STONECORE
QUALITY SET IN STONE

POTOMAC PLUS SPC

Professional Floating-Floor Installation & Care Guide

PLANK	THICKNESS	WEAR LAYER	LOCKING	UNDERLAY
7-1/2" x 48"	7 mm	22 mil	Välinge 2G	IXPE Pad

READ BEFORE INSTALLATION

Installation constitutes acceptance of the visible condition of the flooring. Inspect material, color and locking edges, and jobsite conditions before starting. Do not install visibly damaged planks. This guide supersedes legacy factory notes for the current Stonecore collection.

1 Installation Method & Basic Requirements

ITEM	STONECORE REQUIREMENT
Installation method	Floating mechanical-lock installation. Do not nail, staple or fasten through the flooring. Do not glue to the substrate unless the manufacturer provides written project-specific approval.
Acclimation	Acclimate flat, in unopened boxes, in the installation space for at least 48 hours. Maintain a room temperature of 64-79 F (18-26 C) before, during and after installation.
Expansion space	1/4" (5 mm) minimum at all walls, columns, pipes, door jambs, cabinets, islands and fixed vertical surfaces. Increase to 5/16" (8 mm) for areas over 1,000 sq ft (100 m2).
Continuous field	Use a transition / expansion break when a continuous run exceeds 50 ft (15 m) in either direction, unless the manufacturer approves in writing.
End-joint stagger	10" (250 mm) minimum; avoid H-joints and stair-step patterns. Use cut pieces only when at least 8" long.
Extra underlayment	Do not add a second cushioned underlayment beneath this attached-pad product unless the manufacturer approves in writing.

EXPANSION GAP

END-JOINT STAGGER ≥ 10"

2 Subfloor Requirements

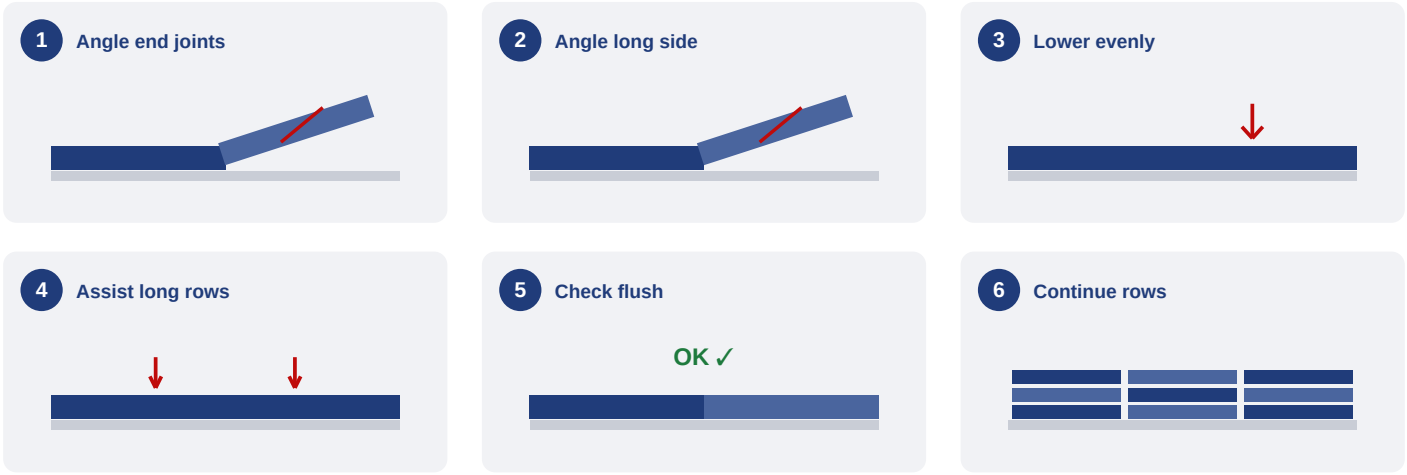
REQUIREMENT	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD
Flatness	3/16" in 10 ft or 1/8" in 6 ft maximum variation. Grind high spots and fill low areas with a cementitious patch / leveler.
Condition	Structurally sound, dry, clean, smooth, stable and free of dust, wax, oil, paint, solvents and loose material.
Concrete	Prepare per ASTM F710. Test and document moisture regardless of slab age or grade. No active hydrostatic pressure or visible moisture.
Vapor protection	Over concrete, install a continuous 6-mil polyethylene vapor retarder; lap seams at least 8" and tape continuously.
Wood / existing	Wood subfloors: dry, fastened, stable. May install over sound, flat ceramic or a single fully-adhered resilient layer. Never over carpet.

