

Gaia Floor Red Series

SPC Flooring Installation and Maintenance Instructions

Typical Tools Required

Broom, Electric Saw (carbide blade), Eye and Ear Protection, Glue, Hammer, Painter's Tape, Pencil, Pull Bar, Straightedge (6 ft), Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Wall Spacers (1/4"), Wood Chisel

Preparation

Glueless SPC can be installed directly over most existing floor coverings provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. No loose grout, tile, or planks. Wood flooring glued to concrete must be removed before installation. Concrete must be smooth and permanently dry.

Subfloor Preparation

Fill any low spots in the subfloor greater than 1/8" in 6 feet linear area with a leveling compound. Check this by using a 6' straight edge. Remove any high spots by sanding or grinding. Remove any existing floor molding (if any) except for the wall baseboards. To undercut door frames, lay a loose plank upside down against the frame and on top of the underlayment. This will be your guide for proper height to allow installed planks to float under the door frame. Saw the bottom of the door jamb case molding back to the wall studs so that 1/4" expansion gap is maintained when SPC is fitted under door jamb case molding. Sweep the subfloor clean. Do not install with any additional padding. Do not install cabinets or fixed objects on top of the flooring, especially any requiring fixing to subfloor or floor covering as this is a floating floor installation. Undercut all doorjamb. Do not fasten wall moldings and or transition strips to the planks. Gaia Floor is rated for use over concrete hydronic radiant heated floors. Flooring should not be stored outside and should be installed in a climate controlled location with a temperature range of 56-84 degrees Fahrenheit.

Start of Installation

Lay out several planks in order to determine the best installation pattern for the area. Visually, the most appealing layout will have the same width of plank at both sides of the room. Also the width of the first row of planks should be approximately the same width as the last row. This may require cutting the first row plank to a smaller width. Measure across the room (inches) and divide by the width of a plank to see how many full width planks will be used, and what size width will be needed for the last row. The last row should never be less than 2" in width. The width measurement of the room may require that the full start

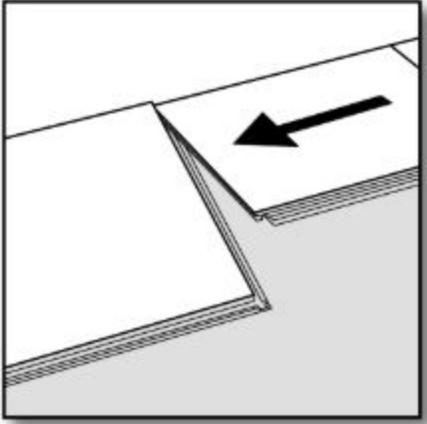
board may need to be shortened in order to achieve the same size cut plank at each end of the row. For this reason it is advisable that you add approximately 13% waste factor into the required square footage of the installation area. Installations 45 degree diagonal to the walls of a room will decrease this waste factor to approximately 7%. Use 1/4" spacers to maintain the proper expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the floor. Quarter Round molding will cover this expansion gap. **IMPORTANT:** this 1/4" gap must be maintained around cabinets, and any other obstacles in floor and must be added to every linear area greater than 49' with a transition to hide added expansion gap.

End seams should be 6" or more apart from end seams on adjacent row and also 6" or more from the next adjacent row. This is to ensure structural integrity and to enhance the look. Random stagger is best achieved by cutting first plank in each row with these guidelines in mind but with random lengths.

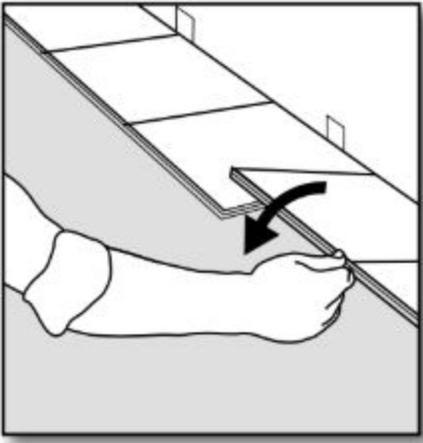
Do Not Install defective or damaged pieces. Inspect each piece prior to installation and ensure that click system is free of cracks, defects, and debris.



