

Floating vinyl Flooring Installation Guide

NATIONAL PARKS (NP)
COLLECTION

General Information Before Installation

Please note: Examine every plank prior to installation. Should any defects be detected, refrain from using the plank and promptly notify your supplier.

While acclimation is not explicitly mandated (24 hours acclimation is still recommended), optimal installation practice suggests installing the product near the intended site temperature, typically aiming for 70°F (21°C), but at a minimum between 55°F (13°C) and 100°F (38°C).

To prevent discoloration and UV fading, refrain the flooring from prolonged exposure to direct sunlight. It is advisable to use drapes or blinds during peak sunlight hours. Excessive temperature caused by direct sunlight can also cause thermal expansion and result in flooring gapping.

For adequate material preparation, determine the total room area and include an additional 5%-7% for custom cutting purposes.

For installations in newly constructed homes or buildings, the installer/owner should verify that all windows and doors are in place, and ensure that wall and floor boards are thoroughly dry. Additionally, the home's HRV/heating/air-conditioning system should be operational and set to maintain the living conditions anticipated for the floor. It is advisable to schedule flooring installation as the final stage of the construction project.

Combine and install products from multiple cartons to achieve the desired variation in plank appearance.

While this flooring offers waterproof qualities and effectively fastens the flooring panels on all sides, excessive moisture in the subfloor may foster mold, mildew, and other moisture-related problems such as the entrapment of moisture emissions beneath the flooring. This could potentially lead to an unhealthy indoor environment. Flexible silicone sealant should be used to fill the expansion gap in bathroom installations.

Utilize cementitious patching and leveling compounds that meet or surpass the specified maximum moisture level and pH criteria.

Installation of NP flooring on stairs - the nosing must be directly stuck with an appropriate glue. It is also essential to sand the substrate surface to remove any residual objects, waxes or paints, this will assist the adhesion.

NP Collection comes with an attached underlayment pad, additional pad is not recommended and may lead to a negative impact on the installation and performance of this flooring and the locking system. For multi-level residential, commercial, or other installations where specific acoustic ratings are required, you may use a dense underlayment such as cork or rubber mats up to 5mm in thickness. It is recommended to contact your local acoustic underlayment suppliers to ensure these underlayments are appropriate and suitable for installation with NP Flooring.

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Subfloors

All subfloors must be clean (completely swept and devoid of any debris), dry, smooth, and flat (within 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'). Should the surface not be level, smooth out any high spots with sanding and fill any low areas using a leveling patch made from Portland cement-based material.

All wooden floors should be elevated a minimum of 18" (457.2 mm) above ground level to ensure proper ventilation. Additionally, it is crucial to establish sufficient cross-ventilation. Install an appropriate vapor barrier to cover the ground surface of any crawl space.

When installing on a concrete slab, ensure it is dry, clean, and adequately cured for a minimum of 6 weeks before installation. The concrete should be free from dust, powder, flaking, solvents, paint, wax, grease, oil, and other contaminants. Additionally, the moisture content of the concrete subfloor should not exceed 5%.

For all other types of subfloors such as plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc., ensure they are structurally sound and installed according to the manufacturer's guidelines. This flooring can be laid over current non-cushioned resilient flooring, ceramic tile, and pre-existing wood floors, provided that these surfaces are clean, level, securely bonded to the sub-floor, and exhibit no cupping or deflection.

Installation Tools and Supplies

Tape measure, solid rubber mallet, broom, dustpan, tapping block, safety glasses and gloves, wedges (minimum 8mm), string line, pencil, utility knife, jigsaw/circular saw/table saw. Other tools may be required depending on site specifications. A dust mask must be worn at all times especially when cutting the planks to prevent inhalation of the dust.

Radiant Heating

NP Flooring can be installed over a radiant heating system, the subfloor can be concrete, wood or a combination of both; ensure a flat and smooth surface by providing a minimum ½ inch over topping.

When installing over radiant heated subfloors, turn off the heat for 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation. After the installation, the maximum operating temperature should never exceed 28°C, it is recommended that use of an in-floor sensor to monitor temperature and avoid overheating.

