



SPC RIGID CLICK INSTALLATION GUIDE

Comprehensive Instructions for Floating Click-Lock Rigid Core Flooring

Professional Quality Flooring from Flooring Monster

Your trusted online retailer for premium LVT solutions

■ IMPORTANT NOTICE

Flooring Monster is a retailer of quality flooring products manufactured by leading brands. This guide contains essential information for a successful, long-lasting installation of your new SPC Rigid Click flooring. Proper subfloor preparation, maintaining expansion gaps, and following the click installation technique are critical. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in installation issues and could affect your warranty claim with the manufacturer. We strongly recommend professional installation if you are unsure about any step.

Document Reference: FM-LVT-INST-2026 | June 2026

Applicable Standards: BS 8203:2017, BS 8204

QUICK START: INSTALLATION AT A GLANCE

Your new SPC Rigid Click flooring features an easy interlocking system — many people install a room in just a few hours. Follow these key steps. Print this page as a handy reference while you work. Full details follow in the sections below.

■ THE 6 GOLDEN RULES — NEVER SKIP THESE

1. **Expansion gaps are critical** — Minimum 4-6mm around all walls, frames, pipes and fixed objects. Larger rooms or UFH may need 8-12mm or transition joints.
2. **Subfloor must be flat** — Maximum 3mm deviation over 2m. Sand or fill high/low spots. No carpet or soft underlay.
3. **Click properly** — Keep seams tight. You should feel and hear a solid click. If there's a gap, pull apart and re-click immediately.
4. **Stagger the joints** — Short-end seams should not line up in a straight row. Aim for at least 150-200mm offset or 1/3 of plank length.
5. **Start correctly** — Begin in a corner with tongue facing away from the wall. Use spacers to maintain the expansion gap from the very first row.
6. **Retain records & spares** — Keep 3 spare planks from the original batch + receipt, photos of subfloor, and installation date for warranty.

STEP-BY-STEP FLOW

Step 1: Inspect & Prepare Subfloor

Check all boxes for damage and consistent batch. Inspect every plank. Remove old carpet/underlay/adhesive residue. Ensure subfloor is clean, dry and flat to 3mm over 2m. Correct any moisture issues. Vacuum thoroughly.

Step 2: Acclimatise

Place unopened boxes horizontally in the installation room for 24-48 hours at stable 18–27°C. Do not remove planks from boxes during this time. This helps the product adjust to room conditions.

Step 3: Plan Layout & Set Spacers

Decide installation direction (usually parallel to longest wall or light source). Dry-lay first row to check fit. Place 4-6mm spacers along the starting wall. Mix planks from several boxes for best colour blend.

Step 4: Install First Row

Start in corner with tongue facing away from wall. Click short ends together at ~15-20° angle. Keep the row straight using spacers. Cut the last plank to fit, leaving 4-6mm gap.

Step 5: Continue Rows with Stagger

Start each new row with the off-cut from previous row (if long enough). Click long side first at an angle, then drop or slide the short end to click. Stagger short-end joints. Keep seams tight — listen for the click.

Step 6: Cut & Fit Around Obstacles

For pipes, door frames etc., make a paper template, trace onto plank, cut carefully with utility knife or saw. Always leave 4-6mm expansion gap around objects.

Step 7: Finish & Protect

Install transition mouldings/T-mouldings in doorways and large areas if needed. Fit skirting or scotia to cover expansion gaps (do not seal gaps with silicone). Protect floor from heavy traffic for first 24 hours. Use furniture pads and walk-off mats.

Tip: If your room is very large (>8m in any direction), has underfloor heating, or is a conservatory, read the expