

LEGACY COLLECTION

Luxury Waterproof SPC Flooring

PURPOSE

This guide outlines the minimum conditions, preparation steps, and installation practices required for Zolana Surfaces rigid core SPC flooring. Correct installation is essential to appearance, performance, and warranty eligibility.

APPROVED APPLICATIONS

- Interior residential and light-commercial spaces
- Above-grade, on-grade, and below-grade installations
- Compatible radiant-heat systems when the finished floor surface remains at or below 85°F (29°C)

NOT APPROVED

- Exterior locations, sunrooms without climate control, or areas exposed to weather
- Locations with active leaks, hydrostatic pressure, unresolved moisture intrusion, or structural movement
- Installation beneath permanently fixed cabinetry, islands, partitions, or other objects that restrict floor movement

INSTALLER AND OWNER REVIEW

Before work begins, the installer and owner must verify the product, color, quantity, site conditions, and subfloor suitability. Installation of any plank is considered acceptance of its visible appearance and the jobsite conditions.

STORAGE AND INSPECTION

- Transport and store cartons flat, fully supported, and protected from extreme temperatures.
- Inspect planks in good lighting before installation, including finish, shade, edges, and locking profiles.
- Do not install visibly damaged or questionable material. Stop work, preserve cartons and labels, and contact the authorized dealer.

IMPORTANT Waterproof flooring is not a waterproofing system and does not prevent moisture from reaching the structure below.

BUILDING EXTERIOR

- Correct roof, wall, plumbing, drainage, and foundation moisture sources before flooring is delivered.
- Grade soil and hardscape away from the building. A commonly accepted target is approximately 3 inches of fall over 10 feet where site conditions allow.
- Crawl spaces must comply with local code, remain dry and ventilated, and be covered with a continuous minimum 6-mil polyethylene ground vapor retarder.

INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT

- The building must be enclosed, weather-tight, and operating under normal occupied conditions.
- Maintain 65°F-85°F (18°C-29°C) and 35%-55% relative humidity before, during, and after installation.
- Heating and cooling systems should be functioning continuously. Avoid installation where large temperature swings are expected.
- Complete painting, drywall, wet trades, and major construction before flooring installation whenever possible.

FLOATING FLOOR REQUIREMENTS

- Do not fasten, glue, nail, or trap the floor unless a separate Zolana-approved installation method states otherwise.
- Do not place permanent cabinets, vanities, islands, or heavy built-ins directly over the floating floor.
- Use transition profiles and expansion breaks where required by room geometry, environmental exposure, or total run length.

ACCEPTABLE SUBFLOOR TYPES

- Structurally sound plywood and approved wood panels
- Properly cured concrete with adequate compressive strength
- One secure, non-cushioned layer of existing resilient flooring or ceramic tile, provided it is flat and fully bonded

INSTALLER DUTY Local building codes, substrate manufacturer instructions, and current Zolana warranty terms take priority when they are more restrictive.

SUBFLOOR STANDARDS

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UNIVERSAL REQUIREMENTS

- Subfloor must be clean, dry, stable, smooth, and free of contaminants that could affect support or movement.
- Remove protruding fasteners, debris, wax, oils, paint buildup, curing compounds, and loose adhesive residue.
- Flatness must be within 3/16 inch over 10 feet (approximately 5 mm over 3 m). Correct high and low areas using appropriate methods and products.

WOOD SUBFLOORS

- Verify moisture content is 11% or less and consistent with surrounding wood components.
- Re-secure loose panels and eliminate movement or squeaks. Fastening spacing must meet panel and structural requirements.
- Sand high seams and fill low areas with a compatible patch or underlayment rated for the intended use.
- Do not install over wood components that are deteriorated, wet, soft, or inadequately supported.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Allow new slabs to cure adequately; 60-90 days is typical, but testing determines readiness.
- Perform and document moisture and pH testing in accordance with recognized test methods.
- Recommended maximums: 85% in-situ relative humidity, 8 lb/1,000 sq. ft./24 hr calcium chloride MVER, and pH 7-9.
- Use a continuous minimum 6-mil polyethylene vapor retarder over concrete when below grade, when moisture fluctuates, when cracks or uncertainty exist, or whenever required by the warranty. Overlap and seal seams as directed.

