

# Installation Instructions for Engineered Luxury Vinyl Floor - SPC (I4F)

## ATTENTION! READ BEFORE INSTALLING!

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please contact the supplier.

**NOTE: IT'S THE OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY THAT THE PRODUCT SUPPLIED IS THE CORRECT PRODUCT, COLOUR, PATTERN AND QUANTITY. PRIOR TO INSTALLATION AND IN GOOD NATURAL LIGHT, INSPECT EACH PLANK FOR ANY OBVIOUS VISUAL DEFECTS. IF YOU FIND ANY DEFECTS, DO NOT USE THE PLANK AND CONTACT YOUR SUPPLIER IMMEDIATELY. THE MANUFACTURE WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER LABOUR FOR INSTALLATION OF FLOORS WITH VISIBLE DEFECTS.**

## SET UP

To ensure you have sufficient material on hand, calculate the total area of the room and add 5% of material to allow for custom cutting. Twenty-four hours prior to installation, place the closed packages in the middle of the room, not against a wall nor in a corner. **DO NOT INSTALL THE FLOOR UNTIL IT IS ACCLIMATIZED TO THE REQUIRED ROOM TEMPERATURE OF 60°F - 77°F (16°C - 25°C). WARNING: DO NOT INSTALL THIS FLOOR WHERE IT WILL BE EXPOSED TO TEMPERATURES GREATER THAN 70°C and/or directly under the sunlight, please contact your supplier to confirm suitability of this product.**

## FOR BEST VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF YOUR FLOOR

This flooring replicates the look of a natural product which has natural variations in color, texture, and sheen/gloss. For best visual effect, shuffle planks or tiles from several cartons and do not install similar planks or tiles next to one another.

## PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these instructions. Manufacture is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions. Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project.

Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" (46 cm) from the ground to the underside of the joists. A ground cover of 6–20 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier. Joints must be lapped 6" (15 cm) and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.

Room temperature and humidity of installation areas should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week before installation of flooring. Maintaining a temperature of -30C to 70C and a humidity range of 30-50% is recommended.

## PRE-INSTALLATION SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

All Subfloors must be:

- Dry
- Structurally sound
- Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris
- Level: Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius

Wood subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland-based leveling patch.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, and 6-mil poly film is recommended between concrete and ground. Subfloor should be flat and level within 3/16" per 10' radius. If it is necessary, grind high spots down and level low spots with a Portland leveling compound.

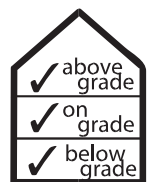
Ceramic tile, resilient tile and sheet vinyl must be well-bonded to subfloor, in good condition, clean, and level. Do not sand existing vinyl floors, as they may contain asbestos.

## INSTALLATION TOOLS

For all installation methods:

Tape measure; Pencil; Chalk Line; Crosscut Power Saw; 3M Scotch Blue™ 2080 Tape; ¼" Spacers; Hammer; Tapping Block; Pull Bar

**This floor can  
be installed on  
all levels of the  
home.**



Acceptable subfloor types:

CDX Underlayment Grade Plywood (at least 1/2" thick)	Underlayment Grade Particleboard	
OSB (at least 3/4" thick)	Concrete Slab	Existing Wood or Laminate Floor
Ceramic Tile	Resilient Tile	Sheet Vinyl

## STARTING YOUR INSTALLATION

Because houses and buildings, as well as adjacent hardwood or laminate floors, expand and contract, manufacture recommends leaving a 1/4" expansion gap between the perimeter walls, any adjacent floor, and all vertical surfaces. Do not install kitchen islands or cabinets on top of this floating floor.

Work from several open boxes of flooring and "dry lay" the floor before permanently laying the floor. This will allow you to select varying textures, colors, and sheens, and to arrange them in a harmonious pattern. Remember, it is the installers' responsibility to determine the expectations of what the finished floor will look like with the end user first and then to cull out pieces that do not meet those expectations.

Begin installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank or tile. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks or tiles to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of straight.

You may want to position a few rows before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line.

