



January 9, 2025

**PARADIGM PERFORMER 12MIL & 20MIL  
SPC EXTRUDED RIGID CORE  
Installation Instructions**

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION. IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID WARRANTY.**

- Always check Rigid Core (SPC) panels for defects such as chips and color or sheen differences under well-lit conditions. Also check that the click channel is clean and free of debris. Always work out of multiple boxes to mix product to achieve proper pattern repeat and color appearance. Color variations between flooring, samples, and replacement material is expected and is not a product defect.
- If the appearance of a board is questionable for either dimensions or appearance, the installer should not use this piece. A replacement carton can be obtained through your dealer in a reasonable time.

**NOTE: SPC can be installed above, on and below grade. SPC is installed as a floating floor only.**

**Walls, subfloors, and installed floors in buildings and houses move. A minimum of 3/8" gap for expansion is recommended between the installed floor and any adjacent perimeter wall, vertical structure, or wood based floor (laminated or hardwood).**

## **Subfloor Preparation**

SPC is a waterproof product. Moisture will not damage the product. When installed, it does not produce a moisture barrier nor does it protect the walls or structure of the home from moisture. Only installing a moisture barrier in a crawl space or under the SPC over a concrete floor can insure this. Please see below Subfloor Requirements section for moisture limits to protect the home from moisture damage.

### **Jobsite Preparation Before Installation**

The responsibility for installation of SPC is with the local job site installer. Every plank and/or tile must be inspected prior to installation for color variation, finish condition, sheen variation, and quality. This inspection should be conducted with proper lighting available. Any boards that are not acceptable should not be installed. Contact your dealer immediately to obtain replacement boards. Paradigm Performer is not responsible for the installation of flooring with obvious defects.

It is the responsibility of the local job installer to ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these installation instructions. Paradigm Performer is not responsible for failure of this SPC flooring caused by unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Crawl spaces – For the protection of the home, when installing a moisture barrier in a crawl space, minimum crawl spaces of 18” are required from the ground to the underside of the joists. A vapor barrier of 6-20 mil thick polyethylene film with 6” sealed lap joints should be used. Moisture resistant tape should be used as the vapor barrier sealant at the lap joints. Venting for the crawl space should be at least 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. Vents should be located for cross-ventilation of the crawl space. Local regulations should prevail at all times.

Before floor installation, the room conditions in the installation area (temperature and moisture) should be at normal year-round conditions for at least one week prior to and during flooring installation. Acclimation of SPC is not required before installation. Recommended installation room conditions are temperatures between 50 to 100 degrees F. Never install below 50 degrees or above 100 degrees F.

### **Removing Old Adhesives:**

Asphaltic “cut-back” adhesives can stain SPC flooring. These must be 100% removed, encapsulated or covered with plywood underlayment. Some previously manufactured cutback adhesives contained asbestos fibers, which are not readily identifiable. Do not use power removal devices, which can create dust. The use of solvent-based adhesive removers is never recommended. NOTE: If d-limonene (citrus based) cleaners/removers are used (Orange All), subfloor must be thoroughly rinsed. If complete removal of old adhesives or covering them with plywood is not possible, the use of a Portland Based Leveling or Patching Compound is acceptable. Please follow manufacturer’s instructions carefully.

For “Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” write to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute, 966 Hungerford Dr., Suite 12-B, Rockville, MD 20850.

## **Subfloor Requirements**

All subfloors must be dry, structurally sound to support the floor and to protect the home from moisture, free of debris and foreign matter, and flat to 3/16” in a 10-foot radius.

For concrete floors, the subfloor should be firm, flat, dry, and clean. This includes both old and new concrete floors. New concrete slabs must cure in well-ventilated conditions for at least 60 days minimum before installing the floor. Concrete should have a minimum-6mil poly film moisture barrier between the concrete and ground. Maximum moisture level per the Calcium Chloride test method is 8lbs. per 1000 cft in 24 hours. The maximum level of relative humidity per ASTM 2170 test method is 90%.

Wood subfloors must be dry and properly secured to accept a top floor. The subfloor must be secured every 6” along joists with nails or screws to avoid squeaking. The floor must be leveled and flat. High spots must be ground down and low spots must be filled with a Portland cement leveling compound.

Please note that SPC is not approved for installation over any type of carpet.

