

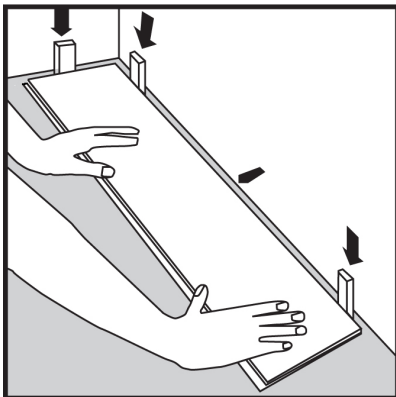


INTELLIGENT DESIGN® **HARDCORE® PLUS**

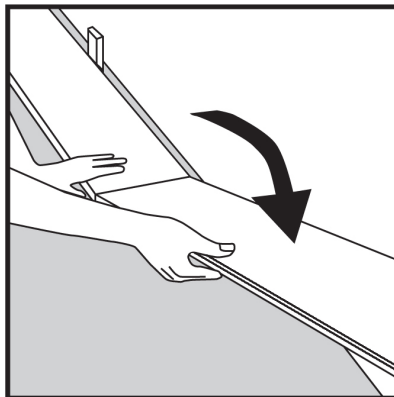
Installation Key Points and Tips

Do not install planks until you have read the following Key Points and Tips along with the installation instructions printed on the back or included inside of each box.

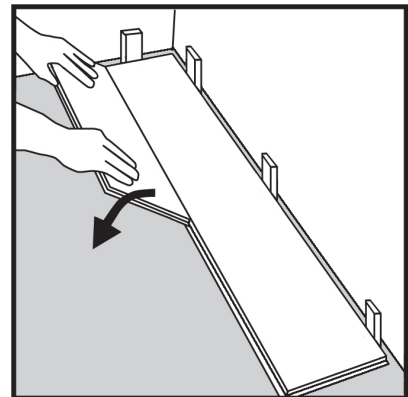
1. All planks must be locked together properly during installation. It is very important to note: during installation the planks are only locked in place when there are no separations along any of the short ends or in the corners - even "minor" separations or gaps mean the planks are not properly locked together. Also, if the planks do not lay down flat after being locked together then they are not properly locked together.



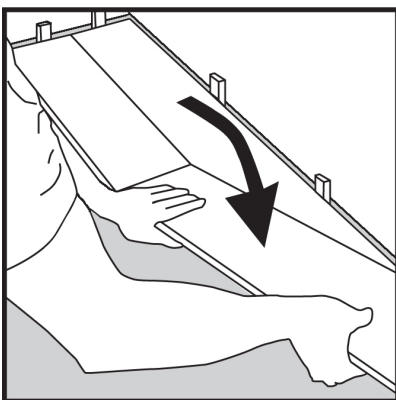
1. Install first plank beginning from left corner (tongue side to wall)



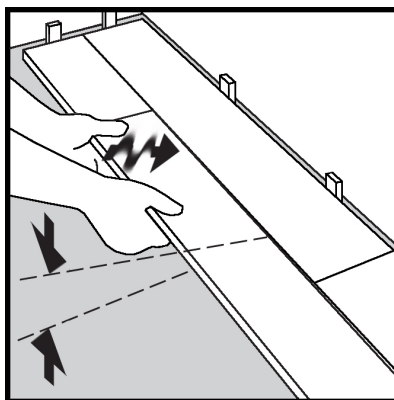
2. Click short ends together for first row



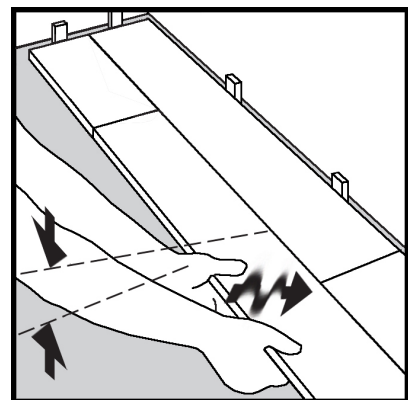
3. Click long side of first plank in second row to first row



