



FLEX CORE: INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Before starting installation, it is important you read all instructions and warranty information.

By starting installation of this product you are agreeing that you have read and understand all installer/owner's requirements and responsibilities and are aware that deviating from the instructions and recommendations in this installation guide may result in voiding the product warranty. If you need additional assistance, please contact FLOORS FOR LIFE at 1-888-791-0155.

FLOORS FOR LIFE's Flex Core flooring should only be installed after all the other trades have finished and the jobsite has been cleared of any/all debris that could damage a finished plank installation.

It is the sole responsibility of the installer/owner, prior to installation, to assure that the planned installation area is suitable for the flooring and meets local building codes. Confirm that all subflooring meets or exceeds all industry standards/local building codes; as well as the recommendations listed herein. The manufacturer accepts no responsibility for product failure extending from or related to failure to meet job environment and subflooring requirements.

The installer/owner assumes full responsibility for the final inspection of this product. Inspection should be done prior to installation and should include: print/color/texture, factory finish and locking system. If the product is not acceptable, DO NOT INSTALL IT. Contact your supplier immediately for assistance. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and quality accepted.

FLOORS FOR LIFE will not accept any responsibility for any flooring installed with visible defects.

Moisture in the subfloor will not damage the planks. However, excessive moisture in the subfloor can migrate to the walls and structure and cause mold and mildew issues if left unattended.

FLOORS FOR LIFE recommends that installations in areas of potential rapid temperature change (solariums, sun-rooms, saunas, etc.) not exceed 140°F as this will damage the product and void the product warranty.

Product is rated for indoor use only in an acclimatized area within the required temperature range (65°F – 85°F), do not install outdoors.

FLOORS FOR LIFE recommends that in areas with heavy traffic and rolling loads (wheel chairs, heavy carts, hospital beds, tables, etc.) the installer/owner peel off the underlayment and install the planks.

Do not install cabinets or fixed objects on top of the floor.

SUFLOORS REQUIREMENTS:

All sub-floors must be clean, flat (smooth) and dry prior to installation. Sweep or vacuum your subfloor immediately prior to installation ensuring there is no debris or grit, as it may interfere with installation.

All subfloors must be flat, high or low areas exceeding 3/16" in a 10' radius must be corrected.

Wood Subfloors: Must be a minimum of 3/4" CDX Plywood, OSB, or APA approved plywood. Sand down high areas and fill low areas with a Portland based patching compound. To avoid squeaking, nail or screw the floor every 6". Repair or replace any damaged sheathing.

Concrete Subfloors: Must be fully cured (at least 60 days old), flat (smooth), and leveled prior to starting the installation. Grind down any high areas and fill any low areas with a Portland-based patching compound.

Radiant Heated Systems: The embedded radiant heating system needs to be operational and working for one week prior to install date to reduce any residual moisture. Three days prior to install lower the temperature to 65°F. 24 hours after the installation has been completed, the temperature can be gradually increased 5° increments. Temperature must never exceed 85°F (29°C). It is the responsibility of installer/owner to confirm the suitability of the radiant heating system for use with this product. Any damage to the floor caused by the radiant heating system will not be covered by the product warranty.

FLOORS FOR LIFE's Flex Core Flooring can be installed over existing non-cushioned resilient flooring and ceramic tile as long as the floors are clean, level, and well-bonded to the sub-floor. Do not sand existing resilient floors as they may contain asbestos.

Do not install Flex Core flooring over carpet, soft, rough, non-flat or uneven surfaces.

TOOLS REQUIRED:

Safety glasses, straight edge, framing square, chalk-line, tape measure, spacers, pry-bar, table saw, and compound/miter saw, jamb saw, rubber mallet

FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- When calculating flooring square footage requirements, allow a minimum of an additional 10% for cuts, waste and defects. If installing a diagonal or other special pattern, allow for 10% additional materials.
- It is always recommended to pull planks from a minimum of 3 different boxes during installation to assure an even distribution of any minor color variations and slight differences in embossing levels and give the consumer a better idea of what the floor will look like when installation is finished.
- Verify locking profile prior to installing, checking for debris or damage. Clean, trim or discard any affected sections.
- FLOORS FOR LIFE recommends a 1/4" (6mm) expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the installation and any transitions to adjacent flooring materials.
- Begin by measuring the width of the room and divide the total width of the room by the width of the plank. Adjust the first row width so that you finish with at least a half a width of a plank on the far wall.
- Set up a starting line for the first row by measuring the width of the (adjusted) plank. Add 1/4" (6mm) to this number and mark the floor at each end of your starting wall, approximately 6" (150mm) away from the corners.