**NOTE: Never install SPC over any type of floating floor. All subfloors that are not concrete must be firmly bonded.**

**NOTE: Never install SPC over a below grade VCT (vinyl composition tile).**

Tiles including ceramic, resilient, and sheet vinyl must be well bonded to the subfloor, must be level and flat, and must be clean. Existing vinyl floors should not be sanded as they may contain asbestos.

## **Installation Tools**

Safety Glasses

Broom/Vacuum

Tapping block

3/8” spacers

Pull bar

Saw

Utility knife

Pencil

Tape measure

Ruler

**Acceptable subfloor types:**

CDX Underlayment Grade Plywood (minimum of 5/8" thickness)

Underlayment Grade Particleboard (only for floating installation)

OSB (minimum 3/4", 23/32" thickness)

Concrete slab

Ceramic Tile – one layer well Bonded

Resilient Tile – one layer well bonded (Not Below Grade)

Sheet Vinyl – one layer well bonded

**Do not install over:**

Existing resilient tile floors that are below grade

Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring

Carpet

Hardwood flooring that has been installed directly over concrete

VCT flooring that has been installed directly over concrete

Rooms with sloping floors or floor drains

Do not install over floating floors

**Basic Installation****SPC**

While SPC is dimensionally stable, buildings, walls, and existing hardwood and laminate floors will expand and contract. Because of this, we recommend that an expansion gap of at least 3/8" be left for expansion between SPC, any vertical surface, an adjacent perimeter wall or wood-based floor (laminate or hardwood).

As stated earlier, always work out of multiple boxes to mix product to achieve proper pattern repeat and color mix for the look of natural wood. A minimum of 3 boxes of product is recommended. Inspect each plank or tile in good light for visual defects. If they show visual faults or damage, do not install them. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that the appearance of the finished floor meets the consumer's expectations.

SPC is an indoor product. It will not be warranted when installed in locations or conditions not recommended for this product.

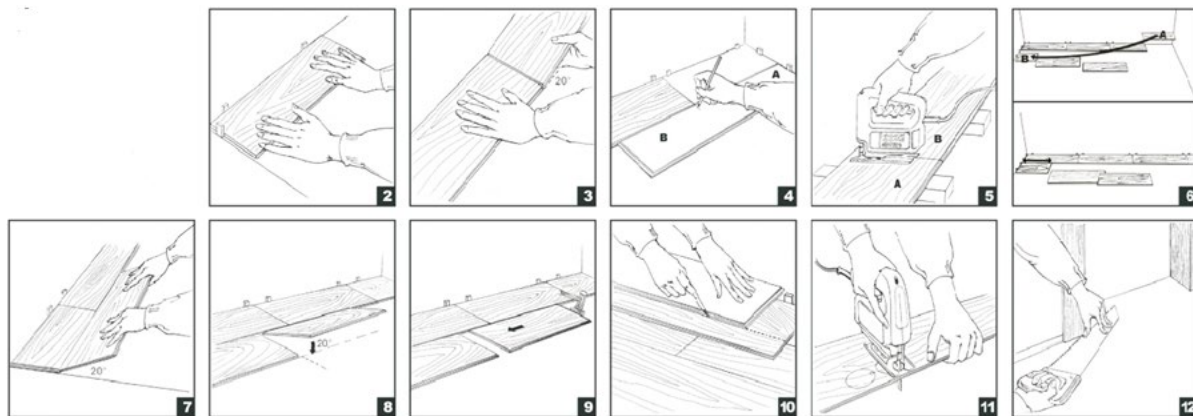
Recommended installation room conditions are temperatures between 50 degrees to 100 degrees F. Never install below 50 degrees or above 100 degrees F.

## Installation Instructions

Paradigm Performer designs its flooring for ease of installing and optimum plank-to-plank joint strength.

### Installation of Paradigm Performer SPC

This locking system is designed to be installed utilizing the floating method. Always include the proper expansion space. Undercut all doorjamb. Never fasten moldings or transition strips to the planks. When product is stored at the installation site, it should be stored in the room where it will be installed.



When using a product with attached pad, please start at picture #2.