4. Click short end first



5. At low angle with light pressure, click long side beginning at left corner



6. At low angle with light pressure, click full length of long side

2. We do **not** recommend using a tapping block which may damage the plank surface and/or locking edges and may also dislodge or jar loose planks that are already properly locked in place.
3. The subfloor must be flat, smooth, dry, rigid and free of debris. Rough irregular subfloors or subfloors that are soft and cushiony or have too much flexibility may eventually cause the locked edges to dislodge and separate and begin to delaminate at the exposed edges and corners. Unevenness of more than 1/16" over 3', 1/8" over 6', or 3/16" over 10' must be leveled out. A high-density sound deadening underlayment made especially for these planks is already installed on the back of each plank. We do not recommend using any additional fibrous, felt, rubber, or foam type underlayments.
4. Always store planks flat- never on ends or sides. Always mix planks from several different boxes to avoid installing planks with similar patterns/colors next to each other. Always inspect planks for visible faults/damage in the daylight or in a well-lit room **prior** to installation.
5. For normal residential installations, room temperature must be between 55-95 degrees Fahrenheit for 48 hours before, during and after installation. Transition moldings are not required for this product for normal residential installations, but planks **must** be installed with a 1/4" expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces such as kitchen cabinets, kitchen islands, bathroom cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges, or any other fixed objects. This will eliminate buckling due to expansion and contraction. Always undercut door jambs maintaining a 1/4" expansion zone. Never install click lock planks under any fixed objects such as kitchen cabinets, kitchen islands, dishwashers, stoves or bathroom cabinets.
6. For installations in **fully enclosed residential areas without permanent heating and/or cooling systems** such as 3 season rooms, vacation homes, cottages or cabins, this product is warranted for temperatures between -10° Fahrenheit to 120° Fahrenheit as long as the planks are installed in rooms where the temperature is maintained between 55-95 degrees Fahrenheit for 48 hours before, during, and after installation. Also, the planks must be installed with a 1/2" expansion gap between all vertical surfaces and a transition molding, able to accompany a 1/2" expansion gap, must be placed at all doorways and any spans greater than 40' in any direction. For all light commercial installations, a transition molding must also be placed at all doorways and any spans greater than 40' in any direction.
7. Avoid extended exposure to direct sunlight. Direct sunlight magnified by a window can generate very high floor temperatures which may result in planks buckling during peak hours. We recommend using drapes or blinds to minimize direct sunlight during peak sunlight hours.
8. If you experience any problems getting the planks to lock together, run a soft bristle brush over the locking edges prior to installation to remove any debris that may have accumulated in the edges and/or lay the planks horizontally in the room where the planks are being installed for about 24 hours.
9. Do not fasten, nail, or glue the planks to transition strips or to any other moldings used in your installation.
10. If a plank has a broken edge, that edge should not be installed. The plank can be cut, and the good edges of the plank may be used for trim, but a broken edge should never be installed.
11. If you are having the product installed for you make sure the installer is a professional floor covering Installer or a general contractor who has experience installing click locking luxury vinyl planks. Verify this by asking for references. Also, flooring should be one of the last items installed in any remodeling or new construction project.
12. If planks separate for any of the above reasons they may be disassembled up to the plank or planks that are separated and reinstalled properly to eliminate further separation problems. Also, note that any planks that remain separated for any length of time may begin to delaminate at the exposed edges or corners.

Repair

For minor to medium scratches, we suggest using a green Scotch Brite® heavy duty scouring pad to buff out the scratches. Wipe off the residue then apply a coat of our Matte Finish Sealer (please call 1-800-554-0404 for delivered prices to your location). For deeper scratches we recommend applying a matching flexible wood filler such as Elmer's ProBond Wood Filler to the scratches.

For a very badly scratched, gouged or damaged plank, the easiest technique if the plank is near the perimeter of the room is to simply disconnect the planks up to and including the damaged plank and replace the damaged plank with a new plank. Then reassemble the planks.

If this is not workable for replacing a badly scratched, gouged or damaged plank then we suggest the following:

Removal of Damaged Plank

- A.) Cut out and remove the center of the damaged plank using a sharp utility knife and straight edge leaving a 1" frame attached to the surrounding planks on all 4 sides.
- B.) Very carefully cut back from the corners of the damaged plank to the inside edge of the frame.
- C. Carefully remove the long and short sides of the frame by wiggling them out of the tongue and groove of the surrounding planks.

