

Pro-Tek™ Installation Instructions

Installer / Owner Responsibilities

Before starting installation, it is important you read all the instructions and warranty information carefully. By starting installation of this product, you are agreeing that you have read and understood all installer's / owner's responsibilities and are aware that deviating from the instructions and recommendations in this installation guide may result in voiding the product warranty.

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

Verify colour and finish before installation. Once the floor is installed, it is deemed to have been inspected, approved, and accepted. The installer / owner assumes full responsibility for the final inspection of this product. Inspection should be done prior to installation and should include print, colour, 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 the quality accepted.

Tools Required

Safety glasses, rubber mallet, mitre saw, straight edge, chalk, tape measure, fitting kit with spacers, either a jig saw and or chop saw with the relevant blades and a drill and drill bit for radiator pipes.

Pre-Installation

When calculating flooring square meterage requirements, allow a minimum of between 5% and 10% for cuts, waste, and defects.

Acclimatise WPC / SPC flooring for a minimum of 48 hours. We recommend you leave the product laid flat in its original packaging until time of installation at a temperature of 20°C to 26°C (68°F to 79°F), in the area in which the flooring will be installed. Protect flooring from excessive heat / cold during storage. Pro-Tek™ Luxury Click Vinyl Flooring is rated for indoor use only and cannot be fitted outdoors.

Subfloor Requirements

All subfloors must be flat and stable

All subfloors must be clean, stable, flat (smooth) and dry prior to installation, regardless of installation method. Floors installed over non-flat subfloors may squeak and / or deflect when walked on. Sweep or vacuum your subfloor immediately prior to installation ensuring there is no debris or grit, as it may interfere with installation. Please note that uneven subfloors may cause the flooring to unclick if a void is left where two boards meet (less than 5mm in any 3m diameter range).

Do not install your WPC / SPC luxury click vinyl flooring over soft, rough, non-flat, non-stable or uneven surfaces. Never install Pro-Tek over an additional underlay as Pro-Tek Luxury Click Vinyl Flooring has a built-in specially formulated superior IXPE foam underlay already. By not adhering to these rules there is a possibility that once laid, the flooring may fail.

Wooden Subfloors

Pro-Tek should **not** be laid directly on floorboards, chipboard or OSB boards if they are not flat, smooth or if they have any bounce, vibration, or movement. All loose floorboards must be firmly fixed prior to installation of your plywood.

Pro-Tek recommends that all wooden subfloors should have the relevant thickness of plywood to level the subfloor enough to lay your WPC / SPC flooring. Nail or screw down with the correct materials depending on the thickness of the ply. Sand down high areas and fill low areas and gaps with the correct screed or compound.

Concrete Subfloors

Most concrete subfloors (slabs) are not flat (smooth) and must be levelled before installation. In all cases, verify the subfloor using a 3m long straightedge to locate high and low areas. Low areas should be filled with a self-levelling compound. The moisture content of the concrete subfloor should not exceed 95% RH. If there is moisture in the subfloor, then an acceptable damp proof membrane will need to be applied prior to installation.

Mosaic, Terrazzo, Ceramics and Quarry Tiles

Take out any loose tiles, level these areas and any grout lines with the relevant smoothing compound.

Linoleum, Thermoplastic, Vinyl and Cork

Make sure that these floors are solid; fix any loose tiles / material and remove any surface polish / sealer.

Metal and Painted Floors

Fully remove any loose paint or finishes.

Carpet, Underlays and Textile Floor Coverings

Must be removed.

Wood Blocks, Parquet and Floating Flooring

Must be removed.

Underfloor Heating

If you wish to install your new flooring over underfloor heating, please consult with the manufacturer of the underfloor heating system to make sure that it is compatible with SPC / WPC flooring.

SPC flooring can be laid over both water-based and electric underfloor heating systems.
WPC can be laid over wet systems only and is not recommended for installation over electric underfloor heating systems.

Floor surface temperature must never exceed 25°C (79°F) and changes in the temperature settings must be gradual. Rapid temperature changes and / or excessive heat may damage the flooring and / or the finish.

It is the responsibility of the 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.

Installation in areas of potential rapid temperature change (south facing rooms, solariums, sunrooms, conservatories etc.) may exceed the temperature limitations of the product and void the product warranty. Verify the temperature fluctuations prior to installation to determine if the area is suitable for WPC / SPC flooring.

Please note that if you fit Pro-Tek flooring in rooms that have rapid temperature changes, an extra allowance of up to 10mm for expansion may be required.

General Tips

It is always recommended to draw boards from a minimum of 3 different boxes during installation to ensure an even distribution of any minor colour variations and slight differences in embossing levels.

Verify locking profile prior to installing. Ensuring the locking strip has not dislodged in transit.

Check for debris or damage. Clean, trim or discard any affected sections.

Floating Click System General Installation Information

You must not:

- Fit kitchen units, kitchen islands or build any fitted furniture such as wardrobes etc on your flooring.
- Drag any furniture or heavy items over your floor.

You must

- Leave an expansion gap of at least 6mm around all perimeters.
- Leave an expansion gap in front of patio doors and fireplaces.
- Use a WPC / SPC matching colour end bar to cover expansion gaps.

