SPC INSTALLATION GUIDE

Please read carefully before installation

INTRODUCTION

This guide will take you through the necessary steps to install PISO FINO SPC Flooring. Make sure to carefully read through this guide so that you may know the best way to prepare for the installation. Failure to comply with the instructions given these guides, as well as improper installation, will void the warranty given by us.
Visit our website for more information:
https://pisofinofloors.com/

PREPARATION

1. General Guides

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project.
- Handle with care in the process of transportation and handling to avoid damage to the locking of flooring. Please put it on the flat ground, no erect or sideways.
- Inspect all materials carefully for color, finish, sheen and defects, fungal or insect infestation, etc. before installation. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection.
- The warranty does not cover materials with visible defects once they are installed. If there are any doubts to the quality, dimensions or appearance of the SPC flooring, DO NOT INSTALL. Please contact PISO FINO.

2. Site Condition (before installation)

a) Temperature and Humidity

- Room temperature: 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F)
- Subfloor temperature: 10°C to 27°C (50°F to 80°F)
- Room's relative humidity: 40% to 65%. If the installation is carried out during rainy seasons, please pay attention to control the humidity.
- The floor should be covered from sunlight exposure. If the room has glass windows and receives the sunlight directly onto the floor, please use curtains or blinds to block the sunlight.

b) Subfloors

The subfloors must be:

- *Flat:* Make sure the surface is flat. Max variation is 2 mm over 2 meters (or 1/12 inch over 6 feet). Use self-leveling compound if necessary to have the desired flatness.
- *Clean:* Make sure the subfloor is free of dust, grease, glue, old adhesive, debris, etc. It should be well cleaned and vacuumed before installation. Damp rot, fungal or insects must also be taken care of.
- *Strong:* The subfloor must be in good structural condition, solid, stable and non-flexing. For example, if the subfloor is ceramic tile or wood flooring, etc. it must be checked to see it is well bonded to its subfloor. Cushioned or multi-layers flooring, of any kinds, are not allowed as the subfloor. They must be removed.
- *Dry:* Make sure the subfloor, of any kinds, is totally dry before installing. You can use RH meter, calcium chloride kit, or CM method (for concrete).

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured for a minimum of 60 days prior to SPC flooring installation and must be tested for moisture. Concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8lbs (ASTM F1869) or 80%RH (ASTM F2170) with a pH limit of 9.

Based on your site conditions, you can use a **6mil Poly film** (water barrier sheet/ moisture barrier) before installing the SPC.

If self-leveling is applied, please make sure it is totally dried out. (A rule of thumb for the drying time of a cement-based screed is one day per mm for the first 50mm, and 2.5 days for each mm thereafter. So, a 50mm screed should take about two months to dry out, and a 100mm screed will take six months. Plaster takes up to six weeks to dry completely.)

Wood subfloors must have **≤ 12% moisture content** and should not vary more than 4% from the SPC.

c) Subfloor Heating Systems

- Must be embedded in concrete or under subfloor, **not exposed.**
- Must be 1 ½" (~38 mm) below the surface layer of the concrete slab.
- Surface temperature **must not exceed 30°C (86°F).**
- Must be operated at normal living temperature for 14 days before installation of SPC.
- Must be turned off 48 hrs before installation. Restart gradually at increase temperature of 2°C per day.

d) Expansion gaps and Partition

- Maintain an expansion gap between 5-15mm (depend on how large the room is, and the temperature fluctuation, etc. usually 2mm for every meter of length) anywhere the SPC meets the walls, structural support, stairs, breakfast bars, fireplaces, doorways, etc.
- Use accessories to separate the flooring of different rooms, as their usages and temperatures are different.
- Floor patrition is required if area exceeds 250 square meters (2700 sqft) and the length or width exceeds 15 meters (49 ft).

3. Acclimatization

Depend on the conditions of the rooms, we recommend acclimatizing the SPC before installing for the best result. How to do it? See below:

- Place the sealed, unopened boxes horizontally in the middle of the room. You can stack boxes upon each other, but do not stack more than 5 boxes high to avoid pressure.
- Remain the room conditions as close to the living conditions as possible. Keep the temperature between 15°C – 30°C (59°F – 86°F).
- DO NOT store the flooring outdoors, in an outbuilding, or anywhere with damp or condensation problems.
- MAKE SURE that the surface follows the conditions above (dry and flat).

RIGHT BEFORE YOU BEGIN

1. How to decide the layout

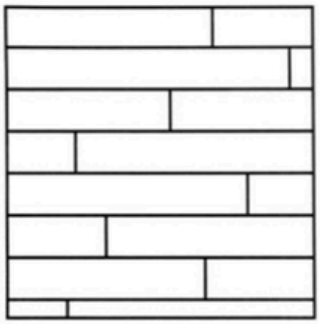
The most common way is to install the planks **along side with the longest wall** of the room. This gives the most natural, aesthetic flow when you enter the room. This layout is applied when the room is rectangular.
For example, in a long hallway or rectangular living room, lay the planks parallel to the longer side.

