



**BERING**

FLOORS & COVERINGS



**RIGID CORE SPC**

**Installation Guidelines**



NOTE: Please check for proper color selection and style prior to Installation. Claims cannot be accepted after installation has begun.

## Important Information Before You Begin

Rigid Core click flooring systems allow for planks to be installed without the use of adhesive. It is recommended that planks be installed with a ¼” gap from all vertical surfaces such as cabinets, walls, door thresholds, transitions, pipes, supports, etc. Ensure that proper moisture testing of substrate takes place prior to any installation. Documentation will be required for any potential claims. Materials should be visually inspected prior to installation. Any materials installed where defects are present will not be considered a legitimate claim. Installation of Rigid Core flooring should not begin until jobsite conditions meet installation requirements. Ensure that product and adhesive are properly acclimated a minimum of 48 hours before, during and after installation. Product is required to be acclimated between 55- and 85- degrees Fahrenheit with a relative humidity no greater than 65%. **WARNING: IN THE EVENT THAT ANY ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS OR OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ARE ENCOUNTERED DURING INSTALLATION, YOU SHOULD STOP THE INSTALLATION IMMEDIATELY AND OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM A QUALIFIED REMEDIATION CONSULTANT OR CONTRACTOR PRIOR TO PROCEEDING.**

### Storage & Handling

- Cartons should be stored flat and squarely on top of one another. Ideal placement of materials should be in the center of the installation site away from heat vents and direct sunlight. Cartons exposed to direct sunlight may impact proper acclimation by prompting thermal expansion or contraction of product.
- Palletizing on a jobsite requires vinyl plank to be stacked 2 rows high in a flush, side by side placement with no visible space between and not to exceed more than 10 boxes high.
- Pallets must never be stacked more than 2 high unless a 1” thick plywood is first placed between the pallets.

## Job site Conditions

It is the responsibility of the Owner and Installer to ensure that job site substrate, subsurface and environmental conditions meet or exceed all requirements as outlined in installation instructions prior to installation. Bering declines all responsibility for product performance or installation failure due to structural, substrate or environmental deficiencies or site conditions.

- Rigid Core flooring installation should not begin until all other trades are completed with their work to avoid dust, debris and damage.
- New concrete needs at least 90 days to dry under ideal conditions. Lightweight concrete and concrete poured above grade in metal pans take a considerably longer time to dry. Installation cannot begin until it is fully dried and in compliance with moisture and alkalinity requirements.



### Job site conditions (continued)

- The permanent HVAC system must be operational and set to a minimum of 65 degrees or a maximum of 85 degrees Fahrenheit with relative humidity between 40% - 65% for no less than 7 days prior to, during and after installation. It should be noted that portable heaters may not provide adequate heat. The temperature should never surpass 85 degrees.
- The continuous installation area cannot exceed 3,000 square feet and no greater than 55 linear feet length or width without a T-mold expansion break.
- Considerations for transitions must be made at substrate changes, room to room environment changes, extremely complex layouts, subfloor elevations, or areas larger than recommended.
- All doorways will need to have transitional expansion molding, such as T-molding (metal, vinyl or rubber), or equivalent that allow for a ¼" expansion.
- Areas of flooring installation should be well lit during all stages of the installation process.
- It is recommended to undercut all door jambs/door casings 1/16" thicker than the rigid core material where applicable to allow for proper movement.
- Before installing, all concrete floors, regardless of age, must comply with the moisture and pH requirements stated below and must otherwise be suitable for rigid core installation as set forth herein. The moisture conditions of the concrete should be determined by use of the In Situ probe relative humidity (RH) test method. Relative Humidity levels should not exceed 95% per ASTM F2170.
- All concrete floors, old and new, should be tested for alkalinity using an approved pH test kit. The approved pH test kit should include pH test strips capable of measuring a range of 0 -14 along with deionized or distilled water. The concrete slab should have an alkalinity level between 7.0 and 9.0 to be suitable for Rigid Core installation. If pH levels fall outside of acceptable ranges STOP, and DO NOT proceed with installation until conditions are remediated.

