



## BASIC INSTALLATION GUIDE

**Please note:** This is only a guide and we always recommend that you use professional installers for our products as incorrect installation or preparation of the subfloor would void warranty.

### PRIOR TO LAYING

Prior to installation the flooring should be removed out of the boxes and stacked in piles not greater than 5 boxes high 24 hours before installation and acclimatized within a set temperature between 65° Fahrenheit (18° Celsius) and 85° Fahrenheit (28° Celsius). **(Do not attempt to install this flooring outside of the recommended temperature unless you are a skilled installer as correct measures need to be taken to prevent issues arising in the floor such as buckling.)**

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

SPC Click Lock Flooring can float over existing hard level surfaces such as timber, concrete, existing vinyl and even ceramic tiles. (It is important to note that all substrates need to be level before laying the Engineered Click Lock flooring otherwise you can encounter imperfections in the floor that maybe present during and after the installation.)

Any uneven surfaces will need to be levelled with the levelling compounds or other material suitable for the application, please talk to a professional for the best advice for your subfloor.

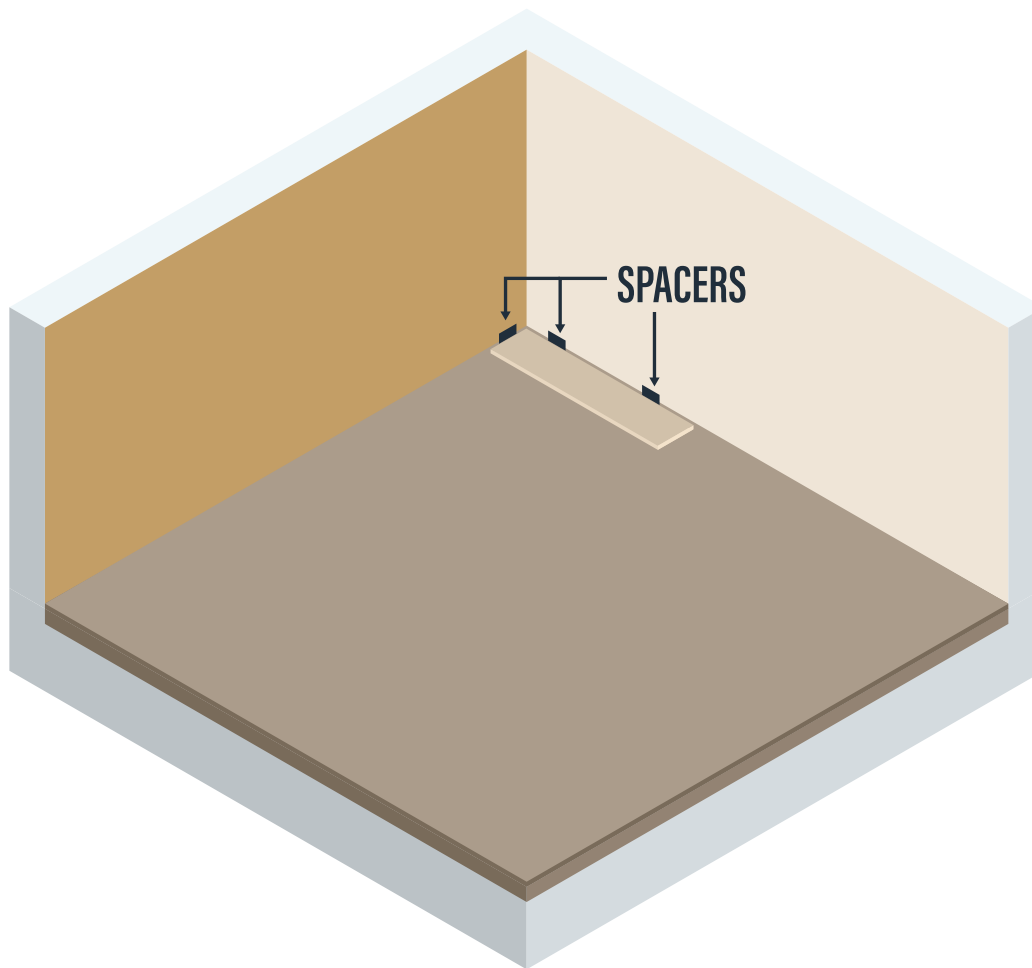
*Important : A moisture barrier underlayment (plastic sheet) must be laid before the acoustic underlay (EVA, Foam, IXPE)*

