SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring Installation, Maintenance, and Warranty

GENERAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT: To keep your warranty valid, use the recommended installation products, follow installation requirements and maintenance instructions.

SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring is an engineered wood polymer composite floating floor, suitable for interior floor surfaces above, on, or below grade.

SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring is FloorScore® and Greenguard Gold certified, meeting all indoor air quality requirements, and manufactured in compliance with standard ASTM F3261: Class I, Grade I, Type B, Class B Acoustic Backing. SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring does not require additional membrane.

SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring has a PUR/UV cured, ceramic bead reinforced wear layer and is suited for residential environments and light commercial environments. Light commercial use is defined as environments such as boutiques, light retail, offices, hotel suites, etc., areas using residential maintenance practices rather than commercial maintenance techniques, and that are not exposed to heavy commercial traffic.

Exposure to direct sunlight can create excessive heat and can damage flooring and other interior finishes. During peak sunlight exposure, window coverings are required.

SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring features the patented Välinge 5Gi fold-down installation system. SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring must be installed as a floating floor, attention must be given to load limits and high point loads. As a floating floor, planks should never be nailed, screwed, or bonded to the substrate. SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring is not recommended for applications subjected to heavy rolling loads. In those applications, a glue-down product is recommended.

PREPARATION

DELIVERY, STORAGE AND ACCLIMATION

Material shall not be delivered until the site is climate controlled and within required tolerances (listed below), unless an appropriate climate-controlled storage area is provided.

All flooring and related materials shall be conditioned or acclimated within the area of installation and be adequately protected from soil, dust, moisture and other contaminants during this time. The conditioning shall be for 96 hours before installation or until the materials reach the required temperature of the installation area.

The flooring should be acclimated to service conditions per NFCA guidelines. Maintain a consistent room temperature and ambient relative humidity before, during, and after installation, at18°C–25°C (65°F–77°F) and 30%–50% ambient RH relative humidity.

Cartons should be stored on a smooth, flat, sturdy, horizontal surface. Do not store cartons on end. Cartons should not be stacked more than 4 high during acclimation. Do not store cartons outdoors.

SITE CONDITIONS

Substrate surfaces must be structurally sound, clean, dry, flat, and smooth. The substrate temperature must be maintained at 15°C–22°C (60°F-72°F) before, during, and after installation.

Substrates must be free of excessive moisture, dust, existing adhesive, paint, varnish, oil, waxes, sealers, curing compounds, fillers, and adhesives that may cause bond failure.

All surfaces shall be vacuumed prior to installation.

The general contractor / construction manager / installer must provide a finished concrete substrate in accordance with ASTM F710 "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive (Floating Floors)."

Substrates must be smooth and flat within a tolerance of 4.7mm (3/16") in 3m (10'). Flatness tolerances can be determined by placing a 3m (10') straightedge on the substrate surface in any direction and measuring the deviation of the substrate surface from the straightedge.

All substrate defects likely to impair finished work shall be reported to the general contractor / consultant / owner in writing. The installation shall not proceed until all deficiencies and unsatisfactory site conditions have been corrected.

All concrete and wood substrates must be tested and documented for moisture content and temperature before the installation of SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring.

Flooring installation shall not commence until the building is enclosed.

The HVAC must be operational to ensure and maintain a consistent room temperature and ambient relative humidity before, during, and after installation, at18°C–25°C (65°F–77°F) and 30%–50% ambient RH relative humidity.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Non-porous & Existing Subfloor

Existing non-porous cement, terrazzo, or ceramic plank should be free of dust, wax, grease,detergent residue or any deleterious substance that may reduce or prevent installation success. All surfaces must be flat, level, and prepared with patching compounds suitable for the use application, cement-based and polymer-modified, and applied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring can be installed over a single layer of non-cushioned resilient flooring, provided that the existing flooring is fully adhered and securely bonded to an approved substrate as outlined above.

Any cuts, gouges, dents, grout joints, textured embossing, or other irregularities in the existing floor must be prepared with a cementitious embossing leveler.

Subfloors must be thoroughly vacuumed before installation.

