

## NATURAL HYBRID SPC INSTALLATION GUIDE

These guidelines have been prepared based on best industry practices for installation to attain finest finishes and performance of your Decoline hybrid SPC flooring. Variation to these recommendations may void the Decoline warranty.

Flooring that is installed as a floating system must not exceed usage where load is potentially to exceed 200kg per object area or the load exceeds 30kg/ cm<sup>2</sup>, in the event objects do direct stuck flooring should be considered.

### Pre-Installation Check List

Installer is accountable for checking product prior to installation;

That it is the correct

- Product
- Colour
- Pattern
- Texture

That the recommended installation guidelines have been read and understood.

Product has been acclimatised accordingly.

Individual planks are to be inspected in good light to ensure no visible defects of the surface of locking system are present prior to installation.

All defective product to be reported to place of purchase for replacement or refund.

Upon installation this constitutes acceptance that the product is free of surface and visible defects and claims pertaining to these thereafter maybe voided.

Install from 3 different boxes to assure an even distribution of minor colour variations, texture and gloss level.

### General Requirements:

- Always store and transport cartons stacked neatly on a smooth, flat, solid surface. Never stack cartons on their sides or ends.
- Decoline SPC flooring does not need to be acclimatised, in the event the flooring has been exposed to extreme conditions in the previous 24 hours see the below recommendation.
- In the event Decoline flooring has been exposed to extreme conditions in the previous 24 hours acclimatise flooring at a constant temperature between 18°C to 30°C for 48 hours prior to installation in unopened packs. To provide best acclimatisation maximum 4 packs high with a space of 250mm between each row.
- When concrete is the subfloor it must be tested in accordance with AS 1884-2021 for moisture content, Relative Humidity (RH) not to exceed 95%.
- Additional underlayment is not recommended and may void your warranty. When installing SPC/Rigid Core without attached underlay backing it should be a high-density underlay not over 1.5mm thick.

- Mix planks from three different cartons to ensure a random appearance.
- SPC/Rigid Core is waterproof but not a moisture barrier. Water can damage the sub floor by penetrating around the perimeter of the floor, or high moisture levels below your floor can migrate through the joint of the SPC and cause a condition called blushing. Water damage and associated conditions are not warranted.
- Do not install fixed objects, such as cabinets or islands on top of this flooring or fasten trim or moulding directly to the floor. This will void warranties and may cause plank separation or peaking due to plank expansion and contraction.
- Do not install SPC/Rigid Core over uneven, rough or soft surfaces, or over floating floors. All sub floors must be clean, flat, and dry. All high or low areas exceeding 3mm per 2000mm must be corrected.
- Wood subfloors plywood, OSB, PB or APA approved plywood, sub floors should be flat, structurally sound, and free from deflection (up and down movement). To avoid a squeaking sub floor, nail or screw the floor every 200mm.
- Fill cracks, saw cuts and control joints and level uneven areas that exceed 2mm in 1000mm. Do not install flooring over expansion joints. All subfloors must be patched or levelled.

## Tools

Electric Saw	Ruler
Jig Saw	Tape Measure
Utility Knife	Chalk Line
Pull Bar	Carpenter Square
Soft White Rubber Mallet	3 meter Straight Edge
8 – 10mm Spacers	

## Wet Areas

SPC/Rigid Core is waterproof but not a moisture barrier. Water can damage the sub floor by penetrating around the perimeter of the floor, or high moisture levels below your floor can migrate through the joint of the SPC and cause a condition called blushing. Water damage and associated conditions are not warranted and should not be installed in areas such as saunas and outdoor areas.

Decoline maybe installed in such areas as bathrooms, laundries and toilets. In the event the product is these should be compartmentalised from the main floor area. The perimeter expansion gaps should use an appropriate wet area silicone that will prevent water leaching through to the subfloor. Do not permit water pooling on the floor for extended time.

**\* WARNING! DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.**

Previously installed resilient floorcovering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesives used to install them may contain either asbestos fibres and/or crystalline silica. The products in this carton DOES NOT contain asbestos or

crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust is a cancer and respiratory hazard. Unless positively certain that the previously installed product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material.

## Sub-Floor

To be free of oil, grease, dirt, dust, paint, any foreign objects, level, flat, dry any irregularities that will have a negative impact of the performance of the Decoline flooring. Using a 2meter straight edge check the subfloor is within a 3mm tolerance over a 2meter radius. If it exceeds this tolerance use an appropriate levelling compound to bring the subfloor within tolerance.

Concrete sub floors to have moisture test in accordance with AS 1884-2021 RH not to exceed 95%.

In a residential application Decoline SPC flooring can be installed over existing flooring ceramic tiles direct stuck vinyls on the proviso the floor is soundly secured, flat and level. Ceramic tiles need to ensure that the grout lines are no more than 3mm deep if so, a self-levelling compound suitable needs to be applied.

## Perimeter Expansion Gap

For the best performance of your Decoline SPC flooring a perimeter expansion gap of no less than 8mm is recommended. The flooring requires no expansion gaps throughout the floor area if the floor is with in 15 meters in length and 15 meters in width. Being a floating floor installation, it not recommended that a caulking or silicone product is used as these have the potential to restrict the floor from moving.

