



WPC Vinyl Flooring - Standard Installation Guide

This guide is applicable to the following flooring styles:

1627-4A Caramel Oak; 562-44 Stony Creek;
625L-21 Tanglewood; 2103L Artisan Tan; 562L-11
Rockwood

PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION

Moisture:

- **Designer Choice WPC Vinyl is waterproof – but it is NOT a water-proofer.**
- Subfloors must be carefully checked for excessive moisture and **any moisture issues must be resolved prior to flooring installation.** Flooring can be installed if the moisture level is under 35%. A moisture level over 55% is unsuitable for installation. A moisture meter can be used to verify humidity of the installation area.
- **Use of a moisture barrier is required with all Designer Choice flooring installations.** (We recommend 6 mil poly plastic sheeting with waterproof taping at all joints.)

Acclimation:

- **Prior to installation, you must acclimate your Designer Choice WPC Vinyl Flooring:**
 - Place the flooring horizontally in the room of installation for 48 hours before installing.
 - Be sure the room is climate-controlled with a temperature between 65° & 85° F. Relative humidity must be between 35%-55%.
 - Do not remove the flooring from the box during the acclimation period.
 - Ensure that the room meets all preparation guidelines for 48 hours during acclimation, throughout the installation process, and after installation is complete.
 - Store flooring in the box until you are ready for installation.

Subfloor Preparation:

- The subfloor surface must be smooth, flat, dry, clean and solid. Carpet staples or adhesive residue must be removed to ensure proper installation.
- Subfloor should be flat within a tolerance of 3/16" over a span of 10 feet. Any unevenness over 3/16" must be sanded down or filled with a floor leveler. Voids or humps in the subfloor will prevent the flooring from locking properly.
- WPC flooring can be installed over certain existing floor covering materials following these guidelines:
 - Existing floor covering must be smooth and consist of a single layer of non-cushioned flooring which is well-adhered to the subfloor. Use leveling compound to smooth the flooring surface if needed.

- Hardwood flooring must be secure and well-bonded to the subfloor. Repair any loose boards or squeaks prior to installation of the new flooring.
- Ceramic tile must be secure and well-bonded to the subfloor. Grout lines should be filled with leveling compound.
- **Do not install WPC flooring over carpet, perimeter-glued resilient flooring, or any other floating floor installation.**
- A moisture barrier must be placed under all Designer Choice flooring. Use 6 mil poly plastic sheeting with waterproof taping at all joints to ensure a proper seal. **DO NOT USE PADDING NOT APPROVED BY DESIGNER CHOICE FLOORING. USING UNAPPROVED PADDING WILL VOID THE WARRANTY.**

Concrete Subfloors:

- The moisture content of concrete subfloors should not exceed 3% using a concrete moisture meter.
- Concrete must be pH neutral prior to flooring installation.
- ASTM f 2170 test for concrete slabs should not exceed 80% or ASTM f 1869 should not exceed 3lbs. of moisture vapor per 1000 square ft. per 24 hrs.
- New concrete floors need to cure for a minimum of 60 days prior to flooring installation.
- **A moisture barrier (6 mil poly plastic) must be placed over all concrete subfloors prior to product installation.**
- **MANUFACTURER DOES NOT WARRANT OR GUARANTEE UNSATISFACTORY INSTALLATIONS DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF EXCESSIVE ALKALI, MOISTURE, OR HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE IN CONCRETE SUBFLOORS.**

Wood Subfloors:

- Wood subfloors should be dry with a moisture content in line with the relative humidity of the service environment.
- Bare soil in crawl spaces must be covered with 6 mil poly plastic sheeting.
- The subfloor must be completely stable. Subflooring should be nailed or screwed every 6" along the floor joists. Any loose sections must be secured prior to flooring installation.
- Level low spots with a leveling compound, and sand down any high areas to ensure the subfloor material is level.
- All wood subfloors should be prepared according to the latest revision of ASTM F1482 *Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayment to Receive Resilient Flooring.*
- **A moisture barrier (6 mil poly plastic) must be placed over all wood subfloors prior to product installation.**

Purchase Enough Flooring to Complete Your Project:

- Measure the length & width of your room to get the square footage. If the room has alcoves or offsets, measure them separately. Account for 10% extra to cover mistakes, trimming, and/or for future needs or replacement.

Plan Adequately for Transitions:

- **If installing more than 40 linear feet, or if the floor spans between two separate rooms, you must install a transition piece to ensure the floor does not separate.** Designer Choice Flooring offers a complete line of transition moldings, designed with a low profile and coordinating colors.

CAUTION: Do not install cabinets on top of WPC flooring. Do not install Designer Choice WPC vinyl over carpet or any foam or unapproved underlayment. This product is not suitable for outside use, sunrooms/solariums, or saunas. We highly recommend you do not install in rooms or homes that are not temperature-controlled. Exposure to long-term direct sunlight can cause damage to your floor.

INSTALLATION

Precautions:

- Dust from this product can be hazardous to your health.
- Power tools should be equipped with dust collectors, and precautions should be taken to prevent ignition.
- The manufacturer recommends limiting dust exposure to prevent the following health problems: eye and skin irritation, reduced lung function, asthma, and nasal cancer. Use an approved dust mask and safety glasses when sawing or cutting WPC vinyl flooring.

