

Rigid Core Installation Instructions

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Rigid Core Installation Instructions

Important Notice

A click/locking installation system allows the planks to be installed without using adhesives. It is a floating floor installation. The planks should be installed ¹/4" away from all vertical surfaces such as walls, cabinets, door thresholds, transitions, pipes, supports, etc.

It is recommended that rigid core installation shall not begin until all other trades are completed. All substrates to receive rigid core require proper moisture and alkalinity testing. Record and keep the results of testing. Use only Portland-based patching and leveling compounds.

Do not install on stairs, ramps, sloping floors with floor drains or inclines.

When installed in bathrooms, kitchens, cafeterias and/or known wet locations, the gap at walls, cabinets, pipes, support fixtures, toilets, tubs, etc., should be filled and sealed with a good quality 100% waterproof silicone or acrylic caulk. The expansion gaps along wall lines will then be covered with molding or wall base. Wall cabinets should not be installed on top of planks.

When moving any type of furniture, heavy rolling loads or heavy equipment, PROTECT the floor by covering it with Masonite or other similar material to prevent scratches, indentations, or permanent damage. DO NOT use plastic with adhesive backed protection system.

Use appropriate protectors under furniture. These should be felt, or other soft material specifically designed to disperse the weight and protect the hard surface from scratches or damage to the wear layer. Rubber-backed mats can damage the rigid core.

Rigid core cannot be installed over carpet of any type.

These Installation Instructions cover most installation procedures. If you run across a situation that is not addressed in this document or requires more detailed assistance, please contact the Interface Help Desk. U.S. (877) 733-7403 / Canada (888) 224-2972. Should you encounter any conditions or defects during installation that could jeopardize the installation or affect the installation procedure, you should STOP the installation immediately and call the Interface Help Desk. U.S. (877) 733-7403 / Canada (888) 224-2972.

The rigid core products are warranted in accordance with Interface's Standard rigid core Product Warranty. If you do not have a copy of Interface's Standard Rigid Core Product Warranty and wish to obtain one, call the Interface Help Desk. U.S. (877) 733-7403 / Canada (888) 224-2972 or visit our website at www.interface.com/warranty.

WARNING: IN THE EVENT THAT ANY ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS OR OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ARE ENCOUNTERED DURING INSTALLATION, YOU SHOULD STOP THE INSTALLATION IMMEDIATELY AND OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM A QUALIFIED REMEDIATION CONSULTANT OR CONTRACTOR PRIOR TO PROCEEDING.

Storage and Handling

Flooring material must be acclimated to the installation area a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation.

Store cartons flat and squarely on top of one another with no more than 10 cartons high. Preferably, locate material in the "center" of the installation area (away from vents, direct sunlight, etc.). Storing cartons in direct sunlight may affect proper acclimation by inducing thermal expansion.

Pre-Installation Visit

New concrete needs at least 90 days to dry under ideal conditions. Lightweight concrete and concrete poured above grade in metal pans take a considerably longer time to dry. Installation cannot begin until it is fully dried and in compliance with moisture and alkalinity requirements.

Areas to receive rigid core flooring should be adequately illuminated during all phases of the installation process.

Controlled environments are critical. Fully functional HVAC systems are the best way to ensure temperature and humidity control. **Rigid core should not be exposed to sudden changes in temperature and humidity. DO NOT install rigid core flooring products until the work area can be temperature controlled**.

Rigid core should not be exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. It can result in discoloration, expansion of the planks and can compromise the installation. Do not install in direct sunlight without proper window covering.

The temperature of your job site must stay within 65° F (18.3° C) and 85° F (29.5° C) with relative humidity between 40% - 65% for 48 - 72 hours prior to, during, and for the life of the installation. The minimum temperature of the substrate/subfloor should not be below 50° F prior to, during and for the life of the installation.

We recommend undercutting all door jambs/door casings 1/16" thicker than the rigid core material where applicable.

Concrete Moisture and Alkalinity Testing



Before installing, all concrete floors, regardless of age, must comply with the moisture and pH requirements stated below and must otherwise be suitable for rigid core installation as set forth herein. The moisture conditions of the concrete should be determined by use of the In Situ probe relative humidity (RH) test method. See chart for specific requirements.

Interface allows for installation under a variety of conditions depending on the type of slab and the moisture and pH test results at time of installation. For best results we recommend the pH test developed by Interface. **Please see Standard Practice for pH Testing Concrete Floors on page 10.**

Product	Thickness	RH Moisture Limit	Surface pH Limit
Rigid core	4.5 mm	95% RH with ASTM F2170	Between 7.0 and 9.0

There should be no visible signs of water or water marking. Concrete compromised by ground water intrusion and/or Hydrostatic Pressure are not acceptable substrates.