## Installation:

- The length and width of the area must be accurately measured to determine the centre point and to ensure the installation will be square. To obtain a balanced layout, it may be necessary to adjust the centre point affecting the width of the first row to prevent short narrow planks around the perimeter.
- Determine the layout to achieve the largest cut planks at the walls and snap a chalk line at the starting point.
- Lay the first row of planks along the chalk line and trim to fit to the wall allowing the appropriate amount of expansion space. Note: If starting the first row with a whole width plank it will be necessary to trim the tongue off against the wall. Always place the cut edge against the wall.
- 5G is the best locking system in the industry. It has an angle (long side)/drop (short side) locking system for stability, convenience, and quickness. This system requires that the long sides be installed first by engaging the joint at a shallow angle while lining up the short side drop lock mechanism. Once the long side is engaged, firmly press the top left of the drop lock joint down with the thumb to properly seat and align the joint. The installing plank should not be resting on the face of the adjacent plank nor should there be any gaps in between the two planks. Once properly aligned, the end joint can be carefully seated with a rubber mallet while tapping approximately 25mm from the end of the joint. **Note:** Care must be taken while aligning the end joints. If they

are not properly aligned, it will damage the locking system. If a plank needs to be removed, SLIDE the plank horizontally to disengage or lift evenly on both ends. DO NOT pull a single plank up to disengage as this will damage the locking system. The resulting damage is not considered a manufacturing defect or covered by warranty.

- Attach the end joints of the planks in the first row. Insert the tongue into the groove while holding the plank at a 20° to 30° angle to the floor. Apply pressure inward and down until the planks lock together. Use spacers between the edge and end of the planks and the wall to maintain the appropriate amount of expansion space.
- Start the second row using 1/3rd of a plank. Place the cut end against the wall. Insert the tongue on the long side of the plank into the groove of the plank in the first row. Hold the plank in a 20° to 30° angle while applying pressure inward and down until they lock together. To complete the second and all successive rows it will be necessary to engage the planks long side into the previous row before locking the short end of the plank.
- Start the third row using 2/3rds of a plank with the cut end against the wall. Complete each row thereafter using a random layout with end joints off-set by at least 8". Plan the layout to avoid using small planks (less than 150mm) at the walls. The cut piece at the end of the row can often be used to start the next row provided it achieves a random layout. Always place the cut end against the wall and allow the proper amount of expansion space.
- When fitting around a door trim it will be necessary to slide the plank under the trim. This can be accomplished easily by starting the row on the side of the room with the door trim and then sliding the plank into place once it is attached. The row can be completed by inserting the tongue into the groove or the groove into the tongue depending on the direction. Use a series of light taps until the joint is gradually locked together.

## Cut Side against Wall



## Stairs

Decoline SPC flooring can be installed on stairs in this situation must be direct stuck with appropriate adhesive such as Bostik Anchor Weld UF1 vinyl adhesive or other brand, the adhesive should be a **water-based** product rather than a solvent based. The acoustic backing should be left on the back of the hybrid SPC flooring and the adhesive applied with a 3mm notch trowel, refer to adhesive manufacturer's recommended guidelines.

## Floor Care -

- 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 castors or wheels must be easy swivelling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do not use ball type castors as they can damage the floors.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Avoid using a vacuum with a beater bar.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do not use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor.
- We recommend using a pH neutral vinyl floor cleaner as required. We do not warrant any of the cleaning agents or conditions associated with them as the application is beyond our control.
- Never use a steam cleaner or a steam mop on the flooring.

## Plank Replacement -

Should one of the planks/tiles become damaged and need to be replaced, follow these simple instructions:

1. Score top of damaged plank/tile with a utility knife. Make two triangle cuts near the end joint and then connect the points with one long cut in the middle of the plank/tile. (See diagram below.)



Score Tile As Shown

2. Use an awl or screwdriver to tap down through plank/tile on scored triangle cut points.
3. Lift and remove damaged tile.
4. With the pattern side facing up on the new replacement plank/tile, trim off the short lip on the tongue side and the groove on the compression joint side, making it flush with the edge of the plank/tile. Be careful not to damage the finish surface of the tile.



5. Cut several pieces of acrylic double-sided tape made for vinyl floors and slide under the edges of the existing floor on the two edges where the replacement plank/tile will have its lips cut off. Tape should face sticky side up; leave the paper on the side facing the floor.
  6. Using a Premium Seam Bond, run a small bead of sealer on the groove edge of the panel of the existing floor where the replacement plank/tile will rest.
- NOTE:** The long tongue of the replacement plank/tile and the uncut compression fit end joint will not need tape or seam adhesive as you will be using the plank's/tile's locking mechanism.
7. Install replacement plank/tile by angling the long groove of the replacement panel under and over the tongue of the floor panel until the finish edge of the replacement panel is tight against the finish edge of the floor plank, and the compression end joint is lined up. Rotate down, locking the length tongue joint then pressing the end joint with your thumb or palm of your hand to lock into place.
  8. Wipe any excess sealer that comes to the surface of the tiles with a damp cloth and follow with a dry cloth to ensure all sealer is removed from tile surface.
  9. Keep foot traffic off the replaced plank/tile for 24 hours.