### Radiant Heat Installation

- Substrates must never exceed 85 degrees F surface temperature.
- Ensure that the radiant heating system has been turned on and operational at maximum temperature to help reduce residual moisture within the concrete, for several days prior to beginning installation.
- At minimum 3 days before and during installation, lower the radiant heat system temperature to 65 degrees F. Post installation gradually increase the radiant heat system temperature in increments of 2 degrees F until reaching desired setting, never to exceed 85 degrees F. Continuous monitoring of the system for "hot spots" is recommended for the life of the floor.



## Approved Substrates

All substrates to receive resilient flooring shall be clean, dry, smooth and structurally sound. They must be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening, or parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation or laitance, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials. All substrates should be flat, level, and structurally sound. They should be free of any foreign materials that would facilitate movement of the rigid core product. The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring is suitable to be installed over the top of with the rigid core product rests solely with the installer/flooring contractor on site.

## Concrete Substrates

- On grade slabs must have an effective vapor retarder under the slab (As per ASTM E-1745 Class B and in accordance with ACI 302-2001)
- Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 3/16" in 10 feet and within the equivalent of 1/32" in 12". F- number System: Overall values of FF 36/FL 20 may be appropriate for resilient floor coverings.
- Concrete floors require Relative Humidity (RH) testing prior to installation of new resilient flooring. These tests must be performed per ASTM F 2170 – Internal Relative Humidity Test. Three tests should be conducted for areas up to 1000 SF; and one additional test is required for each additional 1000 SF. Refer to adhesive section to ensure proper product is used.
- Note: It may not be the floor covering installer's responsibility to conduct these tests. It is, however, the installer's responsibility to ensure that these tests have been performed, and that the results are satisfactory prior to installing floor coverings. When moisture tests are conducted, only the conditions at the time of the test are reported.

## Poured Gypsum Underlayment

- It is recommended that the gypsum-based product be installed at a commercial strength of 3500 psi or higher to help prevent cracking.
- All gypsum-based underlayment must be properly sealed before installing rigid core. Sealing the surface of the gypsum-based material reduces the natural dusting of gypsum-based material.
- Substrate shall be flat and smooth within 3/16" in 10 feet and within the equivalent of 1/32" in 12".
- Floor coverings should not be installed until it can be determined that the gypsum underlayment has dried sufficiently. The use of moisture meters may be used to help ensure the gypsum underlayment is ready to receive resilient flooring. Check with guidelines provided by gypsum underlayment manufacturer.
- Two other methods that may be used for checking dryness may be considered.
- Tape an 18 in. x 18 in. section of 4-mil vinyl plastic (as per ASTM D4263) to the surface of the underlayment and seal the edges.
- Lay a 24 in. x 24 in. high-density, smooth rubber mat on the underlayment surface and sufficiently weigh it down to prevent the mat from shifting.



## Wood Panel Type Substrates

Panel type wood floors substrates must meet ASTM F1482, “Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayments to Receive Resilient Flooring”. The underlayment manufacturer’s installation instructions should be followed.

- Underlayment panels can only correct minor deflection deficiencies in the subfloor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to install Rigid Core flooring. Any failures in the performance of the underlayment panel rest solely with the panel manufacturer.
- Double-layered APA rated plywood subfloors should be a minimum 1” total thickness with at least 18” well-ventilated air space beneath.
- For crawl spaces, insulation and protection should be implemented with the use of a vapor barrier to cover the ground.
- The use of particleboard, chipboard, flakeboard, OSB, hardboard or similar substrates are not suitable subfloor materials. An additional layer of an APA ¼” underlayment grade panel should be used.
- Installation over sleeper construction subfloors directly over concrete is NOT acceptable.
- Wood flooring installed directly over concrete is NOT an acceptable subfloor option.
- Wood substrate shall be flat and smooth within 3/16” in 10 feet and within the equivalent of 1/32” in 12”.

## Existing Floor Covering

All substrates to receive resilient flooring shall be clean, dry, smooth and structurally sound. They must be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening, or parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation or laitance, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials that may interfere with proper installation.