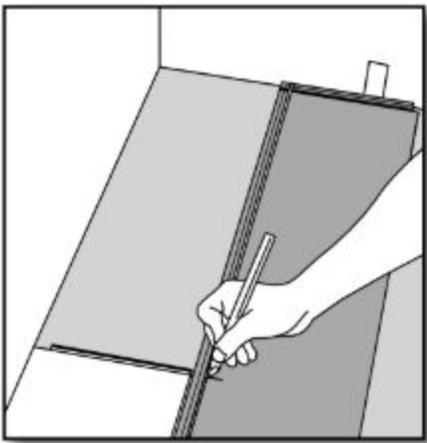
1) Begin the installation in the left-hand corner. Place the plank a minimum of 1/4" from the left wall. Use the installation spacers throughout all perimeter areas to insure the correct expansion space is maintained.



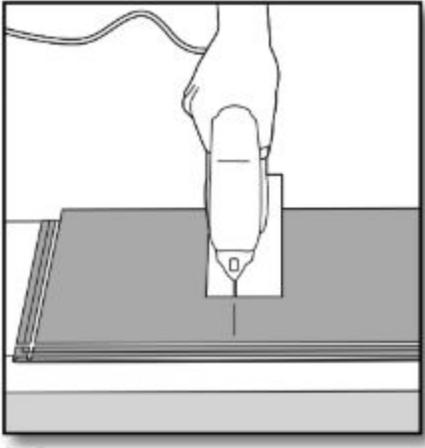
2) In the first row, place the second plank tight against the short end of the first plank.



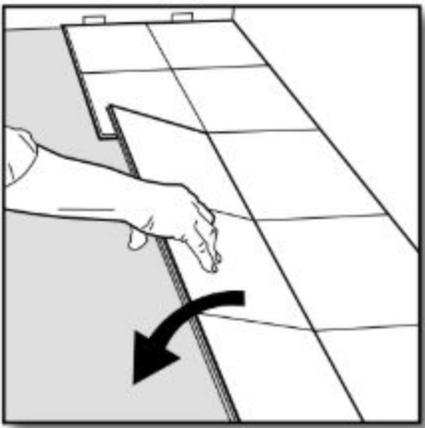
3) Fold down into the locked position. The end pieces are a drop click.



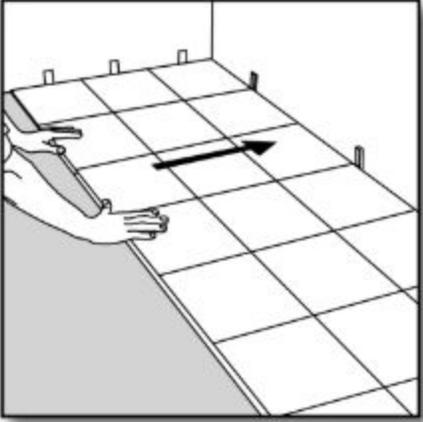
4) Place the final plank face down with the short side (without the locking strip) towards the wall. The remaining expansion space should be at least a minimum of 1/4" from the wall. Draw a pencil line where the plank is to be cut.



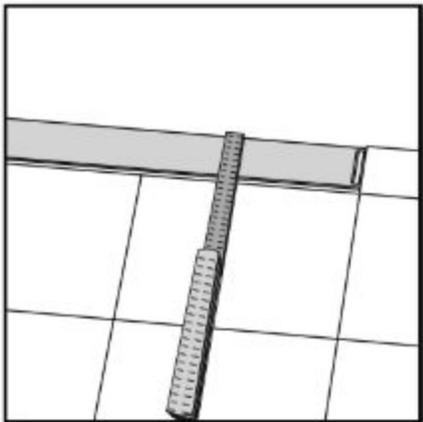
5) Place the plank face down on the work surface and cut to size with a power saw, or score and snap with a razor. If you are using a hand saw, use a fine-toothed blade, and cut the planks face up



6) Connect the planks in the following rows by aligning the end seam of each plank at least 4" away from the end seam in the prior 2 rows. Insert the long side seam at a slight angle first, and as the top surfaces meet, rotate the plank down into the locked position.



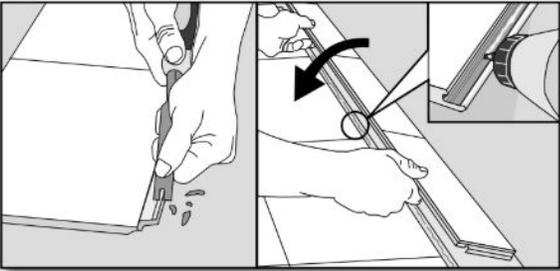
7) The distance to the walls can be adjusted when three rows are completed. Remember to place the flooring a minimum of 1/4" from all walls or other vertical obstructions such as cabinets, pipes, or columns.