NOTE: Moisture and pH tests reflect only the conditions of the concrete at the time of testing. Stated moisture and pH limitations must be maintained before, during and at all times following installation to avoid installation and product failures and to preserve warranty coverage. If the concrete moisture and/or pH test results are outside of the stated allowable limits, **STOP and DO NOT PROCEED** with the installation. Seek further advice from Interface before proceeding.

Product Inspection

INSPECT INTERFACE RIGID CORE TO BE SURE IT MEETS THE ORDER SPECIFICATIONS. Check all material for correct color, design, dye lot, size and that the correct quantity is available to finish job. Checking all material before installation can assure that the job will not be delayed. Complaints regarding visually identifiable manufacturing defects will not be accepted once the flooring has been laid.

The labels on each carton indicate product style, pattern, color and run number. Be sure the style, pattern, and color match the specifications for each area of your installation. Do not mix runs.

Check to confirm that you have the right quantity and correct installation method. Be sure you also have enough tiles to establish an "attic stock" for future replacements. Open all cartons to inspect for damaged or defective tiles. If you find any, call the Interface Help Desk. U.S. (877) 733-7403 / Canada (888) 224-2972.

Lighting



The lighting to be used during building occupancy must be in service at the time of installation and for final inspection.

Suggested Tools & Materials

- Tape Measure
- Chalk Line
- Hammer
- Pull Bar
- Crosscut Power SawTable Saw

1/4" Spacers

Pencil

Notched Tapping Block
 Jig Saw

- T-Square
 - Safety Glasses
- Jamb Saw
- Circular Saw
- Utility Knife
- Non-Marking Rubber
 Mallet
- LVT (Guillotine-style)
 Cutter
- Coordinating Transition Strip or Molding
- Oscillating Multi-Tool
- Coordinating stain, filler, silicone, or putty

- Acceptable Subfloor Types
- Concrete Slab/Substrate
- APA, CDX Underlayment Grade Plywood (at least 1" thick)
- Existing hardwood
- Resilient Tile (Existing VCT, VAT)

Preparing the Subfloor

- Radiant Heated Subfloor
- Quarry Tile
- Terrazzo
- Ceramic Tile

• Poured Floors (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless)

DO NOT install over hardwood flooring that has been installed directly over concrete, or wood substrate without a properly ventilated crawlspace.

NOTE: All substrates to receive resilient flooring shall be dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound. They shall be free of dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive removers, curing, sealing, hardening/parting compounds, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation/laitance, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials.

ALTERNATE NOTE: All substrates should be flat, level, and structurally sound. They should be free of any foreign materials that would facilitate movement of the rigid core product. The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring is suitable to be installed over the top of with the rigid core product rests solely with the installer/flooring contractor on site.

Preparing the Subfloor (Concrete)

NEW AND EXISTING CONCRETE SUBFLOORS SHOULD MEET THE GUIDELINES OF THE LATEST EDITION OF ACI 302 AND ASTM F710, "STANDARD PRACTICE FOR PREPARING CONCRETE FLOORS TO RECEIVE RESILIENT FLOORING" AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS, 171 NEPEAN RD, SUITE 400, OTTAWA, ON K2P 0B4, 613.751.3409 / 100 BARR HARBOR RIVE, WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, PA 19428; 610.832.9585; HTTP://WWW.ASTM.ORG



Substrates shall be smooth, structurally sound, dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, old adhesive residue, curing/hardening compounds, sealers, and other foreign material.

Ongrade slabs must have an effective vapor retarder under the slab (As per ASTM E-1745 Class B and in accordance with ACI 302-2001).

LEVELNESS - Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 3/16" in 10 feet and within the equivalent of 1/32" in 12". F- number System: Overall values of FF 36/FL 20 may be appropriate for resilient floorcoverings.

Expansion and isolation joints in concrete are designed to allow for the expansion and contraction of the concrete. Resilient flooring products should never be installed over expansion joints. Expansion joint covers designed for use with resilient floor coverings should be used. Control joints (saw cuts) may be patched and covered with resilient once the concrete is thoroughly cured, dry and acclimated.

When INSTALLING OVER GYPSUM-BASED UNDERLAYMENT, Interface recommends that the gypsum-based product be installed at a commercial strength of 3500 psi or higher to help prevent cracking.