### INSTALLATION TOOLS

- Stanley Knife
- Straight Edge
- Measurement Tape
- Marking Pencil
- Hammer and tapping block
- Chalk Line
- Pull Bar (optional but advantageous)
- Table Saw, Jig Saw & Mitre Saw (optional)
- Safety Glasses
- Dust Mask
- Safety Gloves



## BASIC INSTALLATION GUIDE: STEP 1

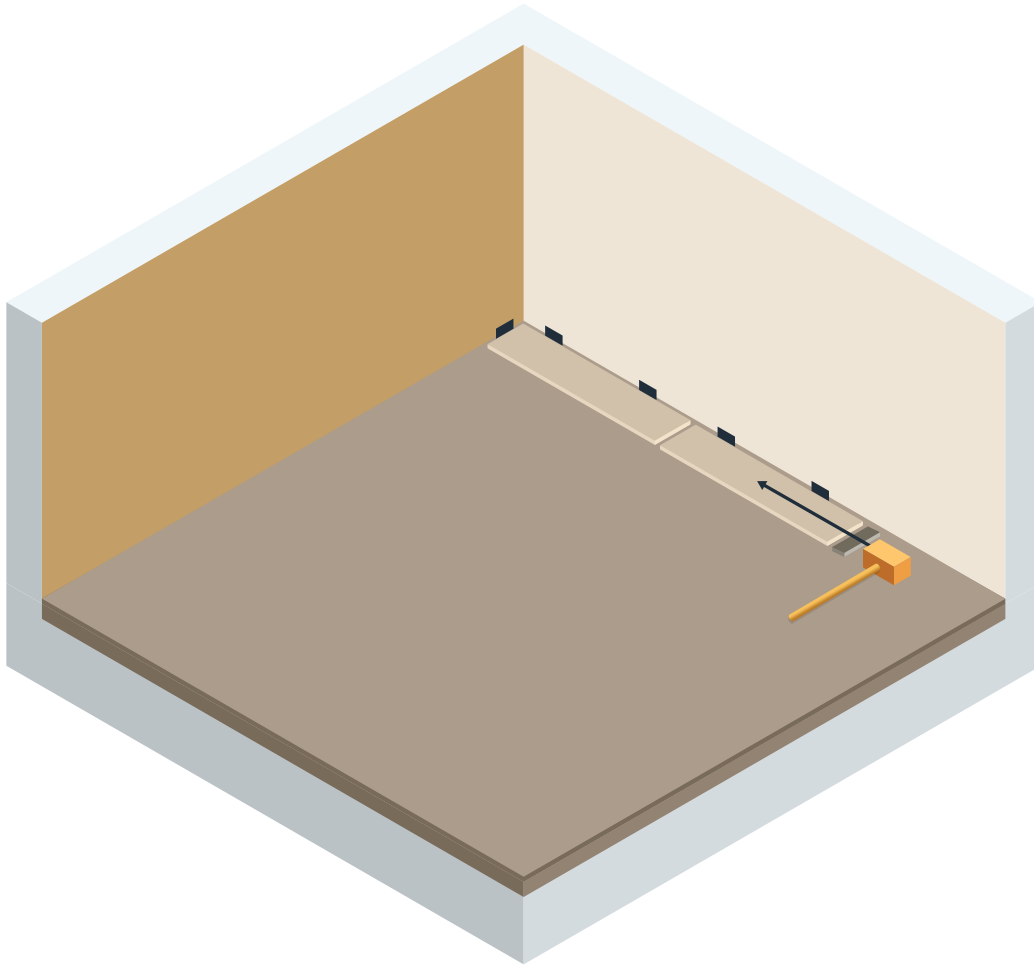


### FLOATING INSTALLATION

- Start installing parallel to the longest straightest wall, normally an exterior wall. Install the flooring pieces left to right. The groove side of the plank should be facing away from the starting wall.
- Using spacers, leave a minimum gap of 5mm – 12mm for expansion between the flooring and walls (The space you leave will depend on the distance of the length and width of the floor. You may need to leave more gap depending on the overall span as well as using expansion joints for long distances.)