Concrete Subfloor

Concrete substrates below grade or on grade must have an effective moisture barrier present under the concrete.

All defects likely to impair finished work shall be reported to the general contractor / owner in writing. The installation shall not proceed until all deficiencies and unsatisfactory site and environmental conditions have been corrected.

All concrete slabs shall be tested for porosity, moisture and alkalinity, regardless of age or grade level, and tests results should be recorded prior to installation.

Testing should comply with the following standards:

> **ASTM F2170:** "Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using In-Situ Probes." Allowable moisture readings shall be in accordance with the recommended adhesive. Follow adhesive manufacturer's requirements for RH tolerances.
>
> **ASTM F1869:** "Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Evaporation Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride." Allowable moisture readings shall be in accordance with the recommended adhesive. Follow adhesive manufacturer's requirements for moisture tolerances.
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> **ALKALINITY TEST:** A pH range of 7–9 is considered acceptable, unless stated otherwise by adhesive manufacturer; pH readings outside of the acceptable range will require corrective measures before beginning installation.
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> **POROSITY TEST per ASTM F3191:** "Standard Practice for Field Determination of Substrate Water Absorption (Porosity) for Substrates to Receive (Floating Floors)." Follow manufacturer's installation requirements.

Substrates must be free of excessive moisture, dust, existing adhesive, paint, varnish, oil, waxes, sealers, curing compounds, and any other substances detrimental to fillers and adhesives that may cause installation failure.

Repair all cracks and surface imperfections with a cementitious patching compound. Follow patch manufacturer's recommendations.

Substrate surface temperatures must be confirmed acceptable to hydraulic cement underlayment, adhesives, and SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring requirements. Infrared laser thermometers are an acceptable method of testing surface temperatures.

Subfloors must be thoroughly vacuumed before installation.

Wood Subfloor

Plywood, hardwood, or other wooden subfloors must conform to and be installed in accordance with ASTM F1482 "Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayments to Receive (Floating Floors)" and building code requirements regarding acceptable materials, thickness, support, span, and fastening. All wood substrates must be tested for moisture, structurally sound, flat, smooth,and free from movement.

Single-layer floors and strip-wood floors must be covered with 6mm (1/4") or heavier underlayment to achieve a total subfloor thickness of 24mm (1"). Underlayment panels must be a minimum 6mm (1/4") "underlayment grade" plywood panel, purpose-built to receive floating floors.

Particle board, strand board, lauan, mahogany, and sheathing-grade plywood must be tested for moisture, structurally sound, flat, smooth, and free from movement, and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.

Underlayment panels shall be free of internal voids, knot holes, splits, or cracks and be complete with an upper surface that is sufficiently dense and smooth so that surface grain or texture will not be telegraphed to the surface of the finished flooring.

Underlayment panels shall be resistant to common static or dynamic loads.

Underlayment panels shall not contain materials that will cause staining of installed flooring.

New wood underlayment shall be acclimated to service conditions prior to installation.

Plywood underlayment panels shall be installed in accordance with panel manufacturer's written requirements regarding type and spacing of fasteners.

The adjoining edges of underlayment panels shall be butted to a light contact, fastened, and free of vertical movement.

Minor imperfections shall be sanded smooth. If recommended by panel manufacturer, imperfections can be filled with a cementitious patching compound.

Subfloors must be thoroughly vacuumed before installation.

Heated Floor Systems

SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring can be installed over heated floor systems.

SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring is not recommended for glue-down installation over heated floor systems.

Concrete subfloors must be cured for a minimum of 90 days before beginning the installation.

Finished in-floor heated systems must be covered with a uniform and flat compatible cementitious underlayment at least 24mm (1") thick.

Heated floor systems must not exceed the maximum temperature of 25°C (77°F) before, during, or after installation.

CONDITIONING

All flooring and related materials shall be conditioned or acclimatized within the area of installation and be adequately protected from soil, dust, moisture, and other contaminants during this time. The conditioning period shall be for at least 96 hours before installation, or until the materials reach the service temperature and humidity levels of the installation area.