EXISTING HARD SURFACE FLOORING

- Only one existing layer is permitted.
- The existing surface must be firmly bonded and supported by a structurally sound substrate.
- Fill deep grout joints, embossing, or irregularities with a cement-based leveling product to create a smooth plane.

PROHIBITED BASES

- Carpet, cushion-backed products, loose-lay materials, floating floors, and soft underlayments
- Wood flooring attached directly to concrete, sleeper systems, or any substrate with active movement
- Any surface that does not meet flatness, moisture, cleanliness, or structural requirements

PLANNING THE LAYOUT

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RECOMMENDED TOOLS

- Safety glasses and appropriate personal protective equipment
- Tape measure, pencil, straightedge, and chalk line
- Spacers, tapping block, pull bar, and rubber mallet
- Jamb or undercut saw
- Approved cutting tools with the correct blade and dust controls

VISUAL BLENDING

- SPC planks are designed to reproduce natural wood, so variation in grain, tone, and pattern is intentional.
- Work from at least three cartons at a time and distribute similar visuals throughout the room.
- Inspect the overall mix continuously. The installer controls final placement and is responsible for the finished visual balance.

ESTABLISH THE STARTING LINE

- Select a straight exterior wall or another reliable reference edge.
- Measure the width of the first row at several points and snap a straight working line.
- When the wall is irregular, scribe and trim the first row while preserving the expansion gap.
- Undercut door casings using a flooring offcut as the height guide. Remove base molding or shoe molding when practical.

PRE-PLAN THE FINAL ROW

- Measure the room width and account for perimeter expansion.
- Avoid a narrow final row. Adjust the first-row width so the last row is at least one-third of a full plank whenever possible.
- Dry-fit several rows to confirm alignment, seam placement, and transitions before locking the floor together.

LAYOUT TIP Most rooms look best when planks run parallel to the longest wall or the primary light source, but room shape and design intent may justify another direction.

EXPANSION & JOINT PLACEMENT

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PERIMETER CLEARANCE

- Provide a continuous 3/8-inch expansion space around walls, columns, pipes, door frames, thresholds, and every fixed vertical obstruction.
- For room widths or uninterrupted runs exceeding 50 feet, increase clearance to at least 1/2 inch and use transitions where appropriate.
- Maintain the gap with removable spacers. Never fill the expansion space with rigid grout, wood filler, adhesive, or fasteners.

ROW AND JOINT PLANNING

- Begin each row from the same installation side unless the locking profile requires a different sequence.
- Stagger end joints at least 8 inches (20 cm) from the adjacent row.
- Use random starter lengths to avoid stair-step, H-joint, or repetitive seam patterns.
- Starter and end pieces should generally be at least 8 inches long unless the product-specific instructions state otherwise.

FIRST ROW

- Position the first plank with the tongue toward the starting wall and against the spacers.
- Connect short-end joints using the angle-and-lower method appropriate for the locking profile.
- Cut the final plank to length while preserving the expansion gap.
- Confirm the row is straight, fully engaged, and free of raised edges before proceeding.

QUALITY CHECK

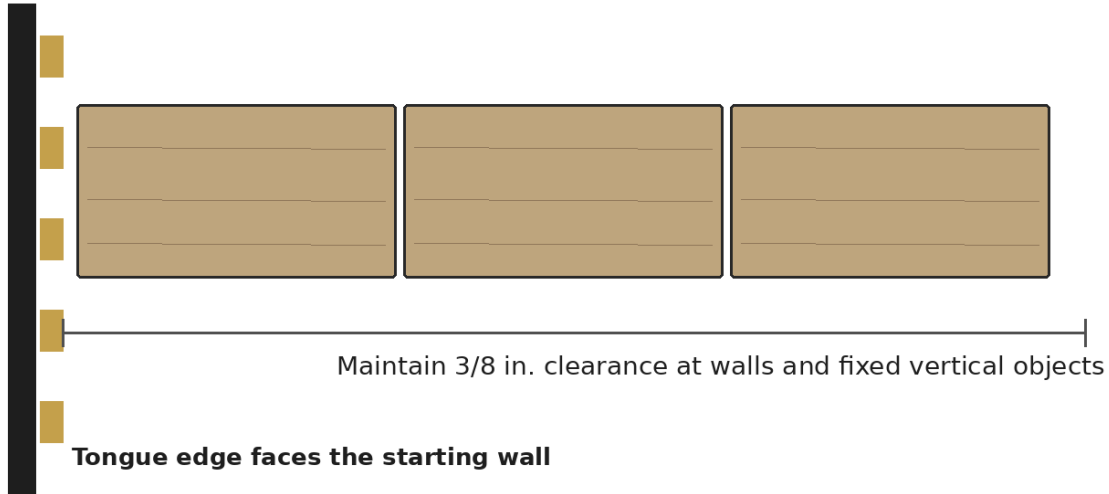
- Inspect every seam by sight and touch.
- A properly locked joint should be flush and tight. Never use excessive force to close a joint.
- Replace any plank with a damaged locking profile rather than attempting to force it into place.