## BASIC INSTALLATION GUIDE: STEP 2

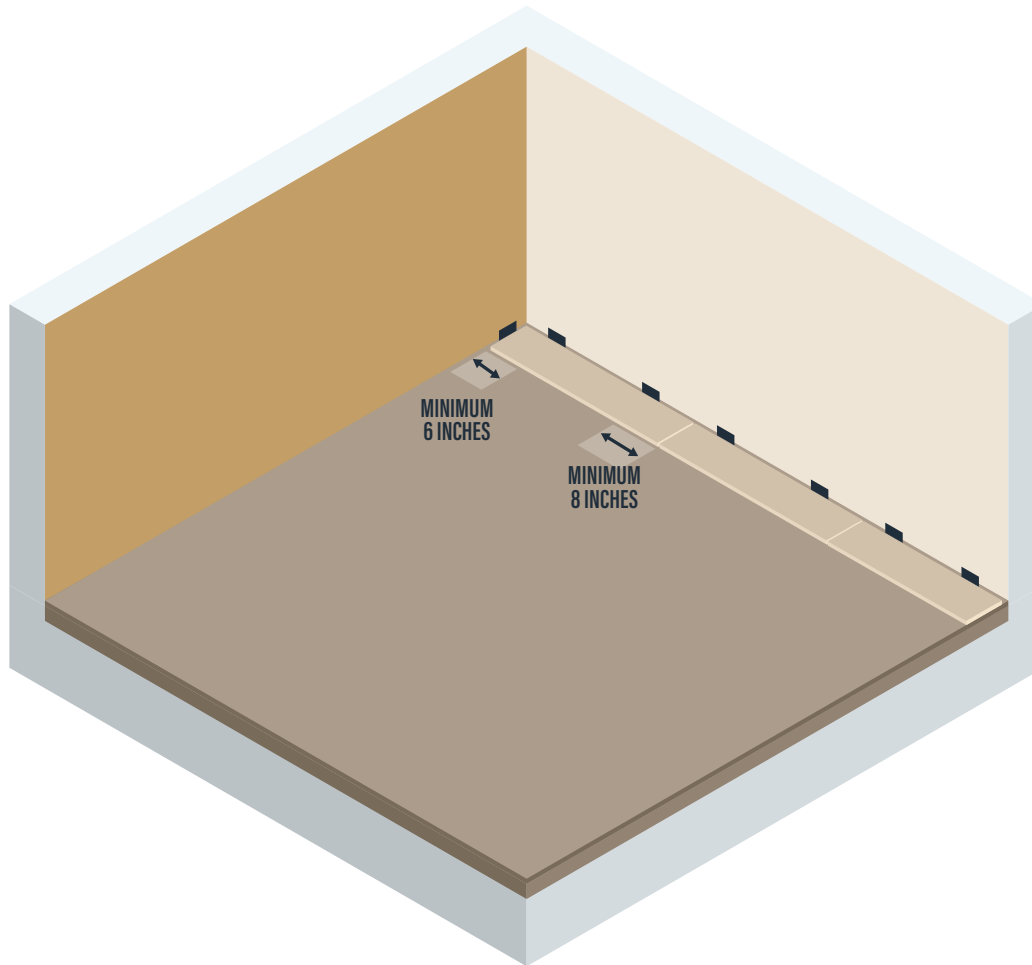


### LAYING THE FIRST ROW

- After laying the first plank, lay the second plank in position and tap it toward the first plank to lock the ends of the boards together. Be sure to use a tapping block so you don't damage the boards with the hammer. Continue laying the boards this way until you reach the other wall.