2. Remove the tongue on the side of the panels that face the wall. This will insure that the decorative surface of the SPC floor is well under the finished trim when installed. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off. Start in a room corner by placing the first panel with its trimmed side facing the wall. Leave expansion space along each wall to maintain a gap of 6mm (3/8") between the wall and the flooring.
3. To attach the second panel, insert the end tongue of the panel into the end groove of the first panel at a 20-degree angle. Lower the panel flat to the floor. Align the edges carefully.
4. Continue connecting the first row of planks until you reach the last full panel. Fit the last panel by rotating the panel 180 degrees with the pattern side upward, place it beside the row, and mark it.
5. Saw off the excess plank. Attach as described above.
6. Begin the next row with the off-cut piece from the previous row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 20cm (8") long and joint offset should be at least 20cm (8").

7. Start the second row by pushing the long side tongue of the panel into the long side groove of the very first panel at about a 20-degree angle. When lowered, the plank will click into place.
8. Attach the second panel of the new row on the long side as described above. Push this panel as close as possible to the previous row.
9. To attach this second panel to the previous panel, lightly tap the end using the rigid core tapping block. Continue along in the same fashion.
10. To fit the last row, lay a panel on top of the previous row. With the tongue to the wall, lay another panel upside down on the one to be measured and use it as a ruler. Don't forget to allow room for 3/8" spacers. Cut the panel and attach it into position.
11. Door frames and heating vents also require expansion room. First cut the panel to the correct length. Then place the cut panel next to its actual position, use a ruler to measure the areas to be cut out, and mark them. Cut out the marked points allowing for necessary expansion distance on each side.
12. Door frames can be trimmed by turning a panel upside down and using a handsaw to cut away the necessary height so that panels slide easily under the frames.

## Repairs

1. SPC flooring is durable; however, planks can be damaged. If the damaged plank is near the perimeter of the room, the best technique is to carefully unlock the planks until the damaged plank is removed. Replace the damaged plank and reassemble the flooring. If the damaged plank is in the center of the room then the following procedure should be followed:

See Tri-West Videos on the Tri-West website. <https://www.triwestltd.com/videos>

## Finishing Molding



Reducer molding is used to finish flooring when the adjoining surface is lower than the SPC flooring or when flooring meets carpet. Position the U track 7mm leaving expansion gap of at least 1/4" from each edge of the screw, the nail or glue down the track directly to the subfloor and then insert the reducing strip into the track.

T-molding is used to finish flooring and add expansion when two level surfaces meet in doorways. Install the same as above. Residential Installations do not require the use of T Moldings.

Landing molding is used to finish flooring on landings or stair edges. Moldings need to be glued and screwed down to the sub-floor for safety and stability. Color fill should be used to cover counter sunk screws.

To finish the perimeter of the room, install quarter round molding using finishing nails. Quarter round molding is nailed directly into the baseboard.

## **RADIANT HEATED FLOORS:**

Floating floors can be installed over certain types of radiant heated floors. If glue down is an option, then follow the manufacturer's installation instructions when full spreading our flooring with an approved glue.

### **When installing over a radiant heated floor:**

1. A newly installed radiant heated floor must be operational for at least four (4) weeks prior to the installation with the temperature set between 55 to 85 degrees F to ensure that the subfloor has been dried.
2. Existing radiant heated floors should be set to a minimum temperature of 65°F (18.3°C) degrees F for a minimum of 4 days before, during and 48 hours after the completion of the installation. This will insure that the flooring will acclimate properly before the installation begins. Upon completion of the installation, gradually increase temperature in increments of 5° F per hour until desired temperature is achieved. Never exceed 85 degrees.
3. Wood subfloors should never exceed 10% moisture content as measured by a calibrated wood moisture meter.
4. Concrete subfloors must be "dry" using the mat test, a calibrated concrete moisture meter, Calcium Chloride Test or a RH Probe.
5. Ground floors using the radiant heating system should have a proper moisture barrier beneath it.
6. The recommended range of relative humidity is 35%-55% and the room temperature should be between 55-85 degrees F for the delivery of the flooring, acclimation, and installation.
7. The flooring must acclimate at the stated temperature range for at least 48 hours prior to installation in the room to be installed.
8. Keeping the temperature of the room constant will keep a stable environment for the flooring as well as the home.
9. The floor surface temperature must always stay below 85 degrees F.
10. At no time should the relative humidity in the room with the installed flooring fall below 30% during the life of the product.

NOTE: Electrically heated radiant mats not embedded in the subfloor and installed directly under this floor are not recommended. The installation of electrically heated radiant floor heating mats could void the warranty of the installed floor in case of a heating system failure.