It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to inspect all materials carefully before installation and to determine if the substrate and jobsite conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for floor installation. The manufacturer is not responsible for a floor failure resulting from any improper installation or substrate deficiencies, jobsite damage, or any visible defects after the flooring has been installed.

NOTE: If the temperature and humidity levels are outside the recommended parameters, the installation must not begin until the HVAC system is operational. The temperature and humidity level must reach the minimum requirements and be maintained before, during, and after the installation.

FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Ensure that you have the correct material and that all cartons are from the same production lot. Planks should be taken from several boxes to ensure a blend of colours and design. Carefully check all planks for any defects. **DO NOT INSTALL ANY PLANKS FROM DIFFERENT PRODUCTION LOTS.** No claim will be accepted for material that has been installed with visual defects.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION: Ensure that all subfloor surfaces conform to requirements for flatness, temperature, moisture, and contaminant removal.

Inspect all planks before installation. Planks with visible flaws should be culled. Consider using culled pieces as starting or finishing pieces, once flaws have been cut away. Ensure that all joints and edges of the Välinge 5Gi fold-down system are free from damage and debris.

It is recommended that the flooring be installed parallel to the longest wall. Use a chalk line as a guide to ensure that the first row is straight.

Maintain a 7.5mm (5/16") gap at all vertical and fixed objects. The use of spacers is recommended to prevent movement during installation.

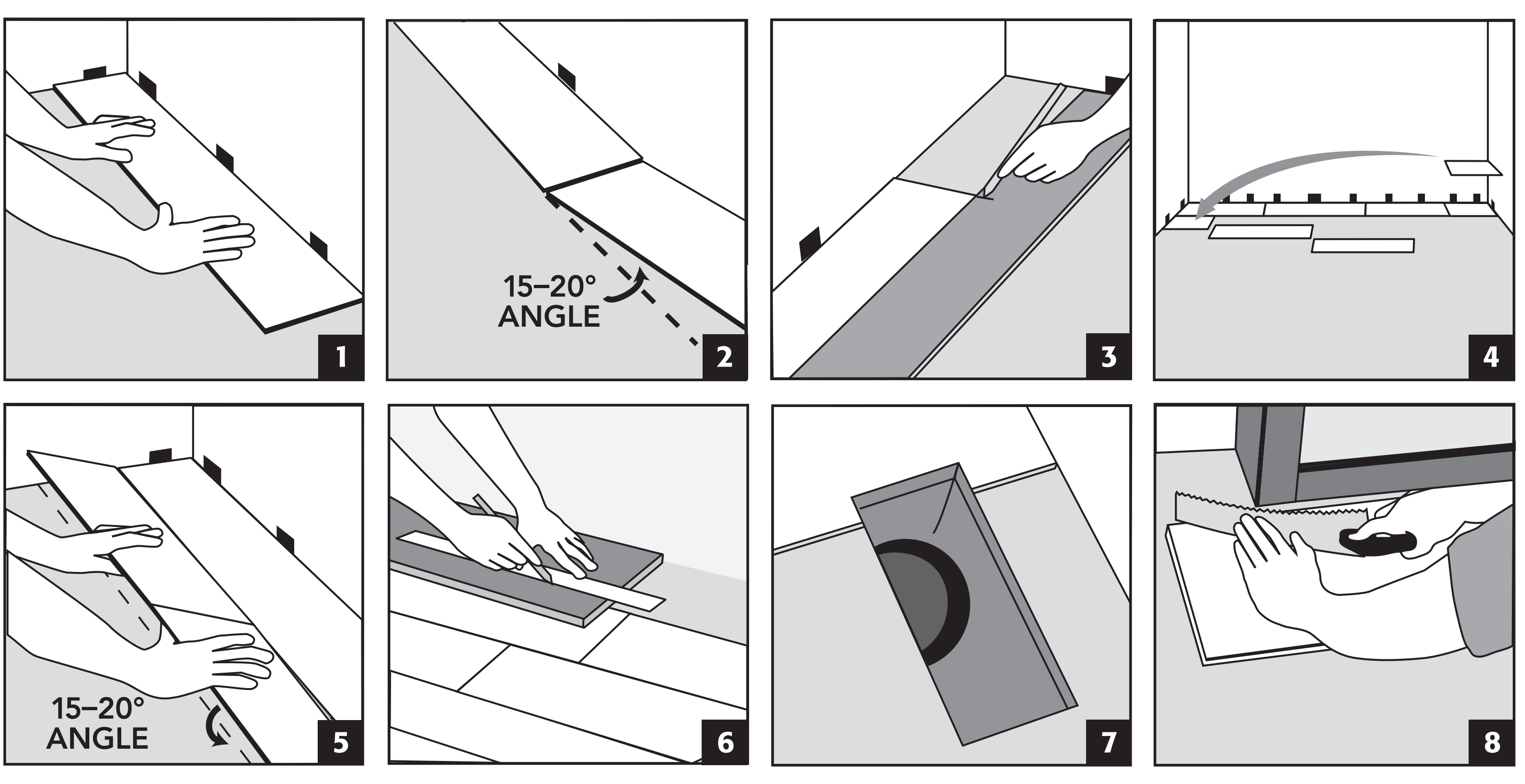
Measure the row before laying the first plank. The cut planks should not be less than 200mm (8"). If less than 200 mm (8"), trim the starting plank as necessary. Ensure end joints of planks are a minimum of 200mm (8") apart from adjacent rows.