## BASIC INSTALLATION GUIDE: STEP 3

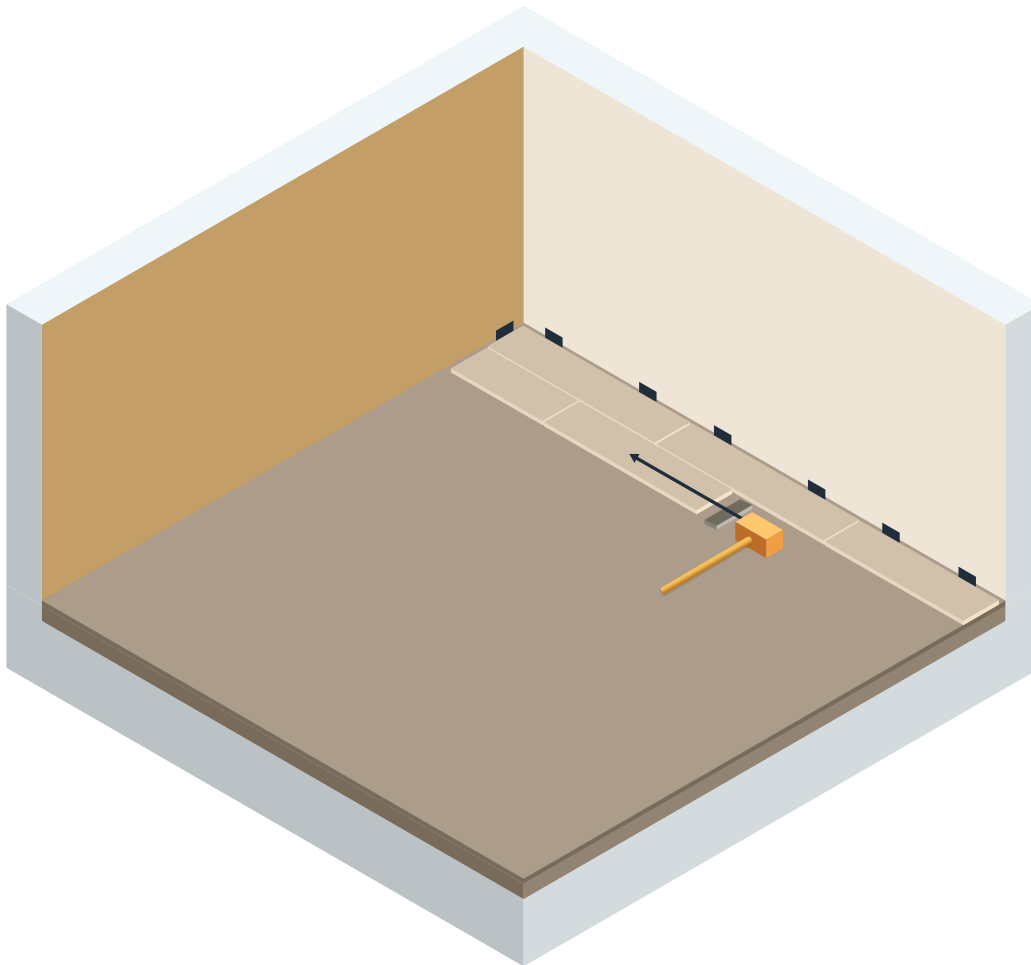


### LAYING THE SECOND ROW

- To start the second row, install the first plank, ensure the plank is at least 8 inches longer or shorter than the first board in the previous row. There should be a minimum of 8 inch stagger between any one joint and the nearest joints in adjacent rows. Planks used to start or end a row should be at least 6 inches long.
- Next, install the second plank in the second row by inserting the tongue side into the groove first, then pressing the board down, locking it into the previous row. Then tap the board on its end with a tapping block and hammer to lock it into the previous board.



