

## **WINDSOR IMPORT FLOORING®**

This document supersedes all printed and electronic Installation, Care and Warranty information previously distributed for Elite WPC.

# **WPC EXTRUDED WATERPROOF FLOORING With and Without Attached Pad**

## **Installation**

### **ProTek and ProTek XL**

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION. IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID WARRANTY.**

- Always check extruded waterproof flooring (WPC) panels for defects such as chips and color or sheen differences under well-lit conditions. Also check that the click channel is clean and free of debris. Always work out of multiple boxes to mix product to achieve proper pattern repeat and color appearance. Color variations between flooring, samples, and replacement material is expected and is not a product defect.
- If the appearance of a board is questionable for either dimensions or appearance, the installer should not use this piece. A replacement carton can be obtained through your dealer in a reasonable time.
- The person installing the floor is responsible to inspect all the flooring before and during its installation. If the installer believes the flooring is not correct due to color, grade, gloss, or any installation issues, the installer should stop the job and not install this material. The retailer where the flooring was purchased should be contacted to address the issues. Continuing to install the product means that the installer accepted the suspect material for installation so the claim will be denied.

**NOTE: WPC can be installed above, on and below grade. The product may be installed either as a floating floor or by direct glue down method on approved wood or concrete subfloors. Direct glue down applications for floors and stairs require a full spread adhesive manufactured exclusively for LVP and LVT only. Never use an adhesive that is recommended for multiple products. We recommend Stauf D737 PSA glue or equivalent. Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions when full spreading our WPC.**

A minimum of 3/8" gap for expansion is recommended between the WPC and any adjacent perimeter wall, vertical structure, or wood-based floor (laminated or hardwood).

A tapping block must be used on every panel of WPC to ensure the positive locking of the joint and to validate the product warranty if the locking system is angle-tap on the short end joints.

## **INSTALLATION**

### **JOBSITE PREPARATION BEFORE INSTALLATION**

The responsibility for installation of WPC is with the local job site installer. Every plank and/or tile must be inspected prior to installation for color variation, finish condition, sheen variation, and quality. This inspection should be conducted with proper lighting available. Any boards that are not acceptable should not be installed. Contact your dealer immediately to obtain replacement boards. Windsor Import Flooring is not responsible for the installation of flooring with obvious defects.

Crawl spaces – For the protection of the home, when installing a moisture barrier in a crawl space, minimum crawl spaces of 18” are required from the ground to the underside of the joists. A vapor barrier of 6-20 mil thick polyethylene film with 6” sealed lap joints should be used. Moisture resistant tape should be used as the vapor barrier sealant at the lap joints. Venting for the crawl space should be at least 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. Vents should be located for cross-ventilation of the crawl space. Local regulations should prevail at all times.

Before floor installation, the room conditions in the installation area (temperature and moisture) should be at normal year-round conditions for at least one week prior to and during flooring installation. Acclimation of WPC is not required before installation. Recommended installation room conditions are temperatures between 45-105 degrees F. Never install below 45 degrees or above 105 degrees F. Normal room temperatures are use temperatures between 65 degrees and 85 degrees F.

### **REMOVING OLD ADHESIVES**

Asphaltic “cut-back” adhesives can stain WPC flooring. These must be 100% removed, encapsulated or covered with plywood underlayment. Some previously manufactured cutback adhesives contained asbestos fibers, which are not readily identifiable. Do not use power removal devices, which can create dust. The use of solvent-based adhesive removers is never recommended. NOTE: If d-limonene (citrus based) cleaners/removers are used (Orange All), subfloor must be thoroughly rinsed. If complete removal of old adhesives or covering them with plywood is not possible, the use of a Portland Based Leveling or Patching Compound is acceptable. Please follow manufacturer’s instructions carefully.

For “Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” write to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute, 966 Hungerford Dr., Suite 12-B, Rockville, MD 20850.

## **SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS**

All subfloors must be dry, structurally sound to support the floor and to protect the home from moisture, free of debris and foreign matter, and flat to 3/16” in a 10-foot radius. The substrate must be level and not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction.