Planks must be installed with a 7.5mm (5/16") gap around the perimeter of the room and at all vertical surfaces. A transition allowing a 7.5mm (5/16") gap must be in place when installations are greater than 15m (50') in any direction.

Door jambs and casings must be undercut to allow 7.5mm (5/16") expansion space. Transitions are recommended at all doorways. Transitions must allow a 7.5mm (5/16") gap to accommodate expansion of the floating floor. Attach transitions directly to the subfloor, not the installed planks, as attaching them to the planks could compromise the floating floor system, resulting in installation failure.

Planks can be cut with a fine-tooth multipurpose saw blade, guillotine cutter, or scored with autility knife.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



First plank, first row: Place a 7.5mm (5/16") spacer to the left and position one end of the plank against the wall. Scribe to fit the first row to allow a 7.5mm (5/16") space at the starting wall. Use spacers to maintain a 7.5mm (5/16") space away from all fixed vertical surfaces. (See Illustration 1.)

Second plank, first row: Place this plank gently close to the short end of the first plank. (See Illustration 2.)

Connecting planks: When folding down, it is important to start from the corner closest to the previous row, folding down toward the center, and continue toward the opposite long side. During the fold-down, make sure that the planks are aligned properly. (See Illustraion 3.) Press slightly along the short end just installed to ensure that 5Gi locking mechanism is engaged properly. The top face of the installed plank should be flush with that of adjacent planks. (See Illustration 4.)

End of row: At the end of the first row, put a spacer against the wall and measure from the end of the next-to-last plank to the spacer and cut the final plank to that length. (See Illustration 5.)

Second row, first plank: This plank must be at least 200mm (8") long. Put a spacer between the wall and the left end of the plank. (See Illustration 6.) Proceed to end of this row as with the first.

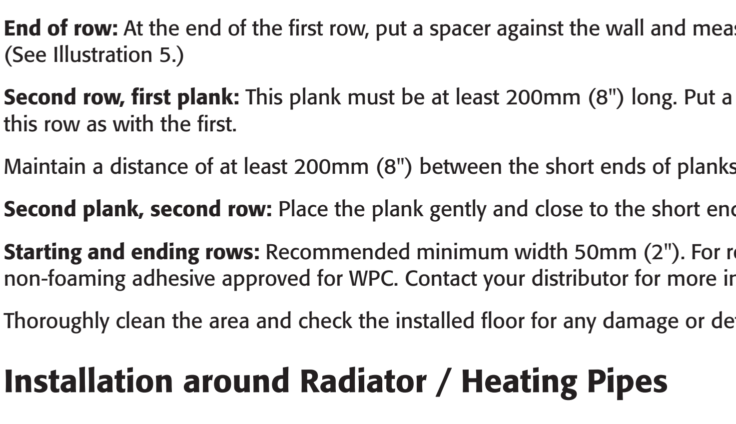
Maintain a distance of at least 200mm (8") between the short ends of planks on adjoining rows. (See Illustration 7.)

