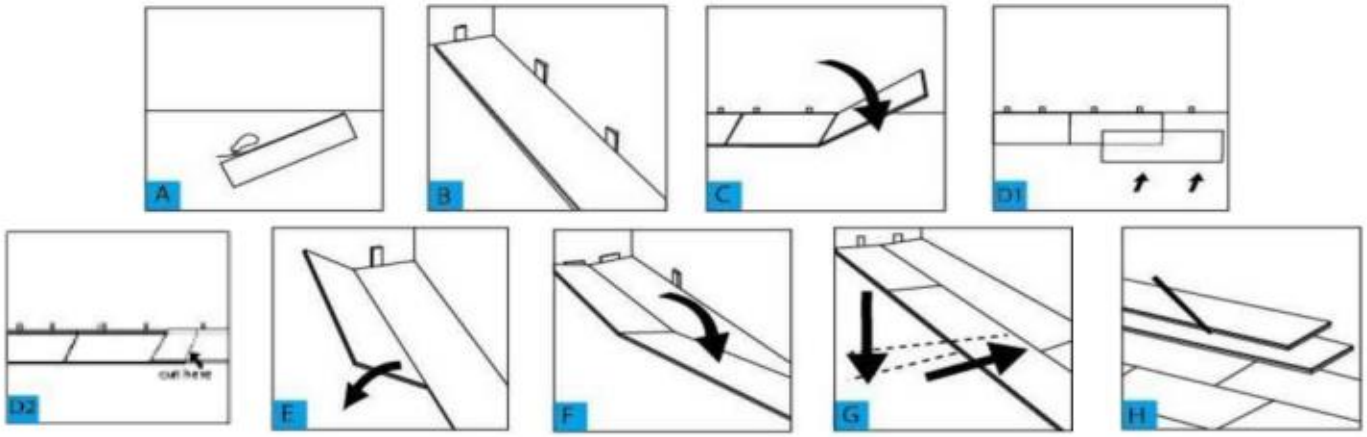
MSI
www.msisurfaces.com

1. **Read enclosed detailed installation instructions before beginning install.**
2. **A flat subfloor is a must!**
3. **Proper moisture testing is a must!**
4. **Proper expansion around all permanent structures is a must!**
5. **Molding, trim, transition, and finish pieces must not prevent the floor from floating.**
6. **Failure to follow installation instructions will void warranty**
7. **No acclimation is required under proper conditions.**

Please Carefully Read All Instructions Before You Begin Your Installation.
Improper Installation Will Void The Warranty.



Always check flooring planks for defects such as chips and color variations under good light conditions. Check that groove are free of debris. **Use planks from multiple boxes** during installation to insure random pattern variation. Inherent variations that are consistent with those of a natural product to include pattern, color, and texture do not indicate defective material. It is normal and expected for there to be color and gloss variations. Therefore, color and gloss inconsistency between samples, replacement product, or illustrations and actual product is not a manufacturing defect.

No acclimation is required under proper conditions. However, if flooring is exposed to temperatures less than 40º F (5º C) or more than 95º F (35º C) and/or if the flooring is exposed to relative humidity below 35% or above 70%, flooring must be conditioned by spreading them out in unopened cartons, not stacked, in the room where they will be installed, for minimum 12 hours under the recommended temperature and humidity ranges specified in this installation guide.

The area in which the flooring is installed must remain *climate controlled with the temperature between 65-85°F (18-25°C) for the life of the product.
** MSI's Everlife SPC flooring may be installed in a vacation home, three-seasons room, etc., with a temperature between 55-95° (13-35°C) at least 48-hours before and during the installation, even if temporary temperatures must be taken. Thereafter, the temperature cannot fall to below 40°F (5°C) or higher than 95°F (35°C) and RH must maintain between 35-70%. In these installations, you must use transition moldings at doorways and in any span greater than 40' in any direction, as is true in light comercial and radiant heat installations.*

This product 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 unless it is fully adhered and do not fasten trim/molding/transition pieces directly to the floor.

** You may adhere MSI's Everlife SPC flooring in light comercial and comercial installations using MSI's MS007 or MS009 adhesive, following directions on the pail.*

Required Tools and Supplies:

- Circular Saw
- Safety Glasses
- ¼" or ½" spacers
- Utility Knife
- Straight Edge Ruler or T-Square
- Pencil
- Tape Measure

If existing baseboard molding is difficult to remove, Quarter Round molding likely will be required to cover the expansion space need between flooring and baseboard.

SUITABLE TYPES OF FLOORS AND FLOOR PREPARATION

The sub floor must be **flat, dry, and clean**. Carpet staples or any/all adhesive residue must be removed and floor must be clean to ensure proper installation. All wooden subfloors must be structurally sound and must be installed following the American Plywood Association's (APA) and the manufacturer's recommendations. *If it is uncertain that any old adhesive residue may cause issues, use MSI's MS005 Adhesive Encapsulator.*

To check for flatness, hammer a nail into the center of the floor. Tie a string to the nail and push the knot against the floor. Pull the string tight to the farthest of the room and examine the floor for any high/lows relative to the string. Subfloors must be flat to 1/8" per 6' (3mm per 0.92 meter). Any areas in excess of the flatness specification must be sanded down or filled with an appropriate leveler.