It is not advised to use electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor beneath this flooring. Utilizing such mats directly underneath could potentially void the warranty in the event of failure. It is recommended to install the flooring exclusively over embedded hydronic radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the provided guidelines.

Locking Mechanism

NP Flooring comes with a strong, easy to install locking system. Unilin Uniclic patented locking system provides ultra strong locking strength on both long and short sides. Follow the Uniclic installation instructions (Source: <https://www.unilintechnologies.com/en>) and this flooring is designed and manufactured exclusively for floating installation.

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Floating Flooring Installation Instructions:

NP Flooring has been designed to be installed specifically as a floating flooring. Expansion joints are required at all perimeters and fixtures (minimum 8mm) for general installations. Depending on the layout, size and floor plan, additional expansion gaps and joints may be required. Do not install kitchen cabinets, island, and other heavy fixed items on the floor. The installer/owner/contractor is responsible for inspecting the delivered flooring products, ensuring the correct product (product, color, size, grade, finish, quality etc.) has been delivered prior to installation. Prior to installation, it is recommended that you have a proper installation layout and plan, this will assist in having a superior finish. Check all heights including but not limited to door frame clearance, tiles, windows etc. Door jambs and window frames will likely be undercut to allow the flooring to move freely. Although NP Flooring is waterproof, the subfloor will still need to be protected from moisture.

Follow the instructions and diagrams below to start your installation:

INSTALLING THE FIRST ROW

Start in a corner by placing the first plank with the tongue side facing the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 8–12 mm (3/8"–1/2") between the wall and the flooring. **Diagram 1.** NOTE: This spacing must also be maintained between the floor and all vertical surfaces, including cabinets, posts, partitions, door jambs and door tracks. You will also need to use transition strips in doorways and between rooms. Failure to do so may cause buckling or gapping. Insert the end tongue of the second plank into the end groove of the first tile at an angle of approx. 15–20 degrees. When lowered the plank will click into place. The planks should be flat to the floor. **Diagram 2.** WARNING: Failure to properly line up the end joint and attempting to force it in while out of alignment could result in permanent damage to the end joint. Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last full tile. Fit the last tile by rotating the tile 180° with the pattern side upward, place beside the row. Draw a line across the new plank with a pencil, score with an utility knife and snap off. Attach as described above. **Diagram 3.** It is important to ensure that the planks in the first row are straight before beginning installation of the second row. Use a rubber mallet and tapping block.

INSTALLING THE SECOND ROW

Begin the second row with the offcut piece from the first row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 150mm (6") long. Remember to use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 8–12 mm (3/8"–1/2") between the wall and the flooring. **Diagram 4.** NOTE: It is faster to assemble planks into a new row at the ends and then attach the entire row to the previous row on the long sides. To start your second row, lay your first plank on the subfloor. Take your second plank, and insert the end tongue into the end groove of the first plank at an angle of approximately 15–20 degrees. When lowered, the plank will click into place with light pressure. The planks should be flat to the floor. Make sure gaps are as small as possible. Continue assembling the planks this way until you have your second row complete. To attach the second row to the first row, tilt and push the side tongue into the side groove of the first row at an angle of approx. 15–20 degrees. When lowered, the planks will click into place and be flat to the floor. To ensure a strong seated joint, carefully use a rubber mallet and tapping block to lightly tap into place. Line up edges carefully. Continue laying remaining rows in this manner. **Diagram 5.**

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INSTALLING THE LAST ROW

To fit the last row, start by using the offcut piece from the previous row. Lay the plank on top of the previous row. With the tongue to the wall, use a ruler to draw a cutline. Don't forget to allow room for spacers. Cut the plank and attach into position. **Diagram 6.**

DOOR FRAMES AND HEATING VENTS

Door frames and heating vents also require expansion room. First cut the plank to the correct length. Then place the cut plank next to its actual position and use a ruler to measure the areas to be cut out and mark them. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion distance on each side. **Diagram 7.** You can trim door frames by turning a plank upside down and using a handsaw to cut away the necessary height so that the plank slides easily under the frames. **Diagram 8.** Remove the spacers once the floor is completely installed.