Second plank, second row: Place the plank gently and close to the short end of the previous plank and fold it down into place. (See Illustration 8.)

Starting and ending rows: Recommended minimum width 50mm (2"). For rows less than 50mm (2"), it is recommended to glue the tongue and groove joint. Use a clear, non-foaming adhesive approved for WPC. Contact your distributor for more information. **DO NOT use a hammer or tapping block to install the planks.**

Thoroughly clean the area and check the installed floor for any damage or defects, replacing any planks as necessary. Remove all spacers and install baseboards.

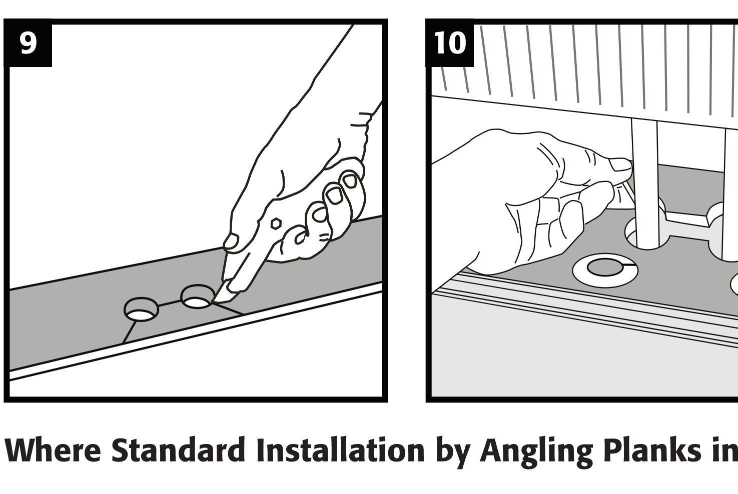
Installation around Radiator / Heating Pipes



Where pipes will come through the plank, drill or cut holes that are 7.5mm (5/16") larger than the diameter of the pipes. Cut and remove piece as shown in Illustration 9.

Place plank on side of the pipes and the removed piece on the other side. (See Illustration 10.)Bond the cut-out piece to the plank using a clear, non-foaming adhesive approved for WPC. Be careful not to bond to the subfloor or any fixed objects. Contact your distributor for more information.

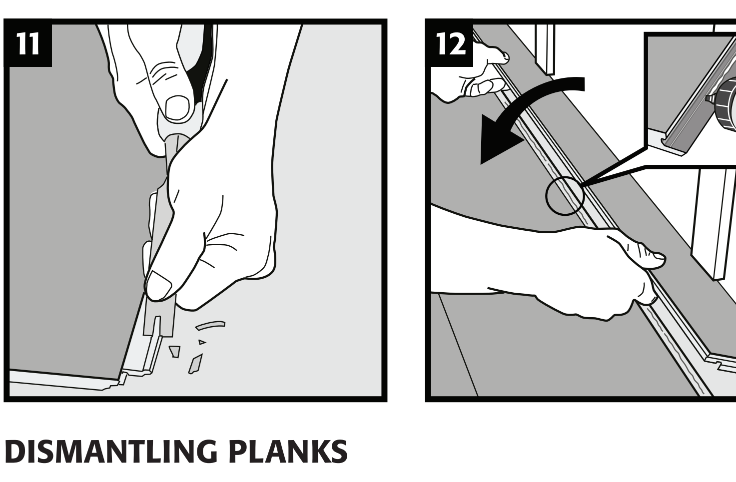
Where Standard Installation by Angling Planks in Is Not Possible (Typically on Last Row)



Remove the vertical locking part of the groove with a chisel or utility knife. (See Illustration 11.)

Apply applicable non-foaming glue on the bottom of the groove and push the planks into place. Place spacers between last board and the wall. (See Illustration 12.)

DISMANTLING PLANKS



Separate an entire row by carefully folding up the exposed long edge of the row until the row is released at the joint with the next row. (See Illustration 13.)

Disassemble the individual planks by sliding the short ends horizontally. Never fold up a plank in this step, as this will damage the locking short edge. (See Illustration 14.)

