Rigid Core Vinyl Installation Guide

Rigid Core Flooring

- **Storage**. Store and transport Rigid Core Vinyl on a flat surface to prevent warping. Do not leave floors in areas of extreme temperature or moist rooms. Never store boxes upright.

- **Acclimate.** DellWood Kitchen & Floor Inc Rigid Floor Vinyl is designed for indoor, climate-controlled floating installations and must be acclimated to the room of installation between 65-85°F for a period of 48 hours before installation. This temperature should be maintained during & after the installation.

- **Tools**. Some recommended tools are: utility knife, tape measure, safety goggles, chalk line, tapping block, circular saw, gloves, pencil, speed square, & pull bar, moisture test/reader.

- I**nspection**. It is the installers responsibility to visually inspect all planks before and throughout installation in a well-lit area. Defective planks should not be used or, if possible, after removal of the defective potion- be used only as cut pieces to finish rows. Materials should also be inspected for color, finish, and sheen. Responsibility for the suitability of DellWood Kitchen & Floor Inc flooring and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by DellWood Kitchen & Floor Inc, since DellWood Kitchen & Floor Inc has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension, the installer should not use this piece. Complaints for visual defects can only be accepted before installation. DellWood Kitchen & Floor Inc will send a replacement in a timely fashion.

- **Things to Remember:**

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project & should not be installed underneath cabinetry.
- While Rigid Core Vinyl is waterproof, it is not a moisture barrier. It is still a good idea to make sure concrete is cured and tested for moisture and that a moisture barrier is installed in the crawl space and even under a Rigid Core Vinyl Floor over a concrete subfloor. Moisture won't damage Rigid Core Vinyl flooring, but It can get in the walls and structure of a home. A couple of extra dollars and a few minutes is a small investment for the added protection and peace of mind. Use good common sense installation practices, and you will have a successful installation that results in beautiful floor.
- When installing in mobile homes, a temperature of 65-85°F must be maintained and the subfloor must be solid.
- Installations in facilities where walkers and wheelchairs are used (i.e. Residential and or extended care) or in facilities with movement of heavy displays, racks, dentist chairs, etc. may exert extreme stress and compromise the locking system.
- Rigid Core Vinyl Flooring provides a very tight fit. Proper care must be used to ensure all seams are tight at end of install. An unprofessional installation or use of improper tools can result in damage to the click profiles.

The Subfloor

The quality of your subfloor will greatly affect the results of the installation. Make sure the subfloor is dry, flat, stable, clean, and free from debris, grease, and chemicals. While the Rigid Core planks will camouflage minor imperfections-unevenness or major imperfections may translate through the planks and it is important that necessary corrections are made.

- **Existing Floor coverings.** You may install Rigid Core Vinyl over many existing floor coverings as long as they are firmly fixed, level, and stable. Installation over carpet, needle felt, cushion vinyl, floating floors, damaged floors, and soft floors is not recommended and will void your warranty.

- **Wooden Subfloors**. Moisture content of the wood floor should not exceed 12%. Ensure the subfloor is dry, structurally sound, clean, and leveled. Be sure the wood is free from mold and insects. The crawl space under the plank floor must be adequately ventilated with perimeter venting 1.5sqft per 100sqft of space (except where local builder codes say otherwise). Any joints more than 3mm in depth and 6mm in width should be leveled.

- **Concrete Subfloors.** Moisture content must be less than 85% relative humidity or less than 5lbs moisture vapor emission rate. Moisture arising from new or old concrete can create a high level of moisture vapor emissions, hydrostatic pressure, and high levels of alkalinity. This combination is highly corrosive and will damage the floor over time. A Calcium chloride and pH level test should be performed prior to installation. Be sure to measure and record your findings. New concrete must be cured for at least 60 days before installation. Any unevenness of more than 1/16 in. over a length of 3ft must be leveled and the same applies to unevenness of more than 1/32 in. over a length of 8 inches

- **Radiant Heat.** Installation over radiant heat is acceptable if constant room and floor temperature of 65-85°F can be maintained during acclimation, installation, and for 48 hours after installation. System must be operational for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to installation & maximum floor surface temperature of 82°F must be maintained (use of an in-floor thermostat is recommended). Turn off radiant heating 24hrs before and after installation. Use a transition profile to separate rooms with and without radiant floor heating or rooms with different temperature controllers.

Measurements

Measure the room prior to installing underlayment and floor. Use a chalk line to ensure a straight installation. Be sure that the last row of panels is at least 3 inches wide when finishing the installation.

- Because houses and buildings as well as adjacent hardwood or laminate floors expand and contract, DellWood Kitchen & Floor Inc recommends leaving a ¼" expansion gap between the perimeter walls and any adjacent hardwood floor.

- Agree with the client on which direction the floor boards should run since this influences the visual size ration of the space. Installation parallel to the longest wall or the main light source is recommended for best visual effects.

- Snap the lines on the substrate to identify the layout reference points, planks should be set using this reference to ensure they are aligned and will lock together correctly.

- In large areas where flooring will span in excess of 45 linear feet and/or wider than 30 linear feet long, an expansion gap should be used. Cover the expansion space with suitable coverings.

Installation

o Shuffle Planks - this flooring replicates the look of a natural product which has natural variations in color. For best visual effect, shuffle planks or tiles from several cartons and do not install similar planks next to one another.

- o It is best to install panels parallel to the main light source in the direction of the longest wall. The end joints of the planks in two successive rows should never be in line, they should be staggered by at least 8 inches (see image below).

- o Expansion of ¼" should be maintained around the perimeter of the room and when using transition moldings

- o Make cuts using a circular saw or reciprocating jigsaw

1. Begin installing in the left corner of the room. Underlayment should be installed at the same time as the floor.

2. Cut off the long side tongue (end and edge) of the first plank and position the cut edges adjacent to the wall.

3. Fit planks with the cut off sides against the walls making sure to leave an expansion space of ¼" between the plank and the wall. Use of spacers is recommended.

4. Turn the long side of the first plank of the second row into the secured panel of the first row at an angle, lower into place and be sure the planks click together.

5. Slide the third plank together horizontally. Slightly lift the plank and push the short side joint down with your thumb moving from the inner corner out until you hear it click. Knock gently on the short end click with the palm of your hand or tapping block to ensure they are closed.

6. Connect the planks of the first two rows on the short sides

7. Make sure the first two rows are perfectly straight and make sure the expansion space is at least ¼ inch (6mm)

8. Continue row by row until you reach the other side of the room checking that each joint is sufficiently locked before moving on to the next plank. Press down gently on top of each short end joint to ensure a good connection.

9. To fit the last row, lay a plank on top of the previous row. With the plank against the wall, mark a line down the length of the plank and cut accordingly.

10. Once you have finished laying & inspecting the floor, you may install baseboards (attached to the wall, never to the floor)

11. Undercut doorjambs where the floor meets a threshold or doorway. To make the right cut, turn a plank upside down and place it on the floor up to the door frame. Place a handsaw flat against the plank and cut through the frame. Remove the cut out and secure the plank on the long side