

LEGENDS COLLECTION

SPC Flooring Installation Guide



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

All instructions and recommendations should be followed for a satisfactory installation.

We recommend allowing the LAWSON SPC planks to acclimate 24 to 48 hours prior to installation in a climate-controlled job site. Store boxes flat with box ends open to allow air flow and no more than 3 to 5 boxes high. Room temperature between 65°F-85°F should be maintained for a minimum of 48 hours before, during, and after installation. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, doing so may result in discoloration. Excess temperature due to direct sunlight can result in thermal expansion and UV fading.

Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Contact your supplier immediately if any defect is found. Do not install damaged planks. LAWSON will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects. A wide variation in color and texture is designed into this product to enhance its natural appearance. Pull alternate planks from a minimum of 5 boxes to blend the variations for the best natural appearance.

Do **NOT** install cabinets on top of planks. Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and also to determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row of planks is less than 2" (50mm), excluding the tongue, the width of first row of planks will have to be cut and adjusted accordingly. A minimum 3/8" (9.5mm) expansion space is required around the perimeter of the room and all vertical objects.

Moldings are designed to color coordinate with the overall look of the floor. Due to the many color and texture variations designed into each plank, "exact matches" are not possible. Color and texture variations between planks and moldings are not considered defective.

SPC Flooring is waterproof and reliably secures the plank on all four sides. However, excessive moisture in subfloor could promote mold, mildew and other moisture related issues like the trapping of moisture emission under the flooring, which may contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment. Additional layer of 6mil poly film or equal vapor retarder with perm rating of 1 or less may be used as an additional layer of protection.

II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Subfloor must be flat – 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.

A. Wood Subfloors

Do **NOT** install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete. Refer to ASTM F1482 for panel underlayment recommendation.

1. Do **NOT** apply sheet plastic over wood subfloors.
2. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist is to be no less than 18" and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
3. All other subfloors – Plywood, chipboard, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance. If needed add an additional layer of APA rated underlayment, fasten and secure according to the underlayment manufacturer's recommendation.
4. SPC Flooring is not recommended directly installed over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. An additional layer of APA rated 1/4" thick underlayment should be installed.

B. Concrete Subfloors

1. Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean and free all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils and old adhesive residue. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
2. New concrete slabs must cure for at least 90 days. Concrete floors shall be constructed in accordance with the American Concrete Institute (ACI) 302.1 Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction. Concrete shall be finished and cured according to ACI and have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi. Installation of moisture vapor barrier is recommended prior to pouring of on or below grade slabs. Moisture vapor transmission shall not exceed 8lbs/1000sf/24 hours per ASTM F1869. Moisture may also be tested according to ASTM F2170, When tested according to this method, the internal relative humidity shall not exceed 80%.
3. Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic condition. Excessive moisture in the subfloor could promote mold, mildew and other moisture related issues like the trapping of moisture emission under the flooring, which may contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment. LAWSON **Does NOT** warrant nor is responsible for damage to floor covering due to moisture related issues.
4. PH Level of concrete should be between 7-10.

NOTE: IT MAY NOT BE THE FLOOR COVERING INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONDUCT THESE TEST. IT IS, HOWEVER, THE FLOOR COVERING INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THESE TESTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED, AND THAT THE RESULTS ARE ACCEPTABLE PRIOR TO INSTALLING THE FLOOR COVERING. WHEN MOISTURE TESTS ARE CONDUCTED, IT INDICATES THE CONDITIONS ONLY AT THE TIME OF THE TEST

Lightweight Concrete

All recommendations and guarantees as to the suitability and performance of lightweight concrete under resilient flooring are the responsibility of the lightweight concrete manufacturer. The installer of the lightweight product may be required to be authorized or certified by the manufacturer. Correct onsite mixing ratios and properly functioning pumping equipment are critical. To ensure proper mixture, slump testing recommended. Lightweight aggregate concretes having dry densities greater than 80 lbs/cubic foot may be acceptable under resilient flooring. Concrete slabs with heavy static and/or dynamic loads should be designed with higher strengths and densities to support such loads. Surface must be permanently dry, clean, and smooth, free of all dust, and structurally sound. Perform Bond testing to determine compatibility of adhesive to the substrate. Primer can be utilized to promote adhesion. Three internal relative humidity test should be conducted for areas up to 1000 sf. One additional test for each additional 1000 sf.