Parallel to incoming natural light (especially near windows) is also a choice if you have large window or sliding door letting in the sunlight. This creates a smoother look under angled, low sunlight.
However, please always use blinds or curtains to cover the windows to prevent long-time exposure to direct, strong sunlight.

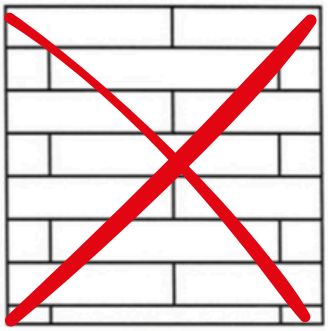
If we can match both of the conditions above, it is even better.

Before installation can begin a few calculations need to be made, and you might have to do some cutting before you can start laying. When you've chosen your starting wall, measure the width of the room from there and divide that by the width of the flooring panels. This will give you the number of rows of boards you'll lay and the width of the last row. If your last row is going to be under 60mm wide, cut the boards in your first row lengthwise accordingly so that your last row isn't too narrow.

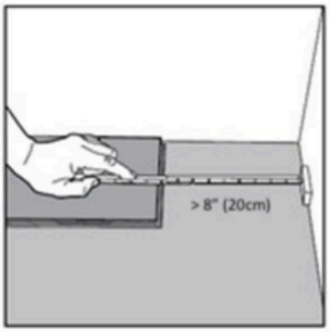
Make sure to stagger end joints by at least 8" (20cm). Avoid "H" patterns, where the end joint aligns with and end joint in other nearby rows. Avoid installing pieces shorter than 8" (20 cm) at the beginning or end of rows.



Stagger End Joints

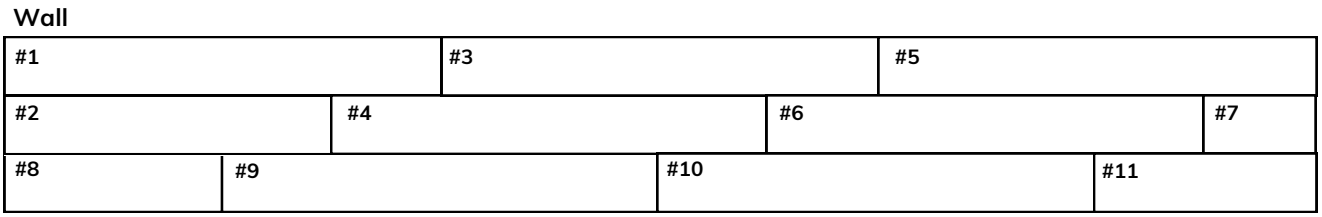


Avoid "H" Joints



Minimum 8" long

Divide into a minimum of three steps, as shown in these diagrams (depending on the plank length) for subsequent steps. Install shorter planks (#7) in room corners, which are less used. Avoid small plank at doorways and high-traffic areas.



2. Blending planks from several boxes and make sure all boxes are from the same batch

There will be slight variations between batches in term of the colors. Therefore, for the result to be perfectly balance of color and details, please blend the planks from several boxes and make sure to use boxes from just 1 batch for 1 site.

DURING INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS

1. Protect the floor during construction

Always protect the surface of the flooring during installation. Use paper or cardboard that will allow the floor to breathe and tape this to the boards. Never use plastic or polyethylene sheeting to cover the flooring as this will trap moisture and could cause damage.

2. Click the planks together

In the process of installation, the lock button can be gently buckled in place. Do not use tools or heavy objects to knock the lock button, so as to avoid over-tight floor installation and locking damage. We advise you to use a rubber hammer for installation. During installation, engaging the next plank at a 30 degrees angle to the front plank. Use a rubber hammer to lightly tap the locking system if neccessary, making sure that they are tight before sliding and securing in place. This step is to avoid breaking the below locking system.
Some times, dust or things can get into the clicks of the planks, please check and remove dust before locking the planks together. Big particles can cause the planks to incorrectly fit together, causing potential issues in the future.

3. Door jambs

If there is a wooden door jamb, we recommend undercutting it according to the thickness of the flooring. Install the flooring underneath the door jamb but leave the necessary expansion gaps.

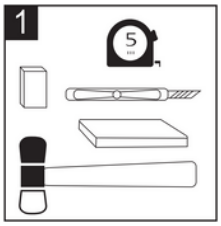
4. Skirting, wallbase

When install the skirting or wallbase, always fix them to the walls. Never fix them to the floor itself as this will prevent the natural expansion and contraction of the flooring into the expansion space.