- Using a chalk-line, carefully snap a line between these two points. Check to make sure there will be approximately 1/4" (6mm) between the edge of your first row of planks and the wall. This space allows for any slight expansion of the Composite Flooring and will be covered by the baseboard and/or quarter-round.
- Lay out the first row of planks, the short tongue should be facing the wall. First row should start 1/4" (6mm) from the wall. Cut the last plank to finish 1/4" (6mm) from opposite wall. We recommend you use temporary spacers to keep the floor away from the walls, as the floor will shift during installation due to it being a floating floor. Place the spacers every 2-3' (60-90 cm) along the starting wall, plus at the end of each of the starting rows so panels do not shift when set into place.
- Assemble the end joints by inserting the tongue on the short side of the plank at an angle of approx. 25 degrees, and lower it into place. Continue in this manner until the first row is complete.
- To start the second row, use the remainder of the last plank of the first row if it is longer than 12" (30cm) long, otherwise, cut a new plank in half and proceed. To ensure structural integrity of your floor, it is mandatory to **ALWAYS STAGGER THE END JOINTS FROM ROW TO ROW BY AT LEAST 8" (20cm)**.
- Install one plank at a time, so that the end with the large lip is exposed to receive the next plank. Using a sacrificial cut piece with the profile that locks into the large lip end of the plank, gently tap on the sacrificial cut piece until the ends of the planks lock together and repeat for rest of row. Do NOT use too much force when tapping the planks together, as this may damage the locking profile. For final piece in row, use a pry-bar to pull it tight and lock the end profiles. Do NOT strike directly on the locking profile to tap the pieces together, as this may damage the locking profile.
- In the case where you are unable to angle the planks (eg. under a doorframe or radiator), you can cut away the locking edge of the lip of the bottom groove by using a utility knife. Run a bead of Seam Sealer on the now modified tongue and groove. Tighten the planks gently with the use of a pull bar and a rubber mallet.
- If a doorframe must be undercut, lay a piece of flooring next to the doorframe with the patterned side facing down. Undercut the doorjamb with a saw, then slide the plank under the doorjamb with the decorative pattern facing upwards. Please note that the floor must be allowed to expand under the doorjamb and recommended expansion gap must be respected.
- Ensure there is a minimum 1/4" (6mm) gap around the entire floor perimeter and any obstacles. Measure and cut the last panels to fit so that there is a minimum 1/4" (6mm) gap along the last wall.
- Remove all temporary shims, sweep & vacuum immediately.
- Replace or install new matching baseboards and quarter round in all areas. Baseboards are to be nailed into the wall and quarter round into the baseboards. **DO NOT** nail into the Flex Core Flooring.
- If you have removed any transition pieces and not covered their place with Flex Core flooring, reinstall them immediately.
- Furniture and appliances should be moved onto a newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hard boards. Cover all feet and floor contact points with heavy self-adhesive felt pads to protect the floor.

CARING FOR YOUR NEW FLEX CORE FLOOR

- FLOORS FOR LIFE recommends using a Ph neutral vinyl floor cleaner (**Armstrong Once n' Done, Zep, Hilway Direct HD pH Neutral Cleaner**) as required. The floor may be slippery when wet. Allow the floor time to dry after cleaning.
- Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors.
- Furniture with caster wheels should be easy swiveling, large surface, non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do not use ball-type caster as these can damage the floor.
- Lift heavy objects when moving furniture or appliances. **DO NOT** roll or slide them across the

floor. Felt pads on chair legs should be replaced periodically, as they wear and accumulate grit with use and can damage the

- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide rubber casters. Protective mats or pads are required under office chairs.
- Do not buff, wax or use cleaning products that contain surfactants. Never steam clean or use a steam mop on the floor.
- Do not expose the Flex Core flooring to temperatures exceeding 140°F
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove dirt. Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar or turn the beater bar off.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak hours. Use appropriate precautions to minimize potential harmful effects of the floor.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on the floor.
- Use non-staining floor mats as they can possibly discolor the floor.

For other questions on floor care, please call FLOORS FOR LIFE customer service department 1-888-791-0155.

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FLOORS FOR LIFE is a division of Beasley Flooring Products, Macon GA.