

SPC/eSPC Flooring Installation and Maintenance Instructions

Limited Residential Warranty

Gaia Flooring warrants our products to be free from manufacturing defects. Gaia flooring installed indoors in a climate controlled area in accordance with Gaia's Installation Guide will not warp, cup, or buckle. Flooring maintained in accordance with Gaia Floor's Maintenance Guide will not wear out, fade, or stain under normal household conditions for a specified length of time from date of purchase as set forth below. This warranty applies only to the original end user and proof of purchase is required for all claims.

Limited Commercial Warranty

Gaia Flooring warrants our products to be free from manufacturing defects. Flooring installed indoors in a climate controlled area in accordance with Gaia's Installation Guide will not warp, cup, or buckle. Flooring maintained in accordance with Gaia Flooring Maintenance Guide will not wear out, fade, or stain under light commercial use for a specified length of time from date of purchase as set forth below. This warranty applies only to the original end user and proof of purchase is required for all claims.

Limited Waterproof Warranty

Gaia Floor product is a waterproof floating floor, but it should not be used to seal an existing floor from moisture. It cannot inhibit the growth of mold or prevent structural problems associated with or caused by flooding, excessive moisture, alkalis in the subfloor, or conditions arising from moisture vapor emissions. Job site moisture issues should be addressed and corrected prior to installation. Gaia Flooring products should not be installed where excessive moisture conditions exist. This warranty does not cover any damage caused to the floor and/or surroundings structures caused by casualty events involving water coming into contact with your floor and failures normally covered by homeowner's insurance including but not limited to damages caused by flooding, standing water, leaky pipes, leaky faucets, household appliances, or hydrostatic pressure.

Series	Wear Layer	Application	Warranty
White SPC	20 MIL	Residential & Commercial	50 Years Residential / 10 Years Commercial
Red eSPC	20 MIL	Residential & Commercial	50 Years Residential / 10 Years Commercial
Herringbone eSPC	20 MIL	Residential & Commercial	50 Years Residential / 10 Years Commercial
Black eSPC	20 MIL	Residential & Commercial	50 Years Residential / 10 Years Commercial

Product Inspections

Inspection of all flooring materials must be done before installation. Materials with visible defects are not covered under warranties once they are installed. Use constitutes acceptance. Inspect each piece prior to installation and ensure that the click system is free of cracks, defects, and debris. Be sure that the Valinge 5G black tube/spring is set in the female side of the short end of the click system.

Typical Tools Required

Broom, Electric Saw (carbide blade), Eye and Ear Protection, Glue, Hammer, Painter's Tape, Pencil, Pull Bar, Straightedge (6 ft), Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Wall Spacers (1/4"), Wood Chisel

Sub-floor Preparation

Glueless and floating installation is the preferred method of installing SPC/eSPC Flooring. The flooring can be directly installed over most existing floor coverings provided that the existing sub-floor surface is clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. No loose grout, tile, or planks. Any low spots in the subfloor greater than 1/4" in a 8 feet linear area with a leveling compound. Check this by using a 6' straight edge. Remove any high spots by sanding or grinding. Remove any existing floor molding and baseboard as necessary. If installed over sheet vinyl there should be no more than one layer, it must be fully adhered and cannot be cushioned by an additional. **Do not install with any additional padding.** Check that the doors can still open and close after SPC/eSPC flooring is installed. Always undercut wood door jambs. Check local building codes for metal door jambs. To undercut door frames, lay a loose plank upside down against the frame and on top of the underlayment. This will be your guide for proper height to allow installed planks to float under the door frame. Saw the bottom of the door jamb case molding back to the wall studs so that 1/4" expansion gap is maintained when SPC/eSPC is fitted under door jamb case molding. If door jambs cannot be undercut, allow proper expansion space and fill the gully with 100% silicone. Documents must be kept of all test results for warranty purposes.

WARNING: Do not sand, dry scrape, bead blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic "cutback" adhesive or other adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Local building requirements may require that the existing floor material be tested to determine if there is asbestos materials. RFCI's (Resilient Floor Coverings Institute) Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings are a defined set of instructions addressed to the task of removing all resilient floor covering structures. These instructions should be consulted with each installation.

