

Installation Guide



WPC Flooring

2018

# PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE YOU BEGIN. IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID THE WARRANTY.

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## Before you start

- **Storage.** Store and transport WPC Flooring on a flat surface to prevent warping. Do not leave floors in areas of extreme temperature or moist rooms. Never store boxes upright.
- **Acclimate.** Eternity WPC Flooring does not require acclimation however, best installation practice recommends that the product be installed close to the intended occupied service temperature.
- **Inspection.** It is the installers responsibility to visually inspect all planks before and throughout installation in a well-lit area. Defective planks should not be used or, if possible, after removal of the defective portion- be used only as cut pieces to finish rows. Materials should also be inspected for color, finish, and sheen. Responsibility for the suitability of Eternity flooring and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by Eternity, since Eternity has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension, the installer should not use this piece. Complaints for visual defects can only be accepted before installation. Eternity will send a replacement in a timely fashion.
- **Things to Remember:**
  - o Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project & should not be installed underneath cabinetry.
  - o While WPC is waterproof, but it should not be used as a moisture barrier. We recommend the use of a moisture barrier underlayment with this product. Moisture and alkalinity tests should be performed on all concrete substrates regardless of grade level or age of slab prior to installation. Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8lbs.
  - o When installing in mobile homes, a temperature of 65-85°F must be maintained and the subfloor must be solid.
  - o Installations in facilities where walkers and wheelchairs are used (i.e. Residential and or extended care) or in facilities with movement of heavy displays, racks, dentist chairs, etc. may exert extreme stress and compromise the locking system.

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## The Subfloor

The quality of your subfloor will greatly affect the results of the installation. Make sure the subfloor is dry, flat, stable, clean, and free from debris, grease, and chemicals. While the WPC planks will camouflage **minor** imperfections-unevenness or major imperfections may translate through the planks and it is important that necessary corrections are made.

- **Existing Floorcoverings.** You may install WPC Flooring over many existing floorcoverings as long as they are firmly fixed, level, and stable. Installation over carpet, needle felt, cushion vinyl, floating floors, damaged floors, and soft floors is not recommended and will void your warranty. Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in/on the subfloor may affect the new floorcovering.
- **Wooden Subfloors.** Moisture content of the wood floor should not exceed 12%. Ensure the subfloor is dry, structurally sound, clean, and leveled. Be sure the wood is free from mold and insects. The crawl space under the plank floor must be adequately ventilated with perimeter venting 1.5sqft per 100sqft of space (except where local builder codes say otherwise). Any joints more than 3mm in depth and 6mm in width should be leveled.
- **Concrete Subfloors.** Moisture emission from the subfloor must not exceed 8lbs per 1,000sqft per 24 hours and relative humidity should not exceed 85%. Moisture arising from new or old concrete can create

a high level of moisture vapor emissions, hydrostatic pressure, and high levels of alkalinity. This combination is highly corrosive and will damage the floor over time. Calcium chloride and pH level test should be performed prior to installation. Be sure to measure and record your findings. New concrete must be cured for at least 60 days before installation. Any unevenness of more than 1/16 in. over a length of 3ft must be leveled and the same applies to unevenness of more than 1/32 in. over a length of 8 inches

- **Radiant Heat.** Installation over radiant heat is acceptable if constant room and floor temperature of 65-85°F can be maintained during acclimation, installation, and for 48 hours after installation. System must be operational for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to installation & maximum floor surface temperature of 85°F must be maintained (use of an in-floor thermostat is recommended). The temperature of the floor should never exceed 85°F Turn off radiant heating 24hrs before and after installation. Use a transition profile to separate rooms with and without radiant floor heating or rooms with different temperature controllers. Once the installation is complete, the heating system should be turned on and increased gradually in 5° increments until returning to normal operating conditions.
  - o The use of heated floor mats is **not** recommended.

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## Measurements

Measure the room prior to installing underlayment and floor. Use a chalk line to ensure a straight installation. Be sure that the last row of panels is at least 3 inches wide when finishing the installation.

- Because houses and buildings as well as adjacent hardwood or laminate floors expand and contract, Eternity recommends leaving a ¼" expansion gap between the perimeter walls and any adjacent hardwood floor.
- Agree with the client on which direction the floor boards should run since this influences the visual size ratio of the space. Installation parallel to the longest wall or the main light source is recommended for best visual effects.
- Snap the lines on the substrate to identify the layout reference points, planks should be set using this reference to ensure they are aligned and will lock together correctly.
- In large areas where flooring will span in excess of 45 linear feet and/or wider than 30 linear feet long, an expansion gap should be used. Cover the expansion space with suitable coverings.

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## Installation

- o Shuffle Planks - this flooring replicates the look of a natural product which has natural variations in color. For best visual effect, shuffle planks or tiles from several cartons and do not install similar planks next to one another.
- o It is best to install panels parallel to the main light source in the direction of the longest wall. The end joints of the planks in two successive rows should never be in line, they should be staggered by at least 8 inches.
- o Expansion of ¼" should be maintained between walls and fixtures and when using transition moldings. When installing around pipes, drill the holes ½" larger than the diameter of the pipes.
- o Plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. Do not install over expansion joints & avoid using pieces shorter than 12" at the beginning or end of rows.
- o Do not install cabinets directly over your floor
- o The board width of the last row should not be less than 2". If so, adjust the width of the first row to be installed.

1. Remove baseboards, appliances, and furniture from the room. Undercut door trim to allow flooring to move freely without being pinched. Sweep and vacuum the entire area to remove all debris and dust.
2. Begin laying from left to right. Position the first plank so that the grooved edge is facing you. Place the floorboard  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the left wall. Use spacers between the wall and the floorboards.
3. Second plank, first row – Drop the plank and gently tap down the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the previous plank. Make sure both planks are the same height and are perfectly aligned. If you notice the planks are not the securely locked together or that they are not the same height, disassemble and check for debris stuck inside the lock. Continue this way until you reach the wall on the right.
4. At the end of the first row leave an expansion gap of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.
5. Start the second row with the leftover cut part of the last plank of the previous row. Whenever possible, use the piece cut from the preceding row to start the next row. This small plank should measure 12", otherwise cut a new plank and use it to begin the second row. The end joints of each adjoining row should not be closer than 8" to each other.
6. Click the long side of the plank into the previous row and place it tight to the short end of the previous plank with an angle of 30 degrees. Drop the plank and gently tap on the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are at the same height & aligned perfectly.
7. After the first 2-3 rows are installed, they should be checked with a string line to ensure that the rows are still running straight. If they are not, the starting row may have to be scribed and retrimmed to account for any unevenness of the wall.
8. To lay the last row, position the loose board exactly on top of the last row laid. Place another board on top with the tongue side touching the wall. Draw a line along the edge of the board to mark the first board. Cut along the edge to mark the first board. Cut along this line to obtain the required width. Insert this cut board against the wall. The last row should be at least 2" wide.
9. Replace the molding or wall base and allow slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface and not the floor plank.