Preparation of Replacement Plank

- A.) Before installing replacement plank we suggest acclimating this plank in the same room it will be installed for 24-48 hours
- B.) Turn the replacement plank over and fold back the groove strip. Using your utility knife, remove the folded groove strip from both the long side and short end.
- C.) Apply a small bead of flexible clear adhesive such as Loctite® Power Grab All Purpose Clear Construction Adhesive (squeeze bottle) into all 4 sides of the surrounding planks.
- D.) Align all 4 edges of the replacement plank with the surrounding planks and hinge the long tongue side of the replacement plank into the groove of the adjoining plank. Press the rest of plank down flush with floor surface and wipe away any excess adhesive from the décor surface.

INTELLIGENT DESIGN® HARDCORE® PLUS INSTALLATION

IMPORTANT: Intelligent Design® HardCore® Plus “floating floors” are installed without glue. The individual planks are not fixed to the subfloor. The edges (tongues and grooves) are engineered to lock together creating a secure bond along all four sides of each plank, making installation easier, faster, and cleaner while allowing your new floor to be used immediately after installation.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

For normal residential installations room temperature must be between 55 degrees Fahrenheit and 95 degrees Fahrenheit for 48 hours before, during and after installation. Intelligent Design® HardCore® Plus planks do not require acclimation prior to installation. Also, transition moldings are not required regardless of the size of the installation and planks must be installed with a ¼” expansion gap at all vertical surfaces.

For installations in fully enclosed areas that do not have permanent heating and/or cooling systems such as 3 season rooms, vacation homes, cottages or cabins, the room temperature must be between 55-95 degrees Fahrenheit for 48 hours before, during, and after installation and planks must be installed with a ½” expansion gap between all vertical surfaces. Also, a transition molding, able to accompany a ½” expansion gap, must be placed at all doorways and any spans greater than 40’ in any direction.

For commercial installations, a transition molding must be placed at all doorways and any spans greater than 40’ in any direction.

MATERIALS YOU MAY NEED:

- Portland based patch/underlayment/embossing leveler – to level surface and patch cracks
- Sharp utility knife and straight edge
- Measuring tape
- ¼” and/or ½” Spacers
- Sabre Saw for cutting around irregular or circular shaped objects
- Intelligent Design® HardCore® Plus planks - make sure you purchase at least 10% extra to cover mistakes or for possible future replacements and repairs
- Safety Glasses

IMPORTANT: Purchase all planks at the same time and check to make sure all lot numbers match before leaving the store.

SUITABLE AREAS:

Excellent for all areas of your home including kitchens, bathrooms, entryways, rec rooms, laundry rooms and commercial installations such as shops, salons, professional and business offices, entryways and break rooms.

UNSUITABLE AREAS:

- Any room where the floor will receive long term exposure to direct sunlight
- Mobile homes or recreational vehicles
- Outdoors

SUITABLE SURFACES:

- Smooth surfaces that are flat, level, structurally sound and rigid. Unevenness of more than 1/16" over 3', 1/8" over 6', or 3/16" over 10' must be leveled out.
- Clean surfaces that are free of dust, dirt, grease, paint, old adhesive residue, carpet staples and moisture
- Plywood, chipboard, flakeboard, waferboard, particleboard or OSB
- Concrete floors that are dry, and free of dust, solvents, grease, and oil. New concrete must be thoroughly dry and cured for at least six weeks.
- Ceramic and stone floors with a grout line depth less than 1/16". If the grout line depth exceeds 1/16" then they must be filled with a Portland based patch/underlayment/ embossing leveler.
- Radiant-heated floors, provided the floor temperature does not exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Before installing the floor, the heating system should be turned on to eliminate moisture. For 24 hours before, during, and after the installation lower the floor temperature to about 65 degrees Fahrenheit and 24 hours after installation begin to gradually increase floor temperature in increments of 5 degrees Fahrenheit every 24 hours but do not exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any remodeling or new construction project.