5. Conditions

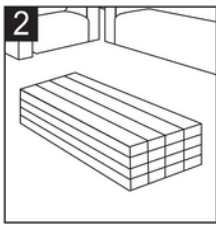
Please make sure that all conditions in PREPARATION step are remained during installation. The subfloor must be dry, clean and flat. The temperature and humidity must not change too much.

INSTALLATION GUIDES – VALINGE 2G/2G PRO

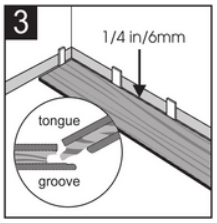


Recommended tools for installation:

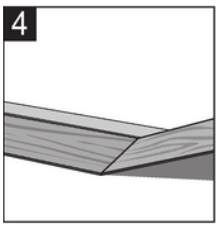
1. Tape measure
2. Utility knife
3. Tapping block
4. Soft faced hammer
5. 1/4in spacers



Product should be stored horizontally in a dry area away from direct sunlight. Do not leave next to heating or cooling ducts. Floor should be installed blending planks from several cartons at the same timeto ensure good color and shape mixture throughout the installation.

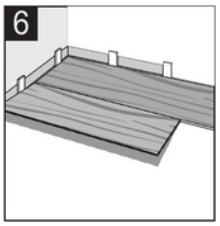


Start installation in the left-hand corner of the room, with the tongue facing the wall, working from left to right. Leave an expansion gap of 1/4in (6mm) around the room perimeter and vertical objects.



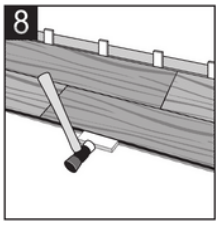
When laying the first row, insert the short edge groove of the previous planks at a slight angle and rotate downward. Continue to complete the starter row maintaining a straight edge for the following row.

Use a tapping block and hammer to close any gaps between the planks.

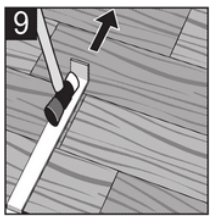


When laying additional rows, the first piece must be at least 8 in long. Start new rows with pieces trimmed from previous rows when possible. Insert the long edge tongue into the long edge groove at a slight angle and rotate downward. Ensure at least a 8 in end joint offset.

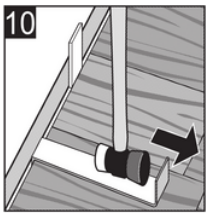
Insert the short adge tongue of the next plank into the short edge groove of the first plank. Then raise the outside edge of the plank upward about 1 in and gently push the plank in until the joint locks.



Use a tapping block and hammer to close any gaps between the planks.



For the last row, insert the long edge tonque into the long edge groove and use a pull bar and hammer to close the gap.



Then close the short edge joints using a tapping block or pull bar.

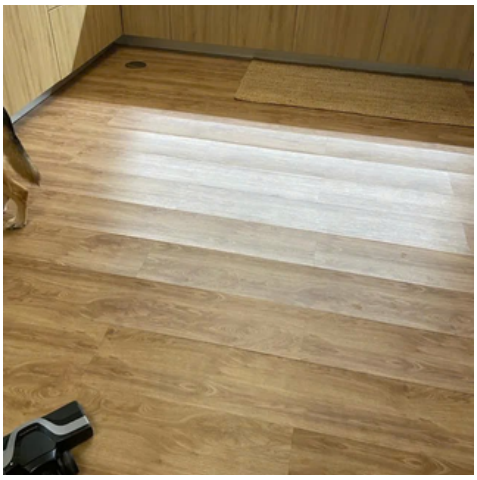
AFTER INSTALLATION

- Wait at least 48 hrs before placing furnitures, especially heavy ones.
- Within 48 hrs, remain the temperature, humidity and other conditions as stable as possible compared to before and during installation.

SOME EXAMPLES

1. Installing the floor in “H” pattern

The joints of the planks line up in every other row, creating a weak structural pattern. This can lead to separation, gapping, or even buckling over time, especially in areas with high foot traffic. An H-pattern can create stress along the aligned joints, increasing the risk of plank movement and damage.



2. Small pieces at the end of the floor

The joints of the planks line up in every other row, creating a weak structural pattern. This can lead to separation, gapping, or even buckling over time, especially in areas with high foot traffic. An H-pattern can create stress along the aligned joints, increasing the risk of plank movement and damage.

3. Direct sunlight exposure, near uncovered glass windows, slide doors, not enough expansion gaps




Due to their primarily PVC/plastic composition, the film and wear layer are susceptible to shrinkage when exposed to temperature fluctuations. While the SPC core remains dimensionally stable, the shrinking top layers (film and wear layer) can exert force on the planks, causing the edges to curl upwards.

With considerable fluctuation of temperature, expansion gaps must be enough for the floor to expand during high temperature. Lack of gaps will lead to the floor to have no space to expand, causing it to push against each plank and curve up, also it can break the clicks.