Installation Tips:

- During installation, please keep dust, dirt, or foreign particles away from the locking strip. The cleaner the locking strip, the better the bond between planks.
- Work from 2 - 3 different cartons at a time to insure the best representation of plank pattern, color, and design.
- Start the installation in the left-hand corner of the room, placing planks so the groove sides face out.
- When fitting around irregular objects, make a pattern out of heavy paper (be sure to add space for the required expansion gap). Place the pattern on the plank and trace the shape, then cut along the trace lines to shape the plank.

Check Planks Prior to Installation:

- Check each plank for blemishes or flaws. Return any defective planks to your dealer for replacement prior to installation. **Flooring with visible defects should not be installed.**

Use Expansion Spacers:

- **Expansion spacers must be used when installing floating floors** to allow for subfloor movement or product expansion. These gaps will be covered by moldings or trims after the installation is complete.
- **Spacers should be placed along all walls, and at all vertical obstructions** (walls, cabinets, floor vents, door frames, etc.), **and remain in place until installation is complete.**
- Door jambs or casings should be undercut to allow for the required expansion space.
- **This WPC flooring requires a 3/8" expansion gap. The expansion gap is required at all walls and vertical obstructions. FAILURE TO GIVE ADEQUATE EXPANSION SPACE WILL VOID THE WARRANTY AND CAUSE THE INSTALLATION TO FAIL.**

INSTALLATION

Recommended Tools and Accessories:

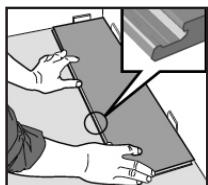
1. Installation Kit (Tapping Block, Pull Bar, Spacers)
2. Rubber Mallet
3. Dust Mask
4. Safety Glasses
5. Chalk Line
6. Tape Measure
7. 3-6 Foot Straight Edge
8. Square
9. Pencil
10. Utility Knife
11. Electric Saw and/or Jigsaw
12. Moisture Barrier Material (6 mil Poly Plastic)
13. Moisture-Proof Tape
14. Finishing Accessories and Trims (T-Molds, Reducers, Baseboards, and Quarter Round, etc.)

Installation Procedure:

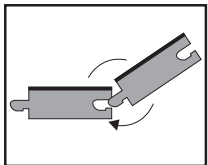
1. **Cut First Row Planks, if Needed:** Divide the room's width by the width of the flooring plank. If the last row of installed planks will be less than 2" wide, you will need to rip the long side of the first row of planks in such a way that the first and last rows will have approximately equal widths (accounting for the required expansion gap – see **"Use Expansion Spacers"** section on previous page).

2. **Snap Chalk Line:** Add the width of the first row plank plus the required expansion space, then measure that combined distance from the wall at several points and snap a chalk line. Use this to line up your first row planks as you install them.

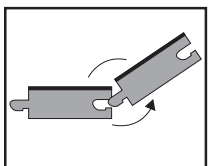
3. **Place Expansion Spacers:** Put required expansion spacers in place along the wall and at all vertical obstructions.



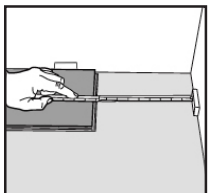
4. **Lay the First Plank:** Position the first plank against the spacers and be sure the groove sides are out and showing on both the long and short side of the plank.



5. **Lay the Second Plank:** Insert the tongue (short end) of the second plank into the groove of the first plank at an angle of 15 to 20 degrees then lower the board into place. You should now have 2 planks fitted together, both running along the same wall.

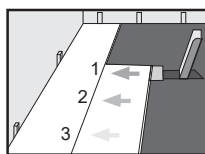
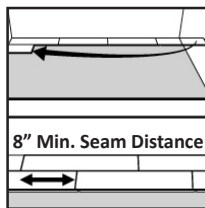


6. **Check the Seam:** Make sure the seams between planks are tight – there should be no gap visible between planks. If necessary, re-lay the plank to ensure a tight fit. To separate the planks, slowly angle the second plank up and pull it away from the first plank then lay the plank again.



7. **Finish the First Row:** Continue laying planks end-to-end along the wall – ensuring all seams are tight. When you get to the final plank, cut it to fit. The final plank must be at least 12" long. If necessary, you may need to trim the first plank to maintain the 12" minimum plank length on both ends.

(Be sure to leave the required expansion gap on both ends of the row and place spacers between the planks and the wall.)

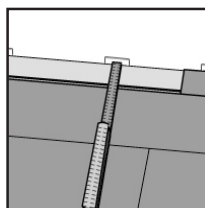


8. **Start the Next Row:** Begin laying your next row of planks. Make sure that the starting plank is at least 12" long and there is at least 8" of difference between the seam from the first plank you laid on the previous row to the end of this plank. (The piece that you cut at the end of your previous row can generally be used at the beginning of your next row.)