All gypsum-based underlayment must be properly sealed before installing rigid core. Sealing the surface of the gypcrete reduces the natural dusting of gypsum-based material.

Installing over properly applied gypsum-based underlayment will not void the Interface standard product warranty, but Interface assumes no liability for issues relating to or resulting from the use of gypsum or any other underlayment. For this reason, claims associated with the use/failure of an underlayment product should be directed to the underlayment manufacturer or the individual(s) responsible for its application.

LEVELNESS - Substrate shall be flat and smooth within 3/16" in 10 feet and within the equivalent of 1/32" in 12".

Preparing the Subfloor (Wood)

Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and in compliance with local building codes.

It is recommended that your chosen APA underlayment grade panels be designed for installation under resilient flooring.

Double-layered APA rated plywood subfloors should be a minimum 1" total thickness with at least 18" well ventilated air space beneath. Insulate and protect crawl spaces with a vapor retarder covering the ground,

Particleboard, chipboard, flakeboard, OSB, hardboard or similar are not recommended subfloor materials and require the additional layer of 1/4" APA approved underlayment. DO NOT install over sleeper construction subfloors or wooden subfloors applied directly over concrete.

Underlayment panels can only correct minor deflection deficiencies in the subfloor while providing a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring. Any failures in the performance of the underlayment panel rest solely with the panel manufacturer and not with Interface.

Interface rigid core is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. The materials used to treat the plywood may cause problems with adhesive bonding. An additional layer of APA rated ¹/4" thick underlayment should be installed. (Concern with glue only)

LEVELNESS - Wood substrate shall be flat and smooth within 3/16" in 10 feet and within the equivalent of 1/32" in 12".

Preparing the Subfloor (Strip-Plank Wood Flooring)



Due to expansion/contraction of individual boards during seasonal changes a ¹/4" or thicker APA underlayment panel must be installed over these types of subfloors.

There are very specific guidelines for installing rigid core over RAF. When rigid core is installed over RAF, some degree of panel telegraphing may be visible. To minimize this, the panels need to be flat and level with a maximum gap between panels of no more than 1 mm. The difference in height between adjacent panels shall not exceed 0.75 mm. The concavity or convexity of any panel shall not exceed 0.75 mm. Also, if there are concerns about the suitability of the RAF for direct application of the rigid core due to damage, instability, unevenness or quality issues of the RAF panels, the entire area should be overlaid with an approved rigid underlayment to limit telegraphing of the RAF through to the surface of the rigid core. Regardless of whether an underlayment is used, any unstable or uneven panels should be repaired or replaced. There should be no flexing or movement of the system/panels.

NOTE:

• The application of rigid core over RAF eliminates future accessibility of raised access floor "PANELS".

Interface is not responsible for the impact that any subsequent movement of the building or subfloor may have on the rigid core installation of
product itself. Also, rigid core is not designed to be installed in register with the RAF panels. If you decide to use an underlayment, Interface
recommends plywood and/or cementitious board, which should have a minimum thickness of 1/4" and be permanently secured to the surface of the
RAF by use of construction grade permanent adhesive, screws, and/or nails. Patching and sanding the panel seams may help to limit telegraphing of
the underlayment seams to the surface of the rigid core. Ensure rigid core does not align with the underlayment seams.

Preparing the Subfloor (Radiant Heated Floors)

Radiant heated substrates must not exceed 85°F (29°C) surface temperature.

Seven days prior to installing resilient products over newly constructed radiant heated systems, make sure the radiant system has been on and operating at maximum temperature to reduce residual moisture within the concrete.

24 hrs. prior to installation lower the temperature to 70°F (21°C) and maintain that temperature for 48 hrs. after installation. After continuous operation of the radiant system, ensure the temperature of the surface does not exceed 85°F (29°C).

The use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

LEVELNESS - The floor shall be flat and smooth within 3/16" in 10 feet and within the equivalent of 1/32" in 12".

Preparing the Subfloor (Vinyl Tile & Sheet Vinyl)

Installing Over Vinyl Tile Warning:

EXISTING FLOOR COVERING MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS OR OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. IN THE EVENT ASBESTOSCONTAINING MATERIALS OR OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ARE ENCOUNTERED, YOU SHOULD STOP THE INSTALLATION IMMEDIATELY AND OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM A QUALIFIED REMEDIATION CONSULTANT OR CONTRACTOR PRIOR TO PROCEEDING.