For a click floating installation, follow the directions noted above regarding subfloor preparation. Floating installations may be made over most subfloors including plywood or OSB, ceramic / porcelain tile, smooth stone, marble, granite and linoleum. **Do not** install over carpet or any other soft flooring materials, including additional underlay as Pro-Tek already has a built-in underlay attached to the back of each plank.

Important Note: For floating installations, the maximum run in either direction is 39" (1m). Installation areas exceeding this require the use of a transition bar or T-profile. Begin by measuring the width of the room and divide the total width of the room by the width of the panel. Adjust the first-row width so you finish with at least half a width of a panel on the far wall.

Set up a starting line for the first row by measuring the width of the (adjusted) panel. Add ¼" (6mm) to this number and mark the floor at each end of your starting wall, approximately 6" (15cm) away from the corners.

If you are doing a floating installation in a room over 39" (1m) wide and / or 39" (1m) long, you need to install a T-profile mid-room to allow the floor to potentially expand or contract with seasonal changes in temperature.

Using a chalk line carefully snap a line between these two points. Check to make sure there will be minimum ¼" (6mm) between the edge of your first row of panels and the wall. This space allows for any slight expansion of the WPC / SPC flooring and will be covered by the skirting boards / scotia.

Lay out the first row of boards - the short tongue of the long side should be facing the wall. The first board should start at least ¼" (6mm) from the 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' (60-90cm) along the starting wall, plus each end of the starting rows so boards do not move when set into place.

Assemble the end joints by inserting the tongue on the short side of the panel at an angle of approximately 25 degrees and lower into place. Continue in this manner until the first row is complete.

To start the second row, use the remainder of the last board of the first row if it is longer than 12" (30cm) long, otherwise, cut a new board 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).**

For **Pro-Tek™ Tiles** always fit in a brick work fashion so all the header joints (short end joints) are aligned to one row. The locking system is different on this product. Please refer to our website www.pro-tek-flooring.com for further information.

Install one board at a time so that the end with the large lip is exposed to receive the next plank. Using an existing cut piece with the profile that locks into the large lip end of the panel, gently tap in the cut piece until the ends of the panels lock together and repeat for rest of row. **Do not** use too much force when tapping the panels together, as this may damage the locking profile.

For the final board 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 panels together, as this may damage the locking profile.

In the case where you are unable to angle boards (e.g. under a door frame or radiator), you can cut away the locking edge of the lip of the bottom groove by using a Stanley knife. Run a bead of sealant on the now modified tongue and groove. Tighten the boards gently with the use of a pull-bar and hammer.

If a door frame must be undercut, lay a panel of flooring next to the door frame with the patterned side facing down. Undercut the door jamb with a saw, then slide the flooring panel under the door jamb with the patterned side facing upwards. Please note that the floor must be allowed to expand under the door jamb and the recommended expansion gap must be respected.

Ensure there is a minimum ¼" (6mm) gap around the entire floor perimeter and any obstacles. Measure and cut the last boards to fit so that there is a minimum of ¼" (6mm) gap along the last wall.

Remove all temporary spacers, sweep and vacuum immediately.

Note: You must use a T-profile transition strip between rooms. Failure to do so, may cause damage to the floor and will void the warranty.

Please refer to our website; www.pro-tek-flooring.com for the locking system information, including video instructions.

Maintenance

General cleaning

It is recommended that you sweep and vacuum the area immediately after installation to remove potential damaging grit and debris.

Further cleaning with an approved pre-finished floor cleaner is also recommended, as required. **Do not** buff, wax or use cleaning products that contain surfactants. Never steam clean or use a steam mop on the floor.

Skirting and scotia

Replace or install new matching skirting or scotia in all areas. Skirting boards are to be nailed into the wall and scotia into the skirting boards. **Do not** nail either of these into the WPC / SPC flooring.

Transition pieces

If you have removed any transition pieces and not covered their place with WPC / SPC flooring, reinstall them immediately.

Furniture & appliances

If you are moving and placing furniture and appliances in areas with WPC / SPC floors, cover all feet and floor contact points with heavy self-adhesive felt pads to protect the floor. Felt pads on chair legs should be replaced periodically, as they wear and accumulate grit with use and can damage the floor.

Lift heavy objects when moving (furniture or appliance) - **Do not** roll or slide them across the floor.

Please use floor mats under all caster chair wheels as continuous use over a joint may cause the flooring to fail.

Outdoor footwear, hard-soled shoes and stiletto-type heels should not be worn when walking on your WPC / SPC floor, as they may mark, abrade or otherwise damage the surface and finish of your floor.

Keep pet nails trimmed, especially dogs, as they may damage the floor. Toilet training accidents should be cleaned immediately. Do not keep litter boxes or food / water dishes directly on the flooring.

Limited Flooring Warranty

This warranty is subject to the procedures, recommendations, limitations, disclaimers and exclusions and can be viewed on our website **www.pro-tek-flooring.com**

Pro-Tek flooring colour can vary from batch to batch. Please refer to T&C on our website.

You must register your purchase on the website www.pro-tek-flooring.com to validate your warranty.

Accessories

Pro-Tek Flooring is the only company in the UK to manufacture door bars to exact colour match your Pro-Tek floor.