## BASIC INSTALLATION GUIDE: STEP 4

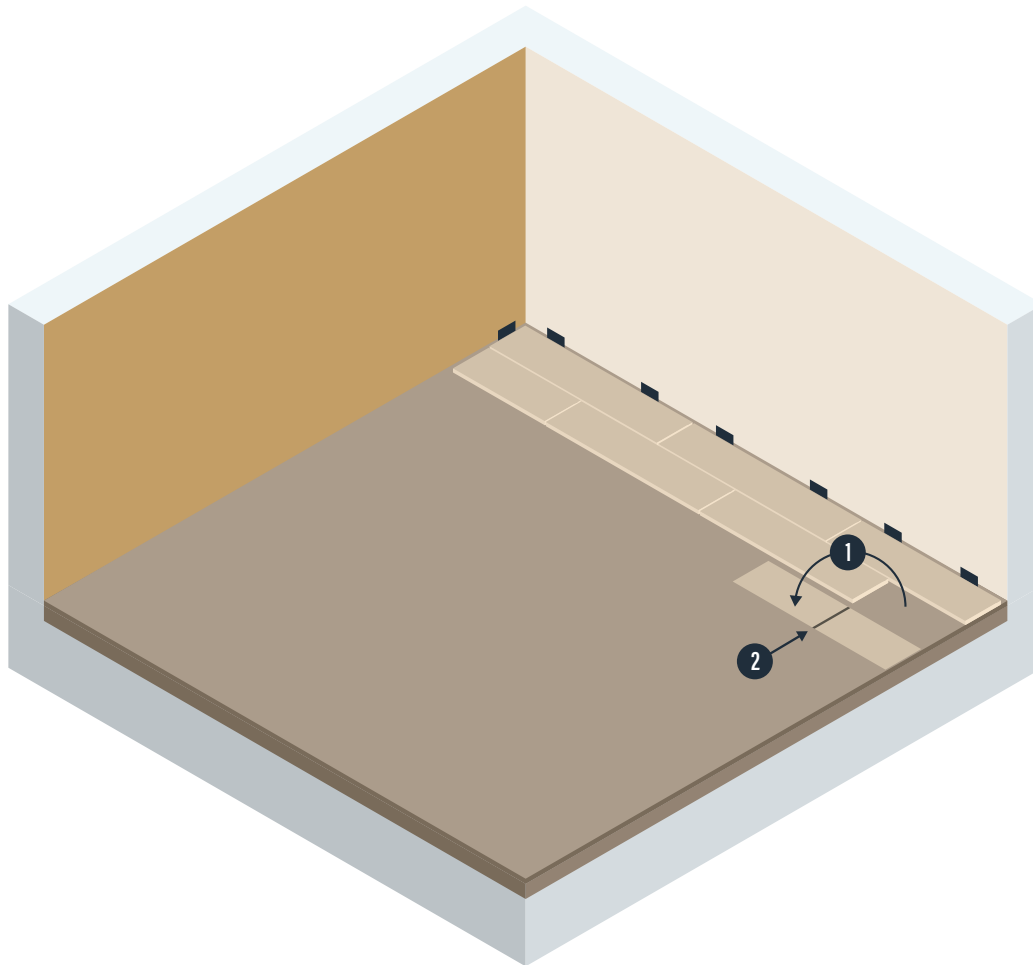


### CONTINUE INSTALLING

- Continue installing rows, working left to right and adding additional planks in each row while maintaining a minimum 8 inch stagger between adjacent row joints.