Use an appropriate non-solvent stripper or a sander to remove the wax top-coat (Concern with glue only). Remove any damaged or loose vinyl tiles and replace with comparable thickness tile or patching compound.

LEVELNESS - Floor shall be flat and smooth within 1/8" in 6 feet or 3/16" in 10 feet.

Installing Over Sheet Vinyl:

Do not install Interface rigid core over CUSHION sheet vinyl. Non-Cushion sheet vinyl can be installed over if stable and firmly fixed to subfloor. If vinyl is soft, heavily embossed, damaged, or loosely laid do not install over these conditions.

NOTE: The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring is suitable to be installed over top of with resilient, rests solely with installer/ flooring contractor on site. If there is any doubt as to the suitability, the existing flooring should be removed, or an acceptable underlayment installed over it.

Existing Quarry Tile, Terrazo, Ceramic Tile, Poured Floors (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless)

- Must be totally cured and well bonded to the concrete.
- Must be free of any residual solvents and petroleum derivatives.
- Show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.
- Waxes, polishes, oil finishes must be removed. (Concern with glue only)
- Cuts, cracks, gouges, and other irregularities in the existing floorcovering must be repaired or replaced.
- Fill any low spots, holes, chips, and seams that may telegraph through the new flooring.
- Tile grout joints and textured surfaces must be filled with an embossing leveler or substrate manufacturer approved material.

Preparing the Subfloor (Old/Existing Adhesive Residue)

Adhesive residue must be removed using one of the following:

- 1. It may be mechanically removed by methods such as: sanding, grinding, bead blasting or scarifying. Encapsulate the residual with XL Brands TriSeal or similar product specifically designed for adhesive encapsulation.
- 2. Apply a self-leveling Portland-based underlayment over the existing adhesive. Check with the underlayment manufacturer for suitability, application instructions, and warranties.

NOTE: Never use chemicals, solvents, or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. The chemical residue left in/on the substrate may affect the new flooring.

Dry Lay-out and Fitting

NOTE: Depending on the complexity of the job lay-out, most installations will need approximately 5%-10% cutting allowances added to the square footage.



T-molding

- Before you start with the installation, it is important to determine the layout of the flooring. Proper planning and layout will prevent having narrow plank widths at the wall junctures or very short length pieces at the end of the rows.
- Start by working with several open boxes of flooring and dry lay the floor before permanently laying the floor. This will allow you to select varying patterns, textures, and colors within the same dye lot to arrange them in a balanced pattern.
- All doorways will need to have transitional expansion molding, such as T-molding (metal, vinyl, or rubber), or equivalent that allow for a 1/4" expansion)



Step 6: Always begin a row with either a full tile or a cut tile at least 8" in length, so that the joints are consistently staggered in an Ashlar Pattern.



Step 6: Joints are consistently staggered in an Ashlar Pattern.



Step 7: Establish a straight working line by installing the planks parallel to the longest wall with the tongue side to the wall.



Step 9: Use ${\it V\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!}^{*}$ spacers along the wall to maintain proper expansion space and to align the first row.



1. Remove baseboard, quarter-round, wall base, moldings, appliances, etc. from the room.

- 2. After floor preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area removing all dust and debris.
- The maximum length that can be installed without an expansion joint is 65ft. (Expansion joints are used when installing large areas to break up the floor in sections, allowing the planks to move and avoid buckling or breaking the click system).
- 4. All doorways will need to have transitional expansion molding, such as T-molding (metal, vinyl, or rubber), or equivalent that allow for a ¹/₄" expansion.
- 5. Before your start with the installation, it is important to determine the layout of the rigid core flooring. Proper planning and layout will prevent having narrow plank widths or very short length pieces at the end of the rows.
- 6. Determine which direction the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger or if installing in a small room or hallway, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension. Always begin a row with either a full tile or a cut tile at least 8" in length, so that the joints are consistently staggered in an Ashlar Pattern. Always begin each row from the same side of the room working from the left to right when facing your starting wall.
- 7. Establish a straight working line by installing the planks parallel to the longest wall with the tongue side to the wall.
- 8. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall to make a straight working line. If this line is not square with the rest of the room, you may want to adjust your starting line to give you the acceptable appearance you are looking to achieve.
- 9. Installation of the planks must start from the left side of the room, working to the right when working in front of the planks or facing the starting wall. Use 1/4" spacers along the wall to maintain proper expansion space and to align the first row.
- 10. The end joints of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 8" apart. Do not install over expansion joints. Avoid installing pieces shorter than 8".
- 11. Install the second plank in the row by aligning and dropping the end tongue over the end groove of the first plank. Use a rubber mallet to fully engage the end joint, so that the joint is tight and sits completely flush with adjacent plank. Maintain an expansion gap of approximately 1/4" from the wall. Repeat this process to complete the first row.
- 12. Start the second row by cutting a plank to a desired length. Keep in mind that the plank must not be shorter than 8" to achieve the best appearance.
- 13. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. This is best done with a low 30° angle of the plank. Maintain light pressure into the side seam as you rotate the plank to the subfloor. Use a notched tapping block and a hammer along the groove side of the second plank to engage the joint between the first and second plank. Generally, only light tapping is required to engage the two plank rows.
- 14. It is critical to keep the first two rows straight and square, as they are the foundation for the rest of the installation. Check for straightness and squareness often.
- 15. Continue installing planks and make sure to achieve a random appearance with end joint spacing minimum of 8". Note: Check that all planks are fully engaged. If slight gapping is found, the gap can be tapped together by using a tapping block.