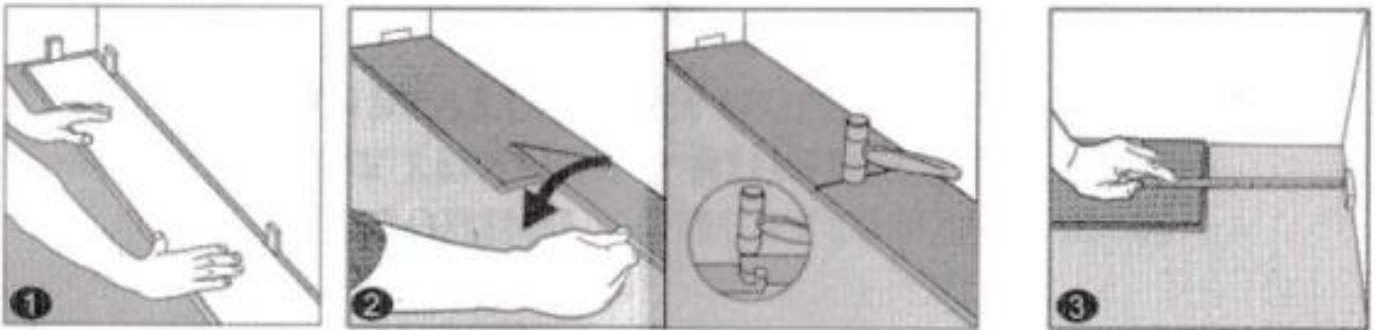
When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 12" (30 cm) for planks and tiles. For plank installations, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row when cutting the last plank in a row to fit. If cut-off end is less than 8", discard it and instead cut a new plank at a random length (at least 8" in length) and use it to start the next row. For tile installations, always begin a row with either a full tile or a half tile so that the joints are consistently staggered in a "brick work" type pattern. Always begin each row from the same side of the room.

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

This is a floating floor and designed and manufactured to be installed as floating only.

**Inspection:** Prior to installation, inspect material in daylight for visible faults/damage. Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied, do not install, and contact your supplier.

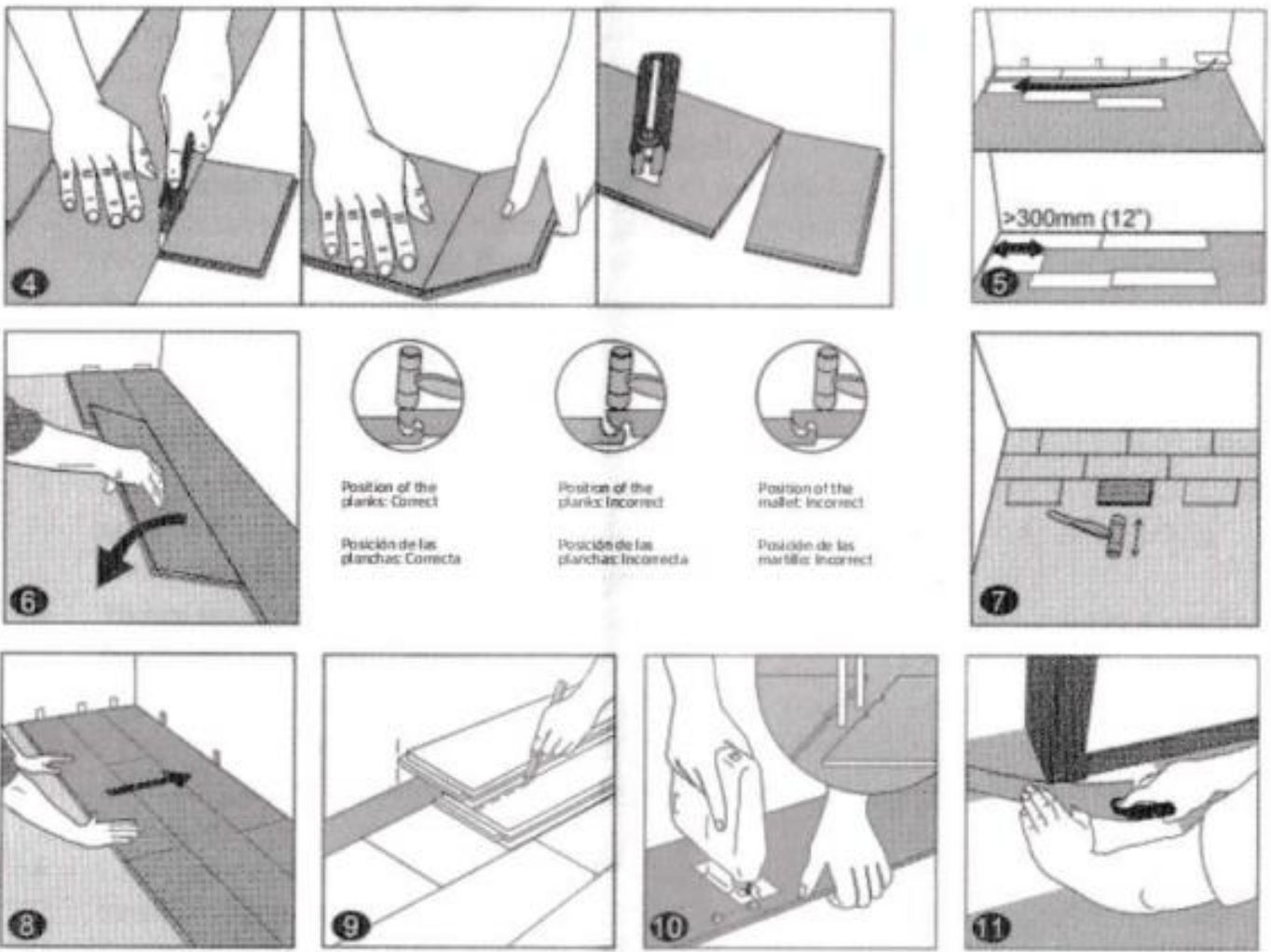
**Before laying:** Measure the room at right angle to the direction of the flooring. For the best visual effect, planks or tiles in the final row should be at least at least 1/3 the width of the plank or tile. For this purpose, planks, or tiles in the first row can be cut to smaller size. Shuffle boards in order to obtain a pleasant blend of shades. Lay boards, preferably following the direction of the main source of light. We recommend laying on wooden floors crossways to the existing floorboards.