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring has a UV-cured ceramic bead polyurethane finish and does not require additional coatings or waxes.

Exposure to direct sunlight can create excessive heat and can damage flooring and other interior finishes. During peak sunlight exposure, window coverings are required.

Support furniture with wide-bearing, non-staining floor protectors. Ideally, the protectors should be at least 25mm (1") wide, made of non-pigmented plastic or felt, and rest flat on the floor.

Urethane or neoprene casters, felt pads, or floor protectors are recommended for all movable furniture. Use protection mats under chairs with casters.

Use plywood or similar protective material to cover flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.

Use mats at all room entrances to prevent dirt and debris from being tracked onto the floor. Use non-staining mats. Do not use rubber- or latex-backed mats.

For regular cleaning, sweep, or vacuum using a hardwood attachment. Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar. Damp-mop floors using a pH-neutral cleaning solution. Follow the manufacturer's directions for using pH-neutral cleaners.

Wipe up spills quickly. Do not allow standing water to permeate through to the subfloor. While SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring is waterproof, the subfloor typically is not, so water can cause it to bulge or decay.

For heavily soiled floors, use a neutral cleaner and scrub with a red pad or microfiber cloth. Rinse the pad or cloth frequently.

For additional maintenance information, please contact your distributor.

MANUFACTURER'S LIMITED WARRANTY

The manufacturer warrants to the original end consumer of the SPC Lightcore Waterproof Flooring, from the date of purchase, that the flooring is free from any manufacturers defects, the flooring will not wear out for a lifetime—25 years for residential and 5 years for light commercial installations, provided that the flooring was installed and maintained properly and used as intended and recommended. Light commercial use is defined as environments such as boutiques, light retail, offices, hotel suites, etc.—areas using residential maintenance practices rather than commercial maintenance techniques and that are not exposed to heavy commercialtraffic. "Wear out" is defined as a complete removal of the pattern and/or color from normal traffic and maintenance.

This warranty applies only to the original purchaser, and proof of purchase is required for all claims. The warranty is for replacement or refund of the flooring only, excluding labor. This limited warranty does not cover damage due to tears, cuts, gouges, scratches, stains, burns, scuffs, indentations, surface wear that is the result of sand or other abrasive materials and any other accidents or abuse. Claims will be dismissed for any of these problems.

This warranty is prorated. For example, if you have a residential claim after 5 years, the manufacturer will refund or replace 4/5 of the floor value (5 years = 1/5 of the 25-year residential warranty), excluding labor.

The flooring must be properly installed in accordance with the installation instructions, and must be used only for indoor areas. This limited warranty does not cover negligence, improper installation, improper maintenance, insufficient protection, improper alterations to the original materials, severe accidents, exposure to extreme heat, burns, fire and all other natural disasters.

This limited warranty does not cover installations in wet areas, rooms exposed to excessive moisture, or rooms exposed to direct sunlight without proper window treatments.

This limited warranty does not cover the surface wear or damage as a result of abuse, sliding furniture or heavy objects, severe impact, cutting, or chemical damage.

This limited warranty specifically excludes damage or discoloration due to standing water, urine or other corrosive liquids, excessive subsurface penetration or hydrostatic moisture emissions from concrete, leaking pipes or faucets, appliances, flooding, natural disasters, or Acts of God.

Flooring installed with any manufacturing defect is not covered by this limited warranty. Any known manufacturing defect must be reported prior to product installation or, under any circumstance, no longer than thirty days after the date of purchase, in order to be covered under this limited warranty. Any such defective material will be replaced at no additional cost to the customer. Any claim under this limited warranty shall be made by contacting your retailer within thirty days after the defect is detected. Proof of purchase, with the date of purchase, must be presented with the claim.

This limited warranty covers the repair or replacement at the manufacturers option of the affected flooring. If repair is not commercially practical, or if the design or model that is claimed is no longer available, the manufacturer will replace the affected materials with another design or model line of equal value.

This limited warranty is not transferable, and extends only to the original end consumer. The above constitutes the customer's sole and exclusive remedy for claims under this limited warranty.

This limited warranty constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.