Step 13: Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row.



Step 16: To fully engage the short end, aligned the ends of the two planks so there is no gapping or overlapping and tap down using a rubber mallet.



Step 17: When fitting under door casing/door frame, use a flat pull bar too assist in locking the planks together.



Step 18: When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, planks can be cut using a Jig Saw.



Step 20: For wet areas such as bathrooms caulk/seal the perimeter of the floor and around all fixtures, such as sinks, toilets, etc. with a 100% waterproof silicone or acrylic caulk.

- 16. To fully engage the short end, aligned the ends of the two planks so there is no gapping or overlapping and tap down using a rubber mallet. Make sure the two ends are flush and tight together with no gapping.
- 17. When fitting under door casing/door frame, use a flat pull bar too assist in locking the planks together.
- 18. When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, planks can be cut using a Jig Saw. It is often beneficial to make a cardboard/paper template of the area and transfer this pattern to the plank.
- 19. Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips. Make sure that no planks will be secured in any way to the subfloor. Note: Transition strips, such as vinyl/rubber/metal "T- Molding" with track metal, or vinyl/rubber "Carpet Joiner", or Transitional Profiles from KUBERIT, or Transitional Moldings from National Metal Shapes, Schluter Metal Transitional Molding from Schluter Systems, or Ezi-Clip™ Floating Floor System. These transitional molding need to cover and protect exposed edges including the ¼" expansion gap.
- 20. For wet areas such as bathrooms caulk/seal the perimeter of the floor and around all fixtures, such as sinks, toilets, etc. with a 100% waterproof silicone or acrylic caulk.
- 21. Protect the finished flooring from exposure to direct sunlight to reduce fading and thermal expansion.
- 22. When cutting planks into small pieces this may compromise and/or lead to delamination. Use an ethyl cyanoacrylate-based glue, such as Super Glue, Krazy Glue, Gorilla Glue, to help fuse components together, be sure to clean all glue from the surface immediately after gluing.
- 23. Adhering tape to the surface of the rigid core could damage the surface. NOTE: Do not use tape to secure floor protection directly to the floor during construction or renovation. A material, such as "Ram Board" can be used to protect the finished flooring.
- 24. Remove 1/4" spacers from perimeter of room and re-place or install baseboard, quarter-round, wall base, moldings, appliances, etc.

Interface assumes no liability for issues related to or resulting from installing out of specification, including, but not limited to recommended installation method. Warranty for separation of planks, including but not limited to gapping, peaking, and/or separation of the planks due to not fully engaging the click locking mechanism during installation, is the sole responsibility and liability of the installation contractor.

Clean-up of the Installation

- 1. Wait 24 hours before allowing heavy traffic, or moving-in appliances and furniture. Prior to moving-in appliances and furniture lay down Masonite[®] or similar protection over your finish floor, so not to damage new flooring. Never slide appliances, furniture, or other items across the floor.
- 2. Use floor protectors/glides under furniture legs to reduce indentations, scratches, etc. The rule of thumb is the heavier the item, the wider the floor protector needed. Chair castors made for resilient flooring are recommended.
- 3. Place walk-off mats at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. We strongly recommend mats without latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration and stick to the surface.
- 4. Sweep and/or vacuum to remove loose dirt and grit that can scratch your floor. Note: We do not recommend vacuums that have a beater bar since it can visibly damage your flooring surface. Additionally, we do not recommend electric brooms with hard plastic or metal bottoms with no padding as use may damage flooring surface.
- 5. Wipe up all spills as soon as possible. Never use highly abrasive scrubbing tools or material for use may scuff and/or damage surface.
- 6. Wait 5 days before cleaning floor with vinyl neutral cleaner.
- 7. Do not use detergents, abrasive cleaners, or mop and shine products. These products may leave a dull film on your floor.
- 8. After cleaning, allow time for floor to dry. Wet conditions can be slippery, so immediately wipe up and dry conditions before allowing traffic.