8) For the last row of planks in the room (and perhaps also the first row if you have elected to cut the starting row to a narrower width), cut the panels lengthwise and glue the short ends. (Remember to carefully remove the plastic locking clips before cutting the planks lengthwise!)



9) Use a full width scrap plank to mark your cutting line on the last row.



10) In areas such as a door jamb or cabinet kick base where planks cannot be angled to lock into place, use a wood chisel to remove the locking ridge from the bottom of the plank groove. Apply a 1/8" bead of tongue and groove adhesive to the bottom groove, and gently tap the plank into place using a pull bar and hammer. Next, apply enough strips of painter's tape across this seam to hold the joint securely in place until the adhesive sets. Using a clean, soft cloth, carefully clean up any excess adhesive on the surface of the planks.

- Repeat the process of using random length start planks (minimum of 16") to ensure a more natural look.
- Randomly pull planks from 3 cartons at a time to ensure random appearance. Use cut pieces from the end of each row as starting planks. Always stagger end joints a minimum of 12" away from each other; make random so as not to show a repeating pattern.
- All joints should be a tight fit with no gaps. Stop and reconnect if a joint is not tight or if all edges are not even with adjacent planks. These planks can be engaged and disengaged several times if needed to help make a correct installation.

- When cutting the last row, place a full row of planks directly on top of the previous row of installed planks (keeping the tongue in the same direction as that of the installed planks). Use the full width of a scrap piece of plank as a guide. Place a pencil next to the edge and trace a line down the planks following the contour of the wall. Cut planks on the pencil line and then connect the last row.

Care and Maintenance

SPC flooring is designed to stand up to the toughest household conditions. However, to keep it looking its best, follow these simple instructions for protection and care.

Routine Maintenance

- Use a damp cloth to blot up spills as soon as they happen. Never allow liquids to stand on your floor.
 - Regularly sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor with the hard floor attachment (not the beater bar) to prevent accumulation of dirt and grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
 - Periodically clean the floor with cleaning products made specifically for SPC floor care such as Gaia floor Cleaner.
 - Do not use steel wool, abrasive cleaners, or strong ammoniated or chlorinated type cleaners.
 - Do not use any type of buffing or polishing machine.
 - A more frequent dust-mopping or vacuuming schedule may be required in very sandy areas such as a beach home.
- Environmental Protection:**
- Entry mats will help collect the dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, or driveway sealer that might otherwise be tracked onto your floor.
 - To prevent slippage of area rugs, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.
 - Use floor protectors and wide, load-bearing leg bases/ rollers to minimize the chance of indentations and scratches from heavy objects. As a rule, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector.
 - To minimize instability of structure of floor, maintain an indoor climate controlled temperature range of 32-100 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - To minimize the natural expansion and contraction of the flooring, maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 35 and 65% throughout the year.
 - a. Heating season (Dry): A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stove and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.
 - b. Non-Heating Season (Wet): An air conditioner, dehumidifier, or periodically turning on your heating will help to maintain humidity levels during summer months.
 - Keep your pet's nails trimmed to prevent them from scratching your floor.

- Never try to slide heavy objects across the floor.
- A protective mat should be used under furniture or chairs with castors/wheels.

Minor Repair Instructions:

- In the event that accidental damage occurs, minor scratches or dents can be repaired using a flooring touch up or fill kit. When repaired properly, the repaired area is often invisible. The repaired area should hold up to foot traffic and wear just like the rest of your SPC flooring.

SPC Board Replacement Repairs:

- Gaia SPC may be assembled and disassembled several times.
- Carefully disassembled joints will retain their original locking integrity during reassembly. New replacement plank(s) should be acclimated in the replacement area for at least 72 hours. This allows them to equalize to the conditions of the flooring in the room where the replacement(s) will take place.
- To replace the damaged board(s), first remove baseboard, wall base, or Quarter Round as needed. Take the flooring apart one row at a time. Lift each row to detach, then separate the individual boards.
- Be sure to stack the individual planks in the proper order for re-installation. This usually eliminates the need to cut planks for start or end of the row lengths.
- For best visual results, replace the damaged board with a piece from the edge of the original installation.
- Insert the properly acclimated new plank(s) along the outer edge of the original flooring installation during reassembly. This practice minimizes the chance that a newer plank will stand out from the original installation.
- Reinstall the baseboard, wall base, or quarter round, and the replacement repair is complete.