UNSUITABLE SURFACES:

- **Carpet or heavily cushioned floors**
- **Foam underlayments. A high density sound deadening foam underlayment made especially for these planks is already installed on the back of each plank. We do not recommend the use of any additional fibrous, felt, rubber or foam type underlayments.**
- Concrete surfaces below grade where moisture may be a problem. Click Lock plank is waterproof and is not susceptible to water damage. However, excessive moisture in the subfloor beneath the plank may allow for the growth of mold or mildew.
- Crawl spaces unless they are a minimum of 18" from the ground, properly insulated, and well ventilated. Also, the ground must be covered with minimum 10 Mil or thicker polyethylene sheeting to reduce moisture vapor transmission.

IMPORTANT: Always store planks flat (never on ends or sides).

PREPARING THE SUBFLOOR:

CONCRETE FLOORS:

Concrete must be smooth, clean, flat, and free of moisture. Remove all dirt, grease, and adhesive residue. Sweep and vacuum floor thoroughly. Fill all cracks and holes with a suitable Portland based patch/underlayment/embossing leveler per manufacturer's instructions.

WOOD FLOORS:

Securely nail all loose boards. The maximum gap between boards should be no more than 1/16". Scrape, plane or fill uneven boards with a suitable Portland based patch/underlayment/embossing leveler. If the surface is still not smooth, then we recommend installing a 1/4" plywood underlayment panel over the wood subfloor.

OLD FLOOR COVERINGS:

Planks may be installed directly over any well-bonded, smooth surface. Planks should not be installed over heavily cushioned floor materials.

WARNINGS:

NEVER SAND AN EXISTING RESILIENT FLOOR AS THE DUST MAY CONTAIN HARMFUL ASBESTOS FIBERS.

NEVER INSTALL A FLOATING FLOOR OVER A FLOATING FLOOR

IN THE WINTER A CONCRETE FLOOR CAN BE UP TO 10 DEGREES COLDER THAN THE ROOM TEMPERATURE

PATCHING OR LEVELING:

Patch, fill, level and smooth any holes, cracks, or surface irregularities. Unevenness of more than 1/16" over 3', 1/8" over 6', or 3/16" over 10' must be leveled out. Make sure that the floor is smooth, flat, clean, and completely free of wax, grease, oil or dust before laying the planks. Any roughness in the subfloor may eventually show through, detracting from the genuine appearance of your floor as well as cause excessive wearing in those areas. Any unevenness may prevent the planks from locking together properly and cause future plank separations.

FOR BEST VISUAL RESULTS:

- Check to see that all pattern and lot numbers are the same.
- Always mix planks from several different boxes to avoid installing planks with similar patterns/colors next to each other. A little time spent carefully selecting planks from several different boxes will significantly reduce the effect of any shade variations as well as increase the authenticity and beauty of your floor.
- Before installation, carefully inspect each plank for damage, blemishes, and visual defects. Never install a plank with damaged locking edges. The plank may be cut and the part of the plank with good edges may be used for trim but the broken edge should never be installed. Always inspect planks for visible faults/damage in the daylight or in a well-lit room **prior** to installation. **For visual defects: installation constitutes acceptance.**

INSTALLING PLANKS:

Always maintain a minimum ¼" expansion zone around any fixed objects such as kitchen cabinets, kitchen islands, bathroom cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges or any other fixed objects. This will eliminate buckling due to expansion and contraction. Always undercut door jambs maintaining a ¼" expansion zone.

Do not install planks under any fixed objects such as kitchen cabinets, kitchen islands, dishwashers, or stoves.

LAYING THE FIRST THREE ROWS:

1. Remove wood moldings around the perimeter of the floor.
2. Lay the long dimension of the planks parallel to the long dimensions of the room.
3. **IMPORTANT:** plan your layout to avoid an unbalanced installation with narrow plank widths or short end lengths at the walls. Always plan your layout to prevent having less than a half plank width at the side walls and no less than 12" lengths at the end walls.
4. Measure the width of the room at the front, middle and back and divide the widths of each measurement by the width of a plank. If the remainder is less than half the plank width, then the planks on your starter row should be narrowed to make the last row approximately half the width of the plank. The width of the last plank should be approximately the same width as the first plank.

Please note: This may also be figured out by laying down loose planks across the width of the room without securing them to each other and making the necessary adjustments.

5. Same for the length. Measure the length of the room at the left wall and divide by the length of a plank. If the remainder is less than 12", then you need to cut the first plank down to make the remainder 12" or longer.