SUBFLOOR FLATNESS

3 Tools

Tape measure, pencil, chalk line, square, 1/4" spacers, utility knife or approved rigid-core cutter/saw, tapping block, pull bar, soft rubber mallet, vacuum, straightedge, moisture meter, safety glasses and PPE. Use dust collection when power-cutting.

4 Installation Sequence — Välinge 2G Angling



5 Layout & Detailing

- **Door jambs:** undercut casing so the floor slides underneath without being pinched.
- **Transitions:** fasten tracks / moldings to the subfloor, never through the floating floor.
- **Fixed cabinets & islands:** install before the floor — never trap the floating floor beneath fixed millwork.
- **Stairs:** the floating locking method is not a stair-tread installation; use approved Stonecore nosings / trims.
- **Wet rooms:** seal the perimeter with flexible 100% silicone where required, then cover with trim — do not rigidly grout the expansion

6 Radiant Heat, Acoustics & Thermal Conditions

Permitted only over a properly operating embedded radiant system compatible with resilient flooring. **Floor surface temperature must not exceed 81 F (27 C).** Change radiant settings gradually. Use solar control on large south/west glass. Maintain a stable, occupied indoor environment.

Acoustics: The attached IXPE acoustic pad reduces impact sound and hollow underfoot noise versus an unpadded floor. Rated impact-insulation (IIC) performance depends on the full floor / ceiling assembly - slab, cavity and ceiling below - not on the plank alone. Request the project-specific SGS acoustic test report from the manufacturer when a code or spec IIC / STC value is required.

7 Care & Maintenance

✓ DO

- ✓ Sweep, dust-mop or vacuum (no beater bar) regularly.
- ✓ Damp-mop with a pH-neutral resilient / vinyl cleaner.
- ✓ Use felt protectors and soft casters under furniture.
- ✓ Use non-staining walk-off mats at entries.
- ✓ Wipe spills promptly; distribute heavy point loads.

✗ DON'T

- ✗ No steam mops, abrasive pads or scouring powders.
- ✗ No solvent cleaners, paste wax or 'mop-and-shine'.
- ✗ No rubber / latex-backed mats unless confirmed safe.
- ✗ Don't drag appliances or heavy loads across planks.
- ✗ Not a waterproofing membrane — correct standing water.

8 Installer Closeout Checklist

- ☐ Material inspected; damaged planks set aside
- ☐ Subfloor flatness confirmed (3/16" / 10 ft)
- ☐ 1/4" expansion maintained at all fixed surfaces
- ☐ No cabinets / molding fasteners pinching the floor
- ☐ All locking joints visually closed and flush
- ☐ Product acclimated 48 hrs at 64-79 F
- ☐ Concrete moisture tested; vapor retarder installed
- ☐ End joints staggered ≥ 10"; no short pieces
- ☐ Radiant surface ≤ 81 F where applicable
- ☐ This current Stonecore guide provided to owner / GC

Technical basis: current Stonecore product specifications; ASTM F710 concrete preparation; Välinge 5Gi Push-Down and 2G Angling installation principles; current professional rigid-core practice. If a project specification conflicts with this guide, stop work and obtain written direction from the manufacturer.

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