## BASIC INSTALLATION GUIDE: STEP 5



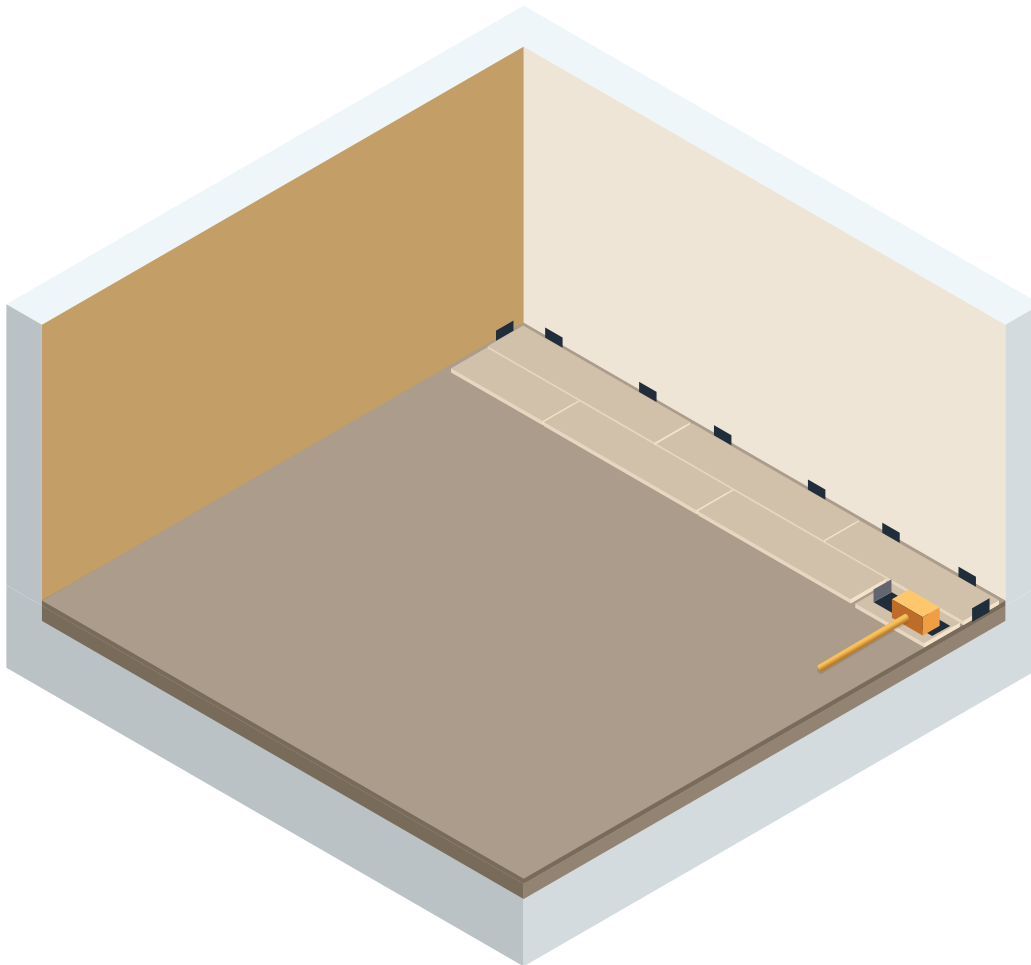
### CUTTING END OF ROW BOARDS

The last board in each row should be cut to fit while still maintaining a 5mm - 12mm expansion gap at the wall. Here's how :

1. Flip the board over (placing the groove to your left.)
2. Measure the board by the gap in the row.
3. Mark and cut the board using a Stanley knife or saw.
4. Then flip the board back over and it will be ready to be tapped into place.
5. You may use the remaining piece to start the next row assuming it is a minimum of 6 inches long.



## BASIC INSTALLATION GUIDE: STEP 6



### INSTALLING AROUND OBJECTS

- Use a hole saw drill bit to make perfect cuts for pipes.
- Use a jamb saw to cut the door frame for a cleaner finish.
- Use a jig saw or Stanley knife for cutting pieces around irregular shapes.



## INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

**SPEC Living**  
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### AFTER INSTALLATION / FLOOR CARE & MAINTENANCE

- Sweep up all rubbish and debris that are on the floor using a soft bristle broom.
- Any spare material left over should be stored away for future replacement if required.
- Install trims or existing skirting to cover the expansion gaps and transition strips where required.
- When moving furniture back on the flooring make sure to properly protect the flooring.
- Use felt protectors on the furniture legs.
- Avoid rubber and petroleum-based products such as tires, casters, floor mats or asphalt sealers as these may contain chemicals that can permanently stain flooring.
- Clean the floor with a non-abrasive cleaning solution or warm soapy water using a PH neutral detergent as strong cleaner can cause permanent damage to your flooring.
- Wipe up spills immediately with a damp cloth to prevent staining.
- Sweep and vacuum the floor regularly to keep your floors looking beautiful and new for longer.
- Avoid long periods of sun exposure to the flooring by closing blinds and drapes on peak sunlight hours. This can cause colour fading and buckling in your floor due to extreme surface temperatures.





## SPC FLOORING CARE INSTRUCTION:

### 1. SWEEP FREQUENTLY

It may sound cliché but regular cleaning is a proven way to help keep your SPC flooring at its best shape.

You may sweep the floor using a regular broom, or go for the tech-savvy method by using brushless vacuum and electric broom. One particular tool you should avoid using while sweeping your SPC floor is the beater bars of your vacuum as it tends to damage the coating.