Insert the tongue (long side) of the plank onto the groove of the previous row plank at an angle of 15 to 20 degrees and lower it into place, **OR**, you can lay the plank flat on the floor and gently tap it into place with a tapping block and rubber mallet.

9. **Complete the Next Row:** Continue laying planks by interlocking the short side of the planks first – leaving the board slightly away from the long side on the previous row. Then lock the plank into the long side joint at a 15 to 20 degree angle, **OR**, you can lay the plank flat on the floor and gently tap it into place with a tapping block and rubber mallet as described in Step 8.

10. **Finish the Full-Width Rows:** Continue following Steps 8 and 9 to lay the rest of the rows up to the final row in the room.



11. **Lay the Final Row:** Before installing the last row, re-measure to verify that the width of the boards will be at least 2" wide. If needed, rip down the long side of the planks to fit the space. (Be sure you account for the required expansion gap between the planks and the wall in your measurement.) Then repeat steps 8 and 9 to install the boards with the exception of using a pull bar to secure the long joint into the previous row.

Note: Upon completing the last row, you may immediately walk on your new floor.

Completing the Installation:

- Remove all spacer blocks.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor to remove any loose dirt or debris that may have been introduced during the installation process.
- Finish the floor with trim and transition pieces as needed.
- **Do not nail, staple or adhere baseboards or trims to the flooring as this limits the floor's ability to float freely.** Instead, attach all trim and moldings to walls or to exposed subfloor.
- **Do not pinch the flooring between trims and the subfloor.** Leave a small gap between the trim piece and the flooring surface to allow the floor to float freely.
- **Do not install cabinets on top of WPC flooring.**
- Inhibiting the floor's ability to float freely in any way will void the warranty and cause the installation to fail.
- **FAILURE TO COMPLETELY FOLLOW THESE INSTALLATION GUIDELINES WILL VOID THE MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY.**

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Your new flooring was produced under the highest quality standards and will provide you with years of enjoyment. Please follow the recommendations in this guide to retain the fresh look and protect the factory finish of your new flooring.

FAILURE TO COMPLETELY FOLLOW THESE CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES WILL VOID THE MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY.

DOs:

- Wipe up spilled liquids immediately.
- Frequently sweep and vacuum the floor surface to remove loose dust, dirt, and debris.
- Some hand wiping or damp mopping may be required to remove tough spots and spills. Always sweep or vacuum your floor before mopping to remove loose dirt. Apply cleaner designed for WPC vinyl flooring to a cloth or mop and wipe the area. Do not apply cleaner directly to the floor. **Please check any new cleaning agents on a small test patch of the floor in an inconspicuous area before use, and avoid using harsh cleaners or soaps.**
- To provide continued protection from abrasive dirt and debris, we recommend you utilize an effective barrier system (such as outdoor mats and indoor rugs) to limit the amount of moisture, sand, salt, grit, and dirt that may enter the flooring area.
- Use protective felt pads under furniture legs or wide casters under appliance levelers to prolong the life of your floor and help guard against surface scratching.
- If office chairs are to be used on the floor, ensure soft casters are fitted or protective vinyl floor mats are used to protect the floor surface.

DON'Ts:

- DO NOT use rubber-backed or coco-fiber mats because they can stain WPC vinyl floors.
- DO NOT use a steam mop on WPC flooring. Use of steam mops may cause permanent damage to your floor.
- DO NOT use combination cleaner/finish products or soap-based detergents.
- DO NOT use steel wool, scouring pads, or abrasive products.
- DO NOT install cabinets or place heavy equipment on top of WPC flooring. Furniture and other furnishings that must sit on top of the flooring should not exceed 400 pounds. Heavy furniture must have the weight evenly distributed with the point loads not exceeding 100 pounds each. Ensure load points are not directly positioned over the side or end joints on the flooring planks.
- DO NOT wax your Designer Choice WPC vinyl flooring. The surface of your floor is very dense and non-porous, which prevents wax from penetrating into the flooring—creating build-up which can yellow and collect dirt. The same non-porous feature provides all the protection against wear and staining that your flooring will need.
- DO NOT treat or seal your flooring after installation. Never sand, lacquer, or refinish your WPC vinyl flooring surfaces.
- DO NOT expose the floor to harsh substances. Materials known to stain or discolor WPC flooring include but are not limited to: tar, nail polish remover, varnish, some cooking spices, shoe polish, lipstick, solvent-based paints, rubber mats, coco-fiber mats, asphalt, permanent markers, crayons, and hair dye.
- DO NOT allow pets with unclipped nails to damage your floor. It may result in severe scratching to the surface. The same is true for high-heeled shoes that do not have proper tips on the heels.
- DO NOT expose your floor to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. Most types of flooring will be affected by continuous strong sunlight, so use drapes or blinds to minimize sunlight exposure during peak daylight hours. Also consider relocating area rugs to avoid an uneven appearance.
- DO NOT expose your floor to excessively high temperatures. Some natural ventilation or intermittent air conditioning in vacant homes should be utilized. Long-term continuous inside temperatures over 95° F combined with strong direct sunlight will damage your Designer Choice WPC Vinyl and cause the installation to fail.
- DO NOT expose the floor to excessively high or low levels of humidity.