6. Begin installing the first row of planks along the left side wall from the left front corner with the tongue side facing the wall. Lay down your first plank, then insert the tongue end of the second plank into the groove end of the first plank at an angle of approximately 20 degrees and push down. You should feel the planks lock together.

If you experience any problems getting the planks to lock together, we suggest the following:

aa.) Run a soft bristle brush over the locking edges of each plank prior to installation to remove any debris that may have accumulated in the edges during shipping.

bb.) Lay planks horizontally in the room where the planks are being installed for about 24 hours.

It is very important that the planks line up perfectly, the joints are tight and do not pull apart, and the seams are tight without any gaps. Use 1/4" spacers along the walls to maintain a 1/4" expansion zone between the planks and the wall around the perimeter of the entire floor. Spacers should be approximately 20" apart.

If you are having the Intelligent Design® HardCore® Plus planks installed for you, make sure the installer is a Professional Floor Covering Installer who has experience installing Click Lock Luxury Vinyl Planks. Verify this by asking for references.

CUTTING THE LAST PLANK IN THE FIRST ROW:

Mark the last plank, score it with a straight edge and **sharp** utility knife, and break it at your scoring line using a pair of pliers. For irregular or circular cuts, we suggest using a sabre saw with a fine tooth finish cut blade. After cutting, always run a soft bristle brush over the locking edges of the planks to remove any dust or debris prior to installation.

IMPORTANT: Always use safety glasses when cutting or breaking the planks. Also, always stagger the end joints in a random manner by at least 6" from row to row, and always avoid the clustering of end joints. If the layout of the room permits, you may use the cut piece from the end of first row to start the next row.

INSTALLING THE FIRST AND SECOND PLANK OF THE SECOND ROW:

- Insert the tongue on the side of the first plank of the second row into the groove of the first plank in the first row at an angle of approximately 20 degrees. With lightly applied pressure, click the tongue into the groove. Make sure the seams are tight with no separations or gaps.
- Interlock the end of the second plank with end of the first plank, leaving the second plank long side tongue just over the first row plank groove. Then at a very low angle, slide/push the lengths together. Check to make sure there are no gaps in the end or long side seams.

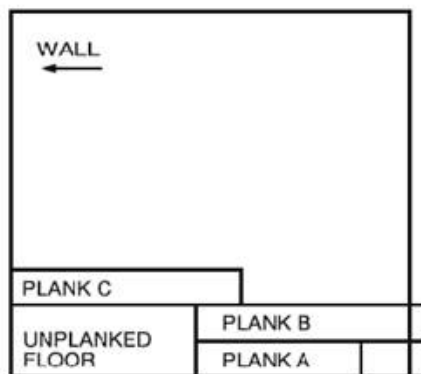
The seams must be tight with no separation at the ends or along the sides. If the planks do not lay down flat after being locked together then they may not be properly locked together.

IMPORTANT: We do not recommend the use of a hammer and tapping block which may damage the plank surface at the sides and ends, as well as the planks locking edges, and/or may dislodge or jar loose planks that are already properly locked in place.

- Continue laying planks, one row at a time.
- Pause, check, then recheck the first three rows again to make sure everything is straight and square without any gaps in the seams. These three rows are the foundation for the rest of your floor.
- Don't forget to use 1/4" spacers along the side and end walls to maintain a 1/4" expansion zone around the entire perimeter of the room.
- To fit planks around circular or irregular obstacles, make a pattern of the area on paper or cardboard, trace the pattern onto the plank and cut the plank using a sabre saw with a fine-tooth finish cut blade.
- Always maintain a minimum 1/4" expansion zone around any fixed objects such as cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges or any other fixed objects. Undercut all door jambs.
- To fit a partial plank on the last row, first place a loose plank (B) directly over the last whole plank (A) closest to the wall. Then butt another plank (C) against the wall overlapping plank (B) and mark plank (B) where it is to be cut (see Illustration #1).

Do not cut on floor, as you may cut through and damage new planks. Check to see if the fit is acceptable, then click lock the plank (B) into place.

ILLUSTRATION #1



Trim Side View

When you are done, remove all spacers along the walls and install moldings over the planks.

When installing the moldings, always fasten them to the wall, not to the plank.



Made in China for HSC • 1202 East Maple • Troy, MI 48083