So how often should you sweep your floor?

Sweep at least once a week to remove any dust and loose dirt. If you have time, it is a good idea to briefly sweep the floor across the room each time after use.

### 2. MOP OCCASIONALLY

Sometimes, sweeping alone is not sufficient.

To better keep your flooring clean and stain-free, use a damp cloth or mop and clean thoroughly with mild or neutral pH solution to remove stains.

Do not risk using multi-surface cleaners, bleach, detergent, strong abrasive cleaning agents like organic-solvent, ammonium or alcohol-based detergent to mop your floor.

Unlike laminate flooring, SPC flooring is made of water-resistant material. So it will not have warping or swelling issues like laminate flooring do.

However, bear in mind that you should not mop too often to avoid dulling the tiles' shine. Over-mopping your SPC flooring weakens the adhesive as water seeps in between.

By saying that, you should also avoid flooding with excessive amounts of water when mopping. Water that penetrates through the joints and edges may also encourage growth of molds.

### 3. COMBAT SPILL PROMPTLY

Clean up any spillage instantly by simply wiping it off with a damp cloth. The longer spillage is left to stay on the floor, the more likely permanent stain will form.

Not sure what is the efficient way of doing it?

It's pretty simple. Just use a clean, white cloth to wipe off the spillage and rinse with water. Be sure to wipe the area dry once you're done.

However, some stubborn stains are more difficult to get rid of. They can be tackled in a few different ways... To remove common stains like juices, red wine, food and grease you may want to use SPC flooring cleaning agents that are recommended by your flooring supplier.

If you happen to have tough stains caused by marker pen, paint or lipstick, here's what you can do:

Get a piece of clean, white cloth and dampen it with isopropyl alcohol or mineral spirit. Wipe the stain and dry the area.

Hardened stains like crayon, candle wax and even bubble gum can be removed by using ice to brittle the stains a little before gently scraping it off with a plastic scraper.

You may also use a credit card or any non-abrasive plastic material to scrape it. Do not use steel wool and scouring powder as this will damage the surface and make it look dull.



## SPC FLOORING CARE INSTRUCTION:

### 4. SAY 'NO' TO STEAM CLEANING

Steam cleaning is very handy as you are able to clean, sanitize and dry quickly all at once without using chemical cleaners. But, here's the catch...

The hot steam is actually doing more harm than good to SPC flooring. It is so serious that some damage that it causes are beyond repair.

Let's look at the reasons why steam cleaning your SPC floor is the worse of all.

As steam cleaner is sanitizing your floor, the steam vapor that is generated can reach up to more than 90 degree celsius in order to kill germs and bacteria.

This excessive heat together with the moisture that seeps in the joining and edges of your SPC flooring can weaken the adhesive bonds and layers of your plank or tile structure. Not just that, it will also cause issues like warping, edge cupping, bending and bubbling of floor plank.

Needless to say, the damage caused by steam cleaner is normally not covered under warranty. So why put your floor under such risk? Just skip steam cleaning in your routine for a longer lasting SPC floor.

### 5. MINIMIZE DIRT

Invest in good quality rug, non-stain or non-rubber backed doormat in front of entrance to prevent any sand, loose soil, grit, dust and other dirt being carried into the house. It is best to place a doormat at every entry point.

Here's one of the most effective way to reduce dirt: Simply adopt the 'no shoes' policy. This can further eliminate possible dirt from outdoor and maintain SPC floor hygiene at the same time.

Place mats, rugs or runners at high traffic area is another way to reduce dirt on your floor. Be careful when selecting mats as you want to avoid placing mats made out of materials like coco-fiber, pigmented rubber or latex-backed which will damage your floor surface.

### 6. REDUCE ABRASION

If possible, remove your shoes when stepping on the floor will cut down the chances of scratches caused by stones and sands that's being carried along when you have your shoes on.

Protect your SPC flooring with quarter-inch plywood, hardwood panelling when moving furniture to prevent scratches and scuff marks. You may place non-staining protector under your movable furnitures like chairs, couches, cabinets and tables to further prevent any dent.

To be on the safe side, get ready with hardboard runway whenever you move large furnitures and heavy appliances to protect your flooring.

