



## RIGID 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 Tech Services at 1-888-791-0155.

FLOORS FOR LIFE's Rigid Core flooring is a floating floor and should NOT be secured to the floor. Do not install fixed objects, such as cabinets, on top of the flooring or fasten trim/molding/transition pieces directly to the floor.

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**

FLOORS FOR LIFE's Rigid Core is rated for indoor use only. The area must remain climate controlled (65°F – 85°F) for the life of the floor. Do not install outdoors.

If Rigid Core flooring is installed in a sun room, avoid peak hours of sunlight by closing blinds, shades or drapes.

Rigid Core flooring is waterproof, but is not a moisture barrier. It is suggested a moisture barrier is used when installing over newer concrete or a wooden subfloor. However, water leaking over or around the outer edges of the flooring can damage a wood subfloor. This is not considered a defect in the flooring.

### **Subfloor Requirements and Preparation:**

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.**

You can trim doorframes by turning a panel upside down to use as a height guide. Using a handsaw or jamb saw, cut door frames to the necessary height so that planks slide easily under them.

**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.

Moisture arising from new or old concrete can create high levels of moisture vapor emissions, hydrostatic pressure and high levels of alkalinity. This combination is highly corrosive and will damage the floor over time. To avoid this problem, a calcium chloride test and PH level test must be performed prior to installation. If the level of vapor emissions / hydrostatic pressure exceeds 8lbs and /or the alkalinity level is 9 or higher, a moisture barrier must be installed over the concrete.

**Radiant Heated Systems:** The Hydronic or 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.

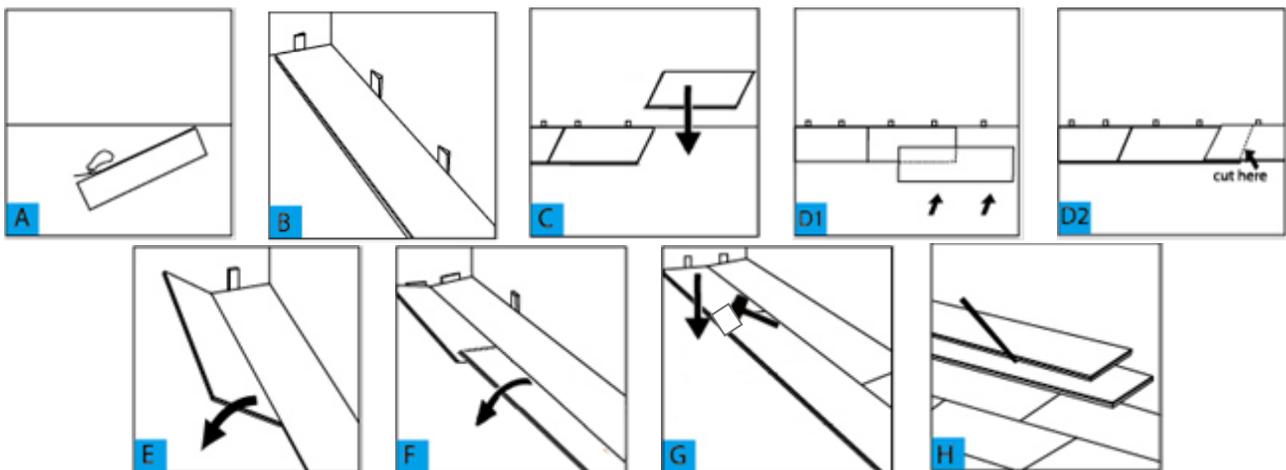
FLOORS FOR LIFE's Rigid Core Flooring can be installed over existing non-cushioned resilient flooring and ceramic tile floors as long as the floors are clean, level, and well-bonded to the sub-floor. Do not sand existing resilient floors as they may contain asbestos.

Do not install Rigid Core over existing carpet. This will void the warranty.

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

**TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED:**

Safety glasses, straight edge or T-square, framing square, chalk-line, tape measure, 1/4" spacers, pry-bar, table saw, and compound/miter saw, hand or 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.
- FLOORS FOR LIFE recommends a 1/4" (6mm) expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the installation, any transitions to adjacent flooring materials, door frames, and heating vents.
- 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.
- 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 Rigid Core Flooring and will be covered by the baseboard and/or quarter-round.
- Remove the tongue (on the long side) from the first row of planks. This will ensure that the decorative surface of the flooring is under the finished trim when installed. The saw will be required to remove the tongue (Figure A).
- Starting in the left-hand corner, place the first plank with its trimmed side towards the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion gap of 1/4" (7-8mm) between the wall and the flooring (Figure B).
- Attach the end of the 1st plank and the second plank by aligning the joints and pushing down on the inserting plank locking the planks together.
- NOTE: To insure a tight fit, place a small piece of flooring over the joint and gently tap down with rubber mallet. (Figure G). Repeat process on each successive end joint.
- **Note:** Care must be taken when aligning the planks. If the plank ends are not lined up correctly, it will damage the locking system. The resulting damage is not considered a defect in the product. If the plank needs to be unclicked, slide the plank horizontally to disengage. **DO NOT pull up to unclick.** This will damage the locking system.
- Continue along the wall until you reach the last full plank, connecting each plank in manner described above. To fit the last plank, turn plank over (face down). Place the plank in the corner so the tongue on the short end touches the adjacent wall. Measure overlap between the installed plank and the last plank (Figure D1 & D2). Using a sharp utility knife and a straight edge, score a line on the top surface of the plank. Use saw to cut plank to size.
- Begin the next row with the cut off piece from the previous row to create the necessary stagger pattern. This piece should be a minimum of 8" (20cm) long and the joint offset from the previous row should be at least 10" (26cm) apart. To attach, tilt the plank you are installing slightly upwards (about 15-25°), insert its tongue into the previous row's groove and lower it into place. The plank will click into place with light pressure (Figure E).
- Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the long end tongue into the previously installed plank's groove. Align the plank so that the short side tongue is positioned just over the groove lip of the previously installed (Figure F). Once the end joints are aligned, push down to lock in the planks. Very little force is required to fit the tongue into the groove. You should be able to feel the tongue lock into the groove (Figure G). Use a scrap piece of flooring placing it over the joint. Gently press or tap down the installing plank until seated completely. Continue locking each piece into place in the same manner.
- To fit the last row, lay a plank on top of the previous row. With the plank against the wall, mark a line down the length of the plank and cut the planks accordingly (Figure H).

- To finish the perimeter of the room, install quarter round molding using finishing nails. Nail quarter round directly into the baseboard not the flooring.
- 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 Rigid Core Flooring.
- 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.

## **MAINTENANCE: CARING FOR YOUR RIGID CORE FLOOR**

- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove dirt. Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar or turn the beater bar off.
- FLOORS FOR LIFE recommends using a Ph neutral vinyl floor as required. The floor may be slippery when wet. Allow the floor time to dry after cleaning.
- **NEVER USE** floor polish or floor cleaning wax, oil soaps, etc. These products can damage and/or leave a film on the flooring. 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 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.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- 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. **Do not** use rubber protective mats.

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

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