For concrete floors, the subfloor should be firm, flat, permanently dry, and clean. This includes both old and new concrete floors. New concrete slabs must cure in well-ventilated conditions for at least 60 days minimum before installing the floor. Concrete should have a minimum-6mil poly film vapor/moisture barrier between the concrete and ground. Maximum moisture level per the Calcium Chloride test method is 8lbs. per 1000 cft in 24 hours. The maximum level of relative humidity per ASTM 2170 test method is 80%. Electronic meter testing is not acceptable as a replacement for the use of these two tests. The pH of the concrete slab should be determined using ASTM F710. The pH test results should measure between 7-10.

The moisture and alkali levels must be met before it is acceptable to install the flooring. It is the responsibility of the flooring installer or contractor to meet these requirements. We require that a minimum 6mil poly film be installed as a vapor/moisture barrier between the flooring and concrete subfloor. The poly film should be overlapped 8-inches and taped with a moisture resistant tape at the seams to create a sealed moisture barrier. Please use the poly film manufacturers guidelines for the installation. Windsor Import Flooring does not accept claims related to damages or failure of the floor caused by excessive moisture, alkali and/or liquid or vapor hydrostatic pressure. Do not install the new flooring over a concrete subfloor with high moisture, alkali or hydrostatic pressure conditions if it has not been mitigated or remediated. If moisture mitigation or remediation are required, the choice of technique to mitigate (concrete slab sealing, installation of 6 mil poly film under the flooring, etc) is the sole responsibility of the flooring installer or contractor. Follow the chosen product manufacturer’s installation instructions.

For plywood, OSB, and particleboard subfloors to be acceptable for flooring installation, they must be dry (maximum 12% moisture content) and properly secured to accept a top floor. The maximum subfloor deflection allowed must not be more than L/360. The subfloor must be secured every 6” along joists with nails or screws to avoid deflection or excessive vertical movement of the subfloor. Subfloor deflection may cause squeaking or popping sounds in both the subfloor and the installed floor. Our warranties do not cover any flooring issues caused by inadequate substructures. The floor must be leveled and flat. High spots must be ground down and low spots must be filled with a Portland cement leveling compound.

Please note that WPC is not approved for installation over any type of carpet.

**NOTE: Never install WPC over any type of floating floor. All subfloors that are not concrete must be firmly bonded.**

**NOTE: Never install WPC over a below grade VCT (vinyl composition tile).**

Tiles including ceramic, resilient, and sheet vinyl must be well bonded to the subfloor, must be level and flat, and must be clean. Existing vinyl floors should not be sanded as they may contain asbestos.

## **INSTALLATION TOOLS**

Black number one WPC tapping block

White number two WPC tapping block

¼" Spacers

Pull bar

Saw

Utility knife

Pencil

Tape measure

Ruler

## **ACCEPTABLE SUBFLOOR TYPES:**

CDX Underlayment Grade Plywood (minimum of 5/8" thickness)

Underlayment Grade Particleboard (only for floating installation)

OSB (minimum ¾", 23/32" thickness)

Concrete slab

Ceramic Tile

Resilient Tile – one layer well bonded

Sheet Vinyl – one layer well bonded

## **DO NOT INSTALL OVER**

- VCT installed on below grade concrete
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring
- Carpet
- Rooms with sloping floors or floor drains
- Hardwood flooring that has been installed directly over concrete
- Do not install over any floating floor

Note: There are 2 different types of tapping blocks to be used with our WPC planks. Tapping block number one (black in color) is to be used with our standard 4 foot length planks. Tapping block number 2 (white in color) is to be used with our WPC XL and Long Board. XL and long board products have a specially designed larger Unilin lock and require a larger tapping block for proper installation.