**Step 1:** Begin installation working from left to right, Insert Spacers at ends and edges where planks meet.

**Step 2:** Lock short end of plank by dropping the plank and gently tap down the end with a rubber mallet, so it locks and is flat next to adjacent plank.

**Step 3:** Ensure there is expansion space and ensure last plank is at least 8" between plank and end joints on adjacent rows.



**Step 4:** Cut planks with a utility knife and ruler from the top side.

**Step 5:** Start next row with leftover piece from previous row. This small plank should not be less than 6" (15cm). The end joints of each adjoining row should not be closer than 8", stagger should not be less than 6".

**Step 6:** Click the long side of the plank into previous row and place it tight to the short end of the previous plank with an angle of 30 degrees. Drop the plank and gently tap the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into place and is same height as previous planks.

**Step 7:** After finishing the installation of each row, use a cut piece as a block and gently tap with a rubber mallet to it firmly locks into place, and ensure no gaps at long or short ends.

**Step 8:** After installing 3<sup>rd</sup> row ensure that the planks are still running straight with the use of a string.

**Step 9:** To lay last row, position a loose board on top of the last row laid. Place another board on top, with the tongue side touching the wall. Draw a line along the edge of this board to make the first board. Cut along this line. Insert this cut board against the wall. The last row should be at least 2" (50 mm) wide. The spacers can then be removed.

**Step 10:** Cut holes around pipes, holes should be 1/2" (12mm) larger.

**Step 11:** Always undercut door frames and all skirting boards to allow for a freely floating floor.

### **In-floor Radiant Heat:**

This floor can be installed over radiant heat using the floating method.

- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors
- Floor temperature must not exceed 85°F (30°C).
- Failure to strictly follow adhesive manufacturer's guidelines may result in failure and void the warranty. **Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath this floor. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath this floor could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install flooring over embedded hydronic radiant floor heating systems only and adhere to the guidelines listed above.**

### **AFTER INSTALLATION**

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup, use rosin paper and only use 3M ScotchBlue™ 2080 Tape to hold the rosin paper to the floor (other blue tapes may damage the finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. **DO NOT USE** plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.
- Dust-mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- It is suggested that you clean the floor using a recommended LVT cleaner.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, etc.).

## **Protection and Maintenance of Your Floor**

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.

- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Floor covering subjected to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Use appropriate precautions to minimize potential effects on the floor covering.
- Do not expose floors to temperature exceeding 150F or 70°C )
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile oil drips onto the vinyl floor covering.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Protective mats are required under office chairs.
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the floor.
- 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 swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. **Do NOT** use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- Use floor protectors under furniture.
- 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. **Do NOT** use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off.
- **Do NOT** use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
- 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. **Do NOT** use abrasive scrubbing tools. **Do NOT** use detergents, abrasive cleaners or "mop and shine" products.
- Vinyl flooring, like other types of smooth floors, may become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after cleaning. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substances, or wet feet.