- Never install Rigid Core flooring directly over carpet or other soft surface flooring.
- Cutback adhesives used may contain asbestos and/or crystalline silica fibers. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust increases the risk of cancer and is considered a respiratory tract hazard. Unless positively certain that the previously installed product is a non-asbestos containing material, assume it contains asbestos. Further testing may be required by a licensed professional.
- Refer to the most current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” for complete information and removal instructions. For the most up-to-date information visit [www.rfci.com](http://www.rfci.com).
- Do not install Interface rigid core over CUSHION sheet vinyl. Non-Cushion sheet vinyl can be installed over if stable and firmly fixed to subfloor. If vinyl is soft, heavily embossed, damaged, or loosely laid do not install over these conditions.
- Floor shall be flat and smooth within 1/8” in 6 feet or 3/16” in 10 feet.

Note: The responsibility of determining if existing flooring provides a suitable substrate rest solely with the installer or flooring subcontractor. If there is any doubt as to suitability, the existing flooring should be removed, or an acceptable underlayment



### Quarry Tile, Terrazzo, Ceramic Tile, Poured Concrete (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless)

- Must be fully cured and sufficiently bonded to the concrete.
  - Must be completely clear of any residual solvents and petroleum derivatives. All waxes, polishes, grease, grime, and oil must be fully removed.
  - No signs of moisture or alkalinity should be present.
  - Low spots, holes, chips and seams must be filled to prevent telegraphing through the new flooring. Highly polished or irregular/smooth surfaces should be ground.
- Quarry tile or Ceramic tile grout joints and textured surfaces must be filled using an embossing leveler or an approved material substrate by substrate manufacturer.

## Installation of Rigid Core product

### Pre Installation

Before you start with the installation, it is important to determine the layout of the flooring. Proper planning and layout will prevent having narrow plank widths at the wall junctures or very short length pieces at the end of the rows. Start by working with several open boxes of flooring and dry lay the floor before permanently laying the floor. This will allow you to select varying patterns, textures, and colors within the same dye lot to arrange them in a balanced pattern. All doorways will need to have transitional expansion molding, such as T-molding (metal, vinyl, or rubber), or equivalent that allow for a ¼” expansion)

### Installation

- Snap a chalk line for your first row to follow.
- To minimize pattern repeats, always pull from at least 3 cartons while installing.
- Lay first row of boards with tongue side facing the wall.
- If the starting wall is crooked, trace the contour of the wall on the first row of planks and trim as needed.
- Use spacers along all sides that butt up against walls to maintain 1/4” (6.35 mm) expansion zone.
- Lay pieces from left to right. Lock the end joints by aligning the end tongue with the end groove of the previous board then tapping the joints together with a soft rubber mallet.
- Consider the use of a cardboard template when fitting around obstacles or irregular and transfer this pattern to the plank to cut.
- When measuring the last piece in the row, subtract 1/4” (6.35 mm) from the end of the board to maintain expansion zone.
- Cut decorative side up if using a hand saw or decorative side down if using a power saw to minimize chipping. A utility knife may also be used.



### Installation (continued)

- If the cut-off piece from the first row is 8" (20.32 mm) or longer, use it to start the second row. If it is less than 8" (20.32 mm), cut a full board in half and use that piece.
- Continue laying planks, one row at a time and staggering the end joints.
- Install the long edge of the first board in the second row at an angle to the board in the first row. Press flat to subfloor to lock into place. A scrap piece of material can be used as a tapping block to ensure the long edge is properly engaged.
- Continue installing planks. Maintain a random appearance by offsetting the end joints by at least 6".
- Always be certain that the planks are fully engaged. If slight gapping is noticed, place a cut piece of flooring (bridge piece) in the side groove that spans the ends of two adjacent planks within a row. Then tap the side of the plank with a tapping block.
- When fitting in areas such as door casings it may be necessary to use a flat pull bar to engage the lock.
- Continue installing the remaining rows in similar fashion. For planks, maintain the 6" minimum staggered end joints between rows and maintain the 1/4" gap at perimeter and vertical objects.
- Never insert nails or screws, including door stops, into the Rigid Core flooring or the expansion zone around the flooring perimeter, as they will prevent proper expansion and contraction of the structure and flooring.
- Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing necessary wall molding and/or transition strips.
- **ADD MAX CONTINUOUS DIMENSION FOR RIGID FLOOR**