Radiant Heat: Hydronic only – Radiant heat components must have a minimum of ½” separation from the product. This is the only type of radiant heat system that is approved. Radiant heat system must be on and operational for at least 2 weeks prior to installation to reduce residual moisture within the concrete. Three days prior to installation lower the temperature to 65°F, after installation gradually increases the temperature in increments of 5°F to avoid overheating. Maximum operation temperature should never exceed 85°F. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

C. Existing Floor Coverings

LAWSON SPC planks may be installed over most existing smooth, single layer, hard surface or un-cushioned resilient flooring. Check resilient flooring for any curled areas around the perimeter or at seams and repair if necessary. Use a good quality cementitious based embossing leveler to smooth and fill the existing floor.

Do **NOT** install over carpet, cushioned backed resilient floor, or any floating or loose-laid flooring.

Do **NOT** install over wood floors adhered to concrete.

Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.

RAISED ACCESS PANEL SUBFLOORS

- Raised access panels must be stable, level, flat, free and clean of existing adhesives 24"x 24" panels are recommended.
- Lippage (variation of height) between of panels must exceed 0.295" (0.75 mm).
- Gaps between panels must not exceed 0.039" (1 mm).
- There should be no deflection of the individual panels – Concave less than 0.295" (0.75 mm).
- Flatness 1/8" in 10' Stagger the flooring planks to overlap the access panels.

- Telegraphing of access panel seams may be visible and is not considered a product defect not warranted by the flooring manufacturer.
- If needed overlay the panels with a ¼" (6 mm) plywood and properly fasten to the access panel prior to the installation of the floor covering.
- Prior to underlayment installation, repair any loose or unstable panels.
- Use the appropriate installation methods for the product.

INSTALLATION PREP

Tools: Utility Knife, Tape Measure, Straight Edge, Spacers, Tapping Block, Pry Bar or Pull Bar, Moisture Testing Gauge, Rubber Headed Mallet, Crosscut Power Saw.

Installation of 6 mil Poly Film Underlayment is recommended in high moisture application. For use over concrete substrates – seams **MUST** be taped.

INSTALLATION

Large spans in excess of 80' require expansion breaks

1. Before starting, carefully measure the length and the width of the room to plan a precise layout to achieve a balanced appearance of the floor. This will also ensure that you won't end up with the last row being too narrow. If the last row will be less than 2" (50mm), the installation will be easier and better if you reduce the width of the planks of the first row.

2. During installation, make sure that you mix the floor panels (at least 5 boxes) sufficiently so that there are not too many identical, lighter or darker planks next to each other. To obtain the best visual effect, it is best to install the panels in the direction of the longest wall. Ensure that the end joints of the panels in 2 successive rows are never in line, they should be staggered by at least 12" (30cm).

3. Using spacers, leave a 3/8" expansion gap between walls and edges of the flooring.

4. **Installing the first row:** From left to right, with the tongue-side facing the longest wall in the room, place the first board. Note that if the first row does not need to be trimmed in width, cut off the "tongue" so a solid straight edge is placed along the wall. Align and angle the second board to place the end joint tongue into the end joint groove of first board and connect the two into place. To ensure a secure fit, gently tap the joint with a rubber mallet in a downward angled motion towards the adjoining board. Continue installing additional boards in this manner until reaching the final board in the first row. Measure and cut the final board to fit the room.

5. **Installing the second row onwards:** You may use any left-over planks from the first row if greater than 12" (30cm) in length. If not, cut a new board at least 12" in length and allow 12" between end joints of the previous row to the current row that is being installed. Position the first board into place by angling and interlocking the side tongue (long end) into the previous row. Ensure fit and lay down gently into place. Position the next board using the same angling technique, interlocking motion on side tongue (long end) laying down gently, leaving a 1mm gap on the adjoining board. Tap the joint with a rubber mallet in a downward angled motion towards adjoining board until tongue and groove lock. Continue installing additional boards in each row in this manner. When you reach final board in each row, measure and cut the final board in each row to its proper length.

6. Continually check for gaps between boards before moving on to the next.

7. **Installing the final row:** The final row and all corresponding boards may need to be cut lengthwise (ripped).

8. **Final step - accessories:** Replace the molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface not through the flooring. At doorways and other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a transition strips to cover exposed edges. Check for clearance and do not pinch planks.