Tile Replacement

- If a plank becomes damaged it can be replaced. If the damaged plank is along the perimeter of the room, just disengage the affected plank and replace with available attic stock. If it is impractical to disengage and reassemble the flooring, the following procedure should be followed:
- 2. Using a small rechargeable circular saw, (Note: Adjust depth of saw blade to the thickness of the rigid core flooring, or 4.5mm), cut out and remove the center of the damaged plank, leaving approximately a 1" strip attached to the surrounding planks on all sides.
- 3. Carefully cut from the corners of the plank inward through the inside edge.
- 4. Remove the plank edges by wiggling the cut plank out from the tongue and groove of the surrounding planks.
- 5. Prepare the replacement plank by removing the groove strip on both the long and end profile in the 3:00 and 6:00 positions. Use the decorative surface of the tongue end as a guide. Cut away this overhanging profile using a sharp utility knife.
- 6. Using a utility knife remove the tongue in the existing plank in the 6:00 position.
- 7. Place Interface (4" wide) Clear Area Rug Tape centered under existing planks in the 3:00 and 6:00 positions.
- 8. Use an ethyl cyanoacrylate-based glue, such as Super Glue, Krazy Glue, Gorilla Glue, to help fuse components together.
- 9. Apply small continuous bead along existing planks in the 3:00 and 6:00 positions. Do not over apply and prevent from getting glue on surface of flooring. Wipe off immediately with clean damp cloth if glue gets on surface.
- 10. Position the replacement plank by inserting the tongue of the long side into the groove of the adjoining plank in the 12:00 position.
- 11. Carefully use a tapping block and hammer to ensure tongue and groove have been properly clicked tight together. Pivot the replacement plank into position.
- 12. Use a rubber mallet over joints to seat the replacement plank equal to surrounding planks in the 9:00, 6:00 and 3:00 positions.

Caution: Some types of nails or screws, such as common steel material may cause discoloration of the flooring and is not recommended. Solvent-based construction adhesives are known to stain flooring. All responsibility for discoloration problems caused by use of the abovementioned products is not the responsibility of the manufacturer but rests with the installer.

Prior To Installation

All concrete floors, old and new, should be tested for alkalinity using an approved pH test kit. The approved pH test kit should include pH test strips capable of measuring a range of 0 - 14 along with deionized or distilled water. The area to be tested must be weather-tight and conditioned, via the building's HVAC system, to a temperature range of 65° - 85°F (18° - 29°C) and a relative humidity range of 40% - 60%. These temperature and humidity ranges must be maintained for at least 48 hours prior to commencing the test and at all times during the test. The concrete surface temperature should not be less than 65°F (18°C).

All adhesives, coatings, finishes, dirt, curing compounds, sealants and other substances should be removed from the area to be tested. Non-chemical methods, such as sanding, grinding, or bead blasting should be used to remove these substances to achieve an appropriate state for testing.

Any cleaning should take place a minimum of 48 hours before testing. Once the above conditions have been met:

- 1. Abrade the surface using 100 grit sandpaper to a minimum depth of 1/32" but no more than 1/8".
- 2. Apply a small amount (approximately 1" in diameter) of de-ionized or distilled water.
- 3. Allow the de-ionized/distilled water to stand for 60 seconds.
- 4. Dip the 0-14 pH test strip into the puddle and remove.
- 5. Allow the test strip to stand for 15 seconds.
- 6. Then compared to the pH chart in the test kit to determine pH level.
- 7. At least three pH tests must be performed for the first 1,000 square feet of space. One additional test should be performed for each additional 1,000 square feet thereafter.

The concrete slab should have an alkalinity level between 7.0 and 9.0 to be suitable for RC installation. Refer to the chart on p. 2. If pH levels fall outside of acceptable ranges STOP, and DO NOT proceed with installation. Call the Interface Americas Help Desk. U.S. (877) 733-7403 / Canada (888) 244-2972.

NOTE: Results obtained by this method reflect only the conditions of the concrete at the time of testing. Stated pH limitation must be maintained to avoid installation and product failures and to preserve warranty coverage.