This product can be installed over most existing floors including wood, non-cushioned vinyl or linoleum, and ceramic/porcelain tile if the existing flooring is intact and properly secured to the subfloor. If installing over ceramic/porcelain tile, grout lines in excess of 1/16" (0.625) must be filled with a Portland based skim coat/floor leveler according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

Warning: This product should not be installed over carpet. Installation over carpet will void the warranty. If an additional underlayment beyond what is already attached to the product is required, an MSI approved underlayment should be used (Abatec or Mititec). When installed in rooms with direct sunlight, during the peak hours of sunlight, the use of blinds/shades or drapes to avoid prolonged direct sunlight period is recommended.

This product is waterproof but is not a moisture barrier. The product can withstand topical water and water penetration for us to 16 hours without being damaged. However, water leaking over or around the outer edges of the flooring can damage a wood subfloor and breed mold/mildew growth on subfloor and walls. This is not considered a defect in the flooring.

Moisture in concrete subfloors can create high moisture vapor emission levels, hydrostatic pressure, and high alkalinity levels. This combination is highly corrosive and damaging to flooring, over time. To avoid this, ensure that concrete subfloors are constructed according to the American Concrete Institution's guidelines (ACI's 302.2 Guide). To check current conditions, an RH test using in situ Probes (ASTM F2170) is necessary. If the level of hydrostatic pressure is over 90% RH, or will be above 90% RH during the life of the slab, our warranty requires moisture mitigation, such as the use of a moisture barrier, like a 6-mil poly film or MSI underlayment, or you must use MSI adhesive designed to support 95%+ RH. There also is calcium chloride testing (ASTM F1869) but the in situ Probe (ASTM F2170) is the preferred test. Lightweight concrete (minimum density of 90 lbs. per cubic

foot) is acceptable if installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and primed with MSI's MS003 primer. ***Note: New concrete needs to cure for at least 60 days before installing flooring materials.***

If considering **Radiant heat**, only Hydronic radiant heat is allowed. The heating components must have a mínimum of 3/8" separation from the product. System must be operational for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation. Five days prior to installation, the temperature should be reduced to 65°F (18°C). After installation, the temperature can be raised gradually (5°F per hour) to a maximum operation temperature of 85°F (29°C). An in-floor thermostat is recommended to avoid overheating and a transition strip must be used for any installation longer than 40' in any direction. It is also suggested to use T-Molding in doorways.

Installation

Note: inspect the planks/tiles for visible defects, color, finish and quality prior to installation. Installing defective planks/tiles implies acceptance.

•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. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off (Figure A).

Note: The first row of planks may need to be trimmed lengthwise for a better fit at the end of the installation. Measure the room and divide by the width of the plank. If there is a remainder of less than 2", the first row will need to be trimmed by that amount.

•Starting in the left hand corner, place the first plank with its' trimmed side towards the wall. Use spacers along all walls to maintain a minimum expansion gap of 1/4" (7-8mm) between the walls and the flooring (Figure B).

•Attach the ends of the first plank and the second plank by lifting the second plank and inserting the tongue on the short side into the groove of the first plank and lowering it into place. Line up edges and corners carefully (Figure C).

Using a sharp utility knife and a straight edge, score a line on the top surface of the plank. The plank should split on the score line with little effort. Use saw to cut plank to size.

Note: The end pieces must be longer than 8". This may require cutting a plank to start a row depending on the size of the room.

•Begin the next row with the cut piece from the previous row, creating the necessary stagger. 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 D).

•Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short end tongue into the previously installed plank's groove. Align the plank so that the long side tongue tip is positioned just over the groove lip of the plank in the first row (Figure E). Working from the end seam, at a low angle, insert the long tongue into the groove of the adjoining plank. 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 F). Continue locking each piece into place, short side first and then long side.

•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).

•Door Frames and heating vents also require expansion room. Cut the planks to the correct length. Place the cut plank 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 the correct expansion distance on each side. T-molding is suggested in all doorways.

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

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

Maintenance, Tips, and Warnings

MAINTENANCE:
Dust-mop or broom can be used for daily maintenance. When necessary, clean with a MOIST cloth or mop and a neutral PH cleaner – heavy use of detergent cleaners will leave a residue and, over time, lead to a cloudy film.
NEVER USE floor polish or floor cleaning wax, oils, soaps, etc. These products can damage and/or leave a film on the flooring. This is not a flooring defect.

TIPS:
- Always use felt tip protectors on all furniture legs/feet, and regularly clean any gathered dirt/grit from the pads
- Walk off mats should be placed at all exterior entrances to protect the Flooring from soil, grit, deicers, asphalt sealers, and other contaminants capable of damaging the Flooring. Suitable walk off mats should contain both soft and firm fibers to facilitate removal of wet or solid contaminants from shoe soles. An extra set of walk off mats should be available for each entrance so walk off mats can be replaced and cleaned weekly during routine maintenance or more often depending upon site and weather conditions. **Warning:** Never use vinyl/latex/rubber backed protective mats
- Area rugs are recommended
- Keep pet nails trimmed
- Sharp shoe-heels (e.g. high-heels) may dent the floors
- Never slide furniture across a floor without pads
- Keep floors clean
- For wet areas such as bathrooms, caulk/completely seal the perimeter of the floor with a flexible silicon caulk

REFER TO THE CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR PROPER CARE & MAINTENANCE.