and click into the first row. Do not install board by board as this will require the use of force and can result in damage to the clicking system.

Repeat the technique for all subsequent rows ensuring that a stagger of greater than 30cm is maintained throughout the installation. For the last row, ensure that the cut is no smaller than 5cm. Should the last row be smaller than 5cm, provision should be made in the first row to ensure it is larger than 5cm in width.

#### **Care and maintenance:**

An adequate radiation barrier should be used by fireplaces.

For heavy furniture, a load distributing plate is recommended to avoid permanent indentation of the vinyl boards. Provision should be made with the use of very heavy furniture to ensure it does not restrict the natural expansion and contraction of the vinyl boards.

Rubber based or dyed wheels or rollers can cause irreversible colour changes and should be prevented, or proper precautions taken to avoid damage if used on the vinyl surface. Rubber door mats are therefore not recommended as this can cause colour changes on the vinyl surface.

Protect the SPC Vinyl floor from damage from loose particles by providing door mats at entrances.

Use floor protectors on all movable furniture such as feet of table and chair legs, or items used on the vinyl surface. Scratching due to moving furniture without felt floor protectors is not covered under the warranty.

For furniture or chairs with castors, use only type “W” wheels or ensure proper protection with the use of a floor protector mat especially in office environments.

Do not use steam cleaners to clean the floor.

Only clean the floor with a damp cloth or micro fibre mop.

Do not use abrasive or scouring agents on the floor and avoid cleaning agents that form a film.

Always test new cleaners or stain removers on an inconspicuous place prior to using it on the entire floor.

Waxing or polishing of the floor is not permitted.

Avoid chemicals, bleach or peroxides from making contact with the vinyl surface.

#### **Warranty:**

The product carries a 25 year residential warranty and 7 year commercial use warranty.

The warranty is only applicable to factory defects, wear and décor layers and excludes installation and use in accordance with the class of use prescribed e.g. product is suitable for residential use and light commercial use.