Radiant Floor Heating

Gaia Floor is rated for use over hydronic and electric heated floors that do not allow a hot point on the surface of the subfloor greater than 150 degrees. Flooring should not be stored outside and should be installed in a climate controlled location with a temperature range of 56-84 degrees Fahrenheit. A hand held infrared thermometer can be used to find and identify hot spots and to verify that the floor temperature does not exceed limitations.

Film and Etch

Gaia's design film is an artisan designed product containing natural variations in color, tone, and graining. Gaia cannot warrant against variations in color or any other variations, such as quarter marks, small knots, and grain variations from plank to plank. Nor can we warrant against natural variations or gloss level between samples/models and installed flooring. Any sample or model shown or used by your seller is for demonstrative purposes only, and such sample or model **DOES NOT** create a warranty of any kind that the goods you purchased shall conform thereto. Any warranties based on any such sample or models are specifically disclaimed.

Concrete subfloors

Concrete must be smooth and permanently dry. Concrete subfloors should meet requirements as described in ASTM F710 "Standard Practice for preparing concrete floors to receive Resilient Flooring." Holes, saw cuts, depressions and control joints must be filled using a Portland cement based floor patch.

It is necessary to test concrete subfloor for moisture vapor emissions. If the concrete tests higher than 6 pounds/24 hour per 1000 sf in accordance with ASTM F 1869 Calcium Chloride test or tests to have a Relative Humidity above 80% in accordance with ASTM F 2170 the concrete needs a sealer (seamless epoxy vapor barrier) or hydrostatic vapor barrier, (6 mil plastic). Concrete moisture encounters such as Tramex CM5 helps produce an instant test result to better determine if there is a concrete vapor problem and can help determine if a moisture barrier is needed. A Tramex concrete moisture meter readings must be lower than 5% and the installation should not proceed until moisture mitigation is resolved. Job site moisture issues should be addressed and corrected prior to installation. The moisture barrier is sufficient if it passes the concrete test as above.

Concrete subfloors should be tested for excess moisture emissions. While Gaia vinyl plank is waterproof and not affected by moisture, excessive moisture from the subfloor can breed mold, mildew and fungus which could contribute to an unhealthy interior environment. Gaia's Limited Warranties do not cover damage caused to the vinyl from mold, mildew, alkali or other possible contaminants which can surface through moisture vapor emissions. All leaking, plumbing or issues caused by appliances are not warranted.

Wood subfloors

Wood flooring glued to concrete must be removed before installation. Gaia vinyl plank floors can be installed over a wood substrate providing that the floor is smooth, flat and structurally sound with no deflection. If the wood substrate is not smooth, a ¼" (or thicker) plywood underlayment should be used to provide an adequate surface free of knots, gaps or imperfections that could affect the performance of the floor.

Moisture barrier for the wood subfloor must be at a range of 3%.

The crawl space should be adequately ventilated and dry. There should be a minimum 18" clearance between the earth and the wood substrate. The earth should be covered in a minimum 6 mil back plastic (or equivalent) with the seams overlapped 6" and taped with a moisture resistant tape. The plastic should rise up the columns and side walls and be secured. Wood floors suspended over a concrete substrate in a sleeper system or lying directly on the concrete is not an acceptable construction of a subfloor.

Start of Installation

Lay out several planks in order to determine the best installation pattern for the area. Visually, the most appealing layout will have the same width of plank at both sides of the room. Also the width of the first row of planks should be approximately the same width as the last row. This may require cutting the first row plank to a smaller width. Measure across the room (inches) and divide by the width of a plank to see how many full width planks will be used, and what size width will be needed for the last row. The last row should never be less than 2" in width. Lay out of the installation should be centered to the room when possible. The width measurement of the room may require that the full start board may need to be shortened in order to achieve the same size cut plank at each end of the row. For this reason it is advisable that you add approximately 13% waste factor into the required square footage of the installation area. Installations 45 degree diagonal to the walls of a room will decrease this waste factor to approximately 7%.