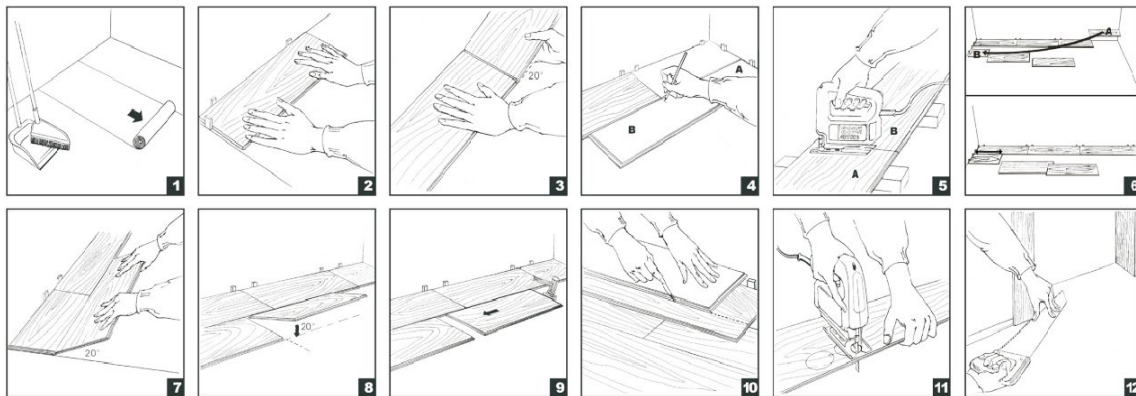
NOTE: The tapping block was specially designed for installing this WPC LVT product with a licensed Unilin drop and tap click joint. The tapping block must be used on every panel to insure the positive locking of the joint and to validate the product warranty.

## INSTALLATION OF WPC

While WPC is dimensionally stable, buildings, walls, and existing hardwood and laminate floors will expand and contract. Because of this, we recommend for all installations, both floating floor and glue down types, that an expansion gap of at least 3/8" be left for expansion between WPC, any vertical surface, an adjacent perimeter wall or wood-based floor (laminate or hardwood).

As stated earlier, always work out of multiple boxes to mix product to achieve proper pattern repeat and color mix for the look of natural wood. A minimum of 3 boxes of product is recommended. Inspect each plank or tile in good light for visual defects. If they show visual faults or damage, do not install them. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that the appearance of the finished floor meets the consumer's expectations.

WPC is an indoor product. It will not be warranted when installed in locations or conditions not recommended for this product.



1. When using a product with attached foam, please skip to picture #2.
2. Remove the tongue on the side of the panels that face the wall. This will ensure that the decorative surface of the WPC floor is well under the finished trim when installed. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times so that it easily snaps off. Place the first panel with its trimmed side facing the wall in a corner of the room. Leave space along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 6mm (1/4") between the wall and the flooring.

3. To attach the second panel, insert the end tongue of the panel into the end groove of the first panel at a 20-degree angle. Lower the panel flat to the floor. Line up the edges carefully.
4. Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last full panel. Fit the last panel by rotating the panel 180 degrees with the pattern side upward, place it beside the row, and mark it.
5. Saw off the excess plank. Attach as described above.
6. Begin the next row with the off-cut piece from the previous row to stagger the pattern. Planks and tiles should be a minimum of 20cm (8") long and joint offset should be at least 20cm (8").
7. Start the second row by pushing the long side tongue of the panel into the long side groove of the very first panel at about a 20-degree angle. When lowered, the plank will click into place.
8. Attach the second panel of the new row on the long side as described above. Push this panel as close as possible to the previous row.
9. To attach this second panel to the previous panel, lightly tap the end into the click using the rigid core tapping block. Continue along in the same fashion.
10. To fit the last row, lay a panel on top of the previous row. With the tongue to the wall, lay another panel upside down on the one to be measured and use it as a ruler. Don't forget to allow room for ¼" spacers. Cut the panel and attach it into position.
11. Door frames and heating vents also require expansion room. First cut the panel to the correct length. Then place the cut panel 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.
12. Door frames can be trimmed by turning a panel upside down and using a handsaw to cut away the necessary height so that panels slide easily under the frames.

## **REPAIRS**

WPC flooring is durable; however, planks can be damaged. If the damaged plank is near the perimeter of the room, the best technique is to carefully unlock the planks until the damaged plank is removed. Replace the damaged plank and reassemble the flooring. If the damaged plank is in the center of the room then the following procedure should be followed:

1. Use 3M Blue Tape around the perimeter of the damaged plank to be replaced to protect the surrounding planks from damage.
2. Using a utility knife, make a cut completely through the center of the damaged plank the length of the plank.
3. Carefully remove the cut pieces of the damaged flooring and clean and vacuum the exposed area.

4. Use a utility knife to remove the tongue from the long and short side of the replacement plank.
5. Remove 1.5 inches of the groove on the long side of the plank from the tongue end using a utility knife.
6. Apply a small bead of an Ethyl Cyanoacrylate adhesive super glue to the groove of the planks in the floor.
7. Insert the replacement plank into the exposed area locking the long-grooved side into the existing floor. The tongue end of the replacement plank will overlap the existing floor until the plank is completely inserted.
8. Use a scrap piece of the flooring as a tapping block to lightly tap the groove end into place. Use a utility blade to adjust the opposite end as you tap the end joint together.
9. Weight the plank down until the super glue is completely set.