STARTING THE FLOOR

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STARTING ROW + REQUIRED EXPANSION SPACE



INSTALLATION SEQUENCE

- Place spacers along the starting wall and at the row ends.
- Set the first plank square to the room and aligned with the working line.
- Angle the short tongue of the next plank into the receiving groove, then lower it until the surfaces are flush.
- Continue across the room. Cut the last plank with the required perimeter clearance.
- Re-check straightness before beginning row two; small errors at the start will multiply across the floor.

PROTECT THE LOCKING SYSTEM

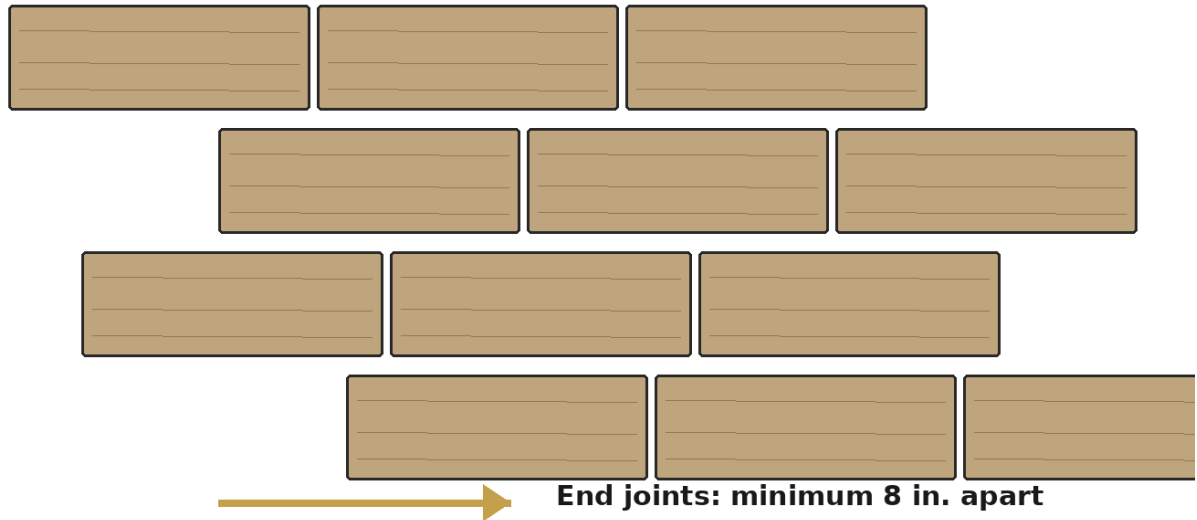
- Keep grooves free of dust and debris.
- Use only a flooring tapping block that contacts the correct profile area.
- Never strike a plank edge directly with a hammer or mallet.

SECOND ROW & STAGGERING

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RANDOMIZED JOINT STAGGER



BEGINNING ROW TWO

- Cut the first plank to create a randomized joint offset while keeping the piece at least 8 inches long.
- Insert the long tongue into the first-row groove at the recommended angle.
- Lower the plank gradually and verify the entire long seam is closed.

ADDING THE NEXT PLANK

- Join the short end to the previous plank in row two.
- Lift the connected pieces slightly as needed, engage the long edge into row one, and lower them together.
- Use a pull bar or tapping block gently when required. Do not distort or crush the locking profile.