Use 1/4" spacers to maintain the proper expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the floor. Quarter Round molding will cover this expansion gap. **IMPORTANT:** this 1/4" gap must be maintained around cabinets, and any other obstacles in the floor. For a linear distance over 49', add another 1/4" expansion gap and install molding to hide the expansion gap.

End seams should be 12" or more apart from end seams on adjacent rows and also 12" or more from the next adjacent row. This is to ensure structural integrity and to enhance the look. Random stagger is best achieved by cutting the first plank in each row with these guidelines in mind but with random lengths.

Gaia Floor installation should only be done using a licensed contractor. It is highly recommended that the homeowner be present at the start of the installation and be available for consultation, as well as to verify color and selection of the flooring. The layout of the installation should be confirmed between owner and installer prior to installation. The homeowner/installer assumes all responsibility for the quality of completed installation.

Do not install cabinets or fixed objects on top of the flooring, especially any requiring fixing to subfloor or floor covering as this is a floating floor installation. Do not fasten wall moldings or transition strips to the floor covering in any manner, but not limited to: adhesive, acrylic caulk, fasteners or other materials that can bind the floor and prohibit movement. Overlapping stair nose should be used at landings to allow for expansion and contraction. Flush stair nosing can be used on steps and must be adhered using an appropriate urethane adhesive.

Exclusions

- Any visible issues noted after installation
- Any molding damage
- Consequential or incidental damages, such as any loss, expense or damages other than to the flooring itself that may result from a defect in the flooring
- Improper installation including, but not limited to, installation by non-licensed individual(s)
- Improper maintenance or inadequate care, including, but not limited to, mold or mildew growth as a result of excessive moisture accumulation
- Accidents, abuse, or misuse
- Building settling or uneven sub-floor
- Damages caused by furniture without felt pads or protective covers
- Damages caused by sharp objects making contact with the floor
- Damage caused by excessive sunlight
- Damages caused by urine or other bodily fluids

MAINTENANCE INFORMATION

- Place natural fiber rugs at entry points to help trap grit and absorb moisture that may damage the finish. This can protect the floors from dirt or wear.

Only natural fiber rugs should be used. No rubber rugs or pads.

- To prevent abrasive dirt and dust from accumulating and scratching the finish, vacuum, sweep or dust mop your floor once a week or more if needed.

The vacuum head should be a brush or felt attachment. Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar head.

- We recommend a diluted solution of Bona or another gentle cleaner for regular cleaning and removing grease and smudges from your floor.

- Do not use harsh abrasive cleaners, bleach, ammonia or vinegar based cleaners, wax or acrylic polishes, or oil soaps. These may dull or damage the

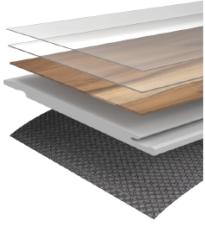
finish, leaving a greasy film and making the floor slippery and more difficult to clean.

- Protect your floor against direct sunlight or any intense source of artificial lighting. Over time, intense natural and artificial light may discolor the floors.

- Do not roll, or drag heavy objects across your floor. Do not wear shoes having heel taps, spikes, cleats, rocks, gravel or sharp objects protruding from the sole.

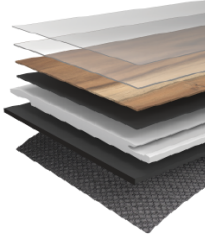
- Add felt pads to all furniture and chair legs to prevent damage to the floor. Replace the felt pads when dirty or worn. For extremely heavy objects, use wide, non staining rubber cups. Protective floor coverings for wheeled office furniture should be used.

WHITE SERIES
DEFINITION EIR TECH



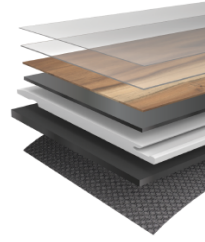
FOR INSTALLATION SCAN

RED SERIES
DEFINITION EIR TECH



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