## FINISHING MOLDING



Reducer molding is used to finish flooring when the adjoining surface is lower than the SPC flooring or when flooring meets carpet. Position the U track 7mm leaving expansion gap of at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each edge of the. Screw, nail or glue down the track directly to the subfloor and then insert the reducing strip into the track.

T-molding is used to finish flooring and add expansion when two level surfaces meet in doorways. Install the same as above. Residential Installations do not require the use of T Moldings.

Landing molding is used to finish flooring on landings or stair edges. Moldings need to be glued and screwed down to the sub-floor for safety and stability. Color fill should be used to cover counter sunk screws.

To finish the perimeter of the room, install quarter round molding using finishing nails. Quarter round molding is nailed directly into the baseboard.

## RADIANT HEATED FLOORS

Floating floors can be installed over certain types of radiant heated floors. If glue down is an option, then follow the manufacturer's installation instructions when full spreading our flooring with an approved glue.

**When installing over a radiant heated floor:**

1. A newly installed radiant heated floor must be operational for at least four (4) weeks prior to the installation with the temperature set between 55 to 85 degrees F to ensure that the subfloor has been dried.
2. Existing radiant heated floors should be set to a minimum temperature of 65°F (18.3°C) degrees F for a minimum of 4 days before, during and 48 hours after the completion of the installation. This will insure that the flooring will acclimate properly before the installation begins. Upon completion of the installation, gradually increase temperature in increments of 5° F per hour until desired temperature is achieved. Never exceed 85 degrees.
3. Wood subfloors should never exceed 10% moisture content as measured by a calibrated wood moisture meter.
4. Concrete subfloors must be “dry” using the mat test, a calibrated concrete moisture meter, Calcium Chloride Test or a RH Probe.
5. Ground floors using the radiant heating system should have a proper moisture barrier beneath it.
6. The recommended range of relative humidity is 35%-55% and the room temperature should be between 55-85 degrees F for the delivery of the flooring, acclimation, and installation.
7. The flooring must acclimate at the stated temperature range for at least 48 hours prior to installation in the room to be installed.
8. Keeping the temperature of the room constant will keep a stable environment for the flooring as well as the home.
9. The floor surface temperature must always stay below 85 degrees F.
10. At no time should the relative humidity in the room with the installed flooring fall below 30% during the life of the product.

NOTE: Electrically heated radiant mats not embedded in the subfloor and installed directly under this floor is not recommended. The installation of electrically heated radiant floor heating mats could void the warranty of the installed floor in case of a heating system failure.

## **SUN ROOMS**

Sun rooms or areas that may be isolated from the main living area of the home are recommended areas of use for WPC if they are limited to 500 sf maximum.



If there will be no heat in the winter time and you wish to use the area, you must bring the room to normal room temperature (65-75 degrees F) before walking on the floor.

Exposure of the floor to prolonged periods of sunlight is not recommended. Drapes and/or blinds are recommended for use during peak sunlight periods for all floors and in sunrooms. Prolonged direct sunlight exposure can result in discoloration, and excessive temperatures may cause tile/plank expansion or delamination.

During installation, please leave the ¼" expansion at all walls and any vertical surface in this room.

## **CABINETS**

Cabinets may be installed on top of WPC if they are **wall mounted**.

Center Islands may be installed on top of WPC if they are free standing.

If cabinets or center Islands are being fastened to the floor a ½" expansion hole must be used where the bolts enter through the WPC into the subfloor.

Cabinets and Center Islands may be installed on WPC and fastened if the WPC is full spread. Any attached pad must be removed from the WPC before full spreading adhesive.

## **POOL TABLES**

Pool tables in a residential environment may be installed on WPC either full spread glue down or floating. In a residence, there is a limit of one pool table per room.

Pool tables in a commercial environment over WPC must be full spread.

Multiple pool tables in residential or commercial environments over WPC must be full spread glue down.

When full spreading WPC that has an attached pad, the pad must first be removed from the WPC before gluing the product to the subfloor.

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