CONTINUE ACROSS THE ROOM

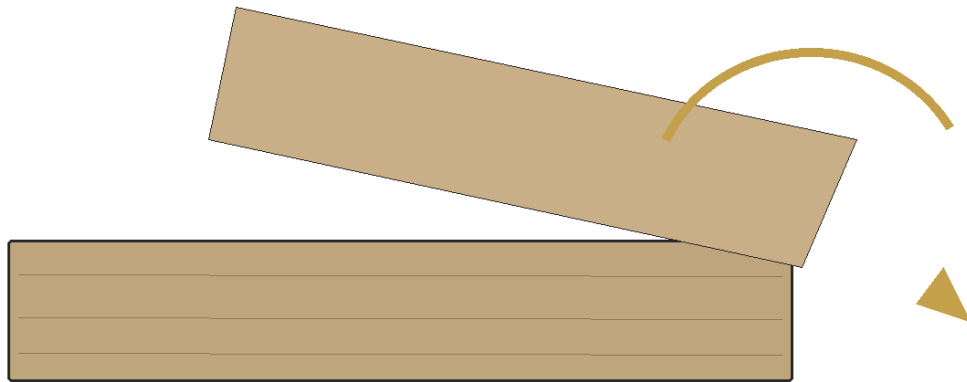
- Repeat the same sequence, maintaining random end-joint spacing.
- Check that every plank lies flat and each joint is fully seated before moving on.
- Correct gaps immediately; do not continue installation over an improperly connected seam.

LOCKING REMAINING ROWS

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ANGLE, ENGAGE, THEN LOWER



Engage the long edge at an angle. Lower carefully and verify the seam closes without force.

PROPER ENGAGEMENT

- Approach the receiving groove at a controlled angle.
- Engage the full long edge before lowering the plank.
- Slide or tap only as the locking design allows, using light, even pressure.
- Use a pull bar near walls where hand clearance is limited.

COMPLETE THE FIELD

- Install row by row while preserving perimeter and transition clearances.
- Keep cut edges toward walls whenever practical.
- Frequently verify that rows remain straight and that no seam has reopened.
- Stop and replace damaged material instead of forcing installation.

DOORWAYS AND COMPLEX AREAS

- Undercut jambs so the flooring can move freely beneath the casing without being pinned.
- Use appropriate transition moldings where separate rooms, floor coverings, or large spans meet.
- Follow product-specific guidance for reverse assembly or flat tapping in areas where angling is impossible.

COMPLETION, PROTECTION & CARE

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FINISH THE INSTALLATION

- Remove all temporary spacers.
- Cover perimeter gaps with baseboard, quarter round, or approved trim. Fasten trim to the wall or substrate - never through the floating floor.
- Install reducers, T-moldings, end caps, and stair profiles where required.
- At tubs, showers, and similar wet-area perimeters, use a flexible sealant where molding is impractical while preserving floor movement.
- Commercial doorways should receive transitions when required by the project specification or warranty.

INITIAL CLEANING AND PROTECTION

- Vacuum or dust-mop with a hard-floor attachment to remove grit.
- When other trades remain, protect the clean floor with breathable builder paper or hardboard.
- Overlap and tape protective sheets to themselves or to trim - never apply tape directly to the flooring surface.
- Do not cover with plastic or another non-breathable membrane that can trap moisture or heat.

MOVING FURNITURE

- Use felt or other approved floor protectors under movable furniture.
- Move appliances and heavy objects on hardboard runways with suitable lifting equipment.
- Do not drag heavy items across the floor.

FINAL RESPONSIBILITY NOTICE

These instructions are general minimum requirements and do not replace professional judgment, local codes, substrate manufacturer requirements, or the full Zolana Surfaces Limited Warranty. Site-specific conditions may require additional measures. Claims related to visible defects, improper substrate preparation, moisture, trapped movement, or installation outside these requirements may be excluded from warranty coverage.

KEEP FOR RECORDS Retain product labels, purchase documentation, moisture-test results, site photographs, and installer records.

QUALITY FIRST. TIMELESS DESIGN.