### Glue down Procedure (optional)

If a full spread glue, down installation is desired, use Bering approved Adhesive. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for adhesive application. Apply enough Bering approved Flooring Adhesive using the recommended trowel at the starting wall in an area that can be covered within the working time of the adhesive. Be sure not to spread adhesive too far ahead of your work area. Begin laying planks in the adhesive after the recommended open time of the adhesive and install row by row using the same locking installation described above including the cut pieces at the perimeter until half of the installation is complete. Stagger the end joints by at least 6" (15.2 cm). Continue applying adhesive in the same fashion being careful not to spread too far beyond the working area. Allow the adhesive to dry-to-touch and complete the installation of planks in similar fashion.

After the planks are installed, immediately roll the entire floor with a 100 lb. roller. Use a hand roller in confined areas where the large floor roller will not reach, such as under toe kicks. The planks may be walked on immediately; however, the floor should not be exposed to heavy rolling load traffic for 72 hours after the installation. Use pieces of hardboard or underlayment panels to protect the floor when moving heavy furniture and appliances back into the room.



### Finishing installation

Replace molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface, not through the flooring. At doorways and at other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a “T - molding, or similar, to cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks. Leave a small gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.

**Note:** Applying tape or any other adhesive product to the surface of the resilient flooring may damage the surface. Therefore, do not use tape or any other adhesive to secure flooring protection to the product. Instead, only use tape to secure flooring protection to the base molding or use an alternative protection such as ram board.

### Proactive Protection For Your Floor

- When moving appliances or heavy furniture it is always wise to lay a plywood panel, or similar, on your floor and “walk” the item across it. This protects your floor from scuffing, gouging and tears.
- Use floor protectors under furniture to reduce indentation. As a rule, the heavier the item, the wider the floor protector needed.
- Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. We strongly recommend mats without a latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration.

### Tile Replacement

- If a plank becomes damaged it can be replaced. If the damaged plank is along the perimeter of the room, just disengage the affected plank and replace with available attic stock. If it is impractical to disengage and reassemble the flooring, the following procedure should be followed:
- Using a small rechargeable circular saw, (Note: Adjust depth of saw blade to the thickness of the rigid core flooring), cut out and remove the center of the damaged plank, leaving approximately a 1” strip attached to the surrounding planks on all sides.
- Carefully cut from the corners of the plank inward through the inside edge.
- Remove the plank edges by wiggling the cut plank out from the tongue and groove of the surrounding planks.
- Prepare the replacement plank by removing the groove strip on both the long and end profile in the 3:00 and 6:00 positions. Use the decorative surface of the tongue end as a guide. Cut away this overhanging profile using a sharp utility knife.
- Using a utility knife remove the tongue in the existing plank in the 6:00 position.
- Place tape centered under existing planks in the 3:00 and 6:00 positions.





### Tile Replacement (continued)

- Use an ethyl cyanoacrylate-based glue, such as Super Glue, Krazy Glue, Gorilla Glue, to help fuse components together.
- Apply small continuous bead along existing planks in the 3:00 and 6:00 positions. Do not over apply and prevent from getting glue on surface of flooring. Wipe off immediately with clean damp cloth if glue gets on surface.
- Position the replacement plank by inserting the tongue of the long side into the groove of the adjoining plank in the 12:00 position.

### Flooring Aftercare

- Sweep or vacuum regularly, to remove loose dirt which can scratch your floor.
- NOTE: We do not recommend vacuums that have a beater bar since it can visibly damage your flooring surface. Additionally, we do not recommend electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding as use may result in discoloration and deglossing.
- Wipe up spills as soon as possible. Never use highly abrasive scrubbing tools on any resilient floor
- Wash your floor regularly with a pH neutral vinyl floor cleaner.