If you are a pet lover, do watch out as animal's claws will also leave scuff marks on your floor. Trimming of nails and claws of your pet regularly will help minimize potential scratches. It's also common sense to avoid using abrasive scrubbing tools on your SPC flooring.

### 7. CHOOSE THE SUITABLE FLOORING PROTECTORS

Here's what you should be concern on... choose the right type of protector.

What you should be looking for here is the materials used in protectors.

Most rubber mats or protectors contain antioxidant compound to make it last longer without becoming brittle. This antioxidant compound however will form chemical reaction when contact with SPC flooring and results in yellowish stain, a.k.a "antioxidant staining".

Besides yellowish stain, you also want to avoid using non-color fastening protectors where the color on it will eventually stain on your floor.



## SPC FLOORING CARE INSTRUCTION:

As a precaution step, spend some time checking the material of protectors, rubber mats, door stoppers and rubber backed rugs while you shop. Make sure you purchase only non-staining, non-pigmented or colour fasting products, be it rubber, nylon or felt.

As a general rule of thumb, you will need a wider floor protector for larger sized furniture. So that weight can be distributed evenly. Here's a tip for you: Keep your protector in good condition by cleaning regularly and replace a new protector once it's worn out.

### 8. DILUTED VINEGAR SOLUTION

Some said vinegar is too acidic and may harm the protective layer of SPC floor. In fact, vinegar is not only harmless but a natural and effective way to keep your flooring clean. It is also a good way to remove any odor trapped on the floor.

### 9. APPLY SPC FLOOR POLISH

Polishing your floor can definitely help maintain a glossy and shiny look. Just follow the simple steps here, but beware to not over do it.

- First sweep the floor to remove any debris and dust.
- Mop it to remove stains
- Follow the polish instructions to start polishing your floor.

### 10. CLOSE THE CURTAIN

Prolonged exposure of extreme sunlight may causes your SPC flooring to fade, become dull or discolor. Put down the blinds or curtain to prevent it from extreme sunlight and heat.

### 11. FLOOR CLEANER SOLUTION

Using strong chemical substances to clean your SPC flooring will do more harm than good. It is advisable to use only cleaner solution recommended by your SPC flooring manufacturer as it is more effective in cleaning without bringing much harm.

Bear in mind that it's not always the more the better. Right amount of solution used is important in protecting the surface layer and prevent dulling. You may also want to avoid using oil-based, wax or pigmented cleaner agents.

### 12. FLOOR WAXING

Waxing may sometimes cause a lot of flooring issues and problem. Most of the time, problem arises when owner uses the wrong waxing products.

Speaking of this, you should never try waxing yourself with products like paste wax.

If you are planning to polish or wax your floor, it is much safer to seek for professional advice and services. Trust me, you would definitely want to spend the money on professional waxing rather than replacing a new set of flooring if it's damaged by diy waxing.

### 13. HIRE FLOORING PROFESSIONALS

If you have the budget, do consider hiring professionals to do your flooring maintenance. Depending of the type of maintenance and services needed, it normally doesn't cost much to hire professionals team to do it for you every quarter per year.

### 14. ADD UP EXTRA COAT OF FLOORING PROTECTION

In places with high traffic and heavy usage, wear layer will wear off as time goes by. This is commonly seen in commercial application. You can say that it's less necessary for residential flooring.

What should you do? Add on another coat of finishes as part of your maintenance routine to extend your flooring lifespan.



## SPC FLOORING CARE INSTRUCTION:

### **15. STAY AWAY FROM DIRECT HEAT**

Most people might not be aware of this. SPC flooring is sensitive to heat. It can be scarred or damaged by any direct heat from matches, heating appliances and cigarette butts.

So the next time when you are handling high heat items, make sure you support hot surface with rugs or mats without direct contacting your SPC floor.

### **16. CLEANING AFTER INSTALLATION**

Thorough cleaning with water immediately after installation is a bad idea. You are just ruining your floor if you wash or scrub once installation is done.

Normally, it takes time for the adhesive under the planks to dry and bond firmly. It is recommended to isolate the area at least 48 hours and some even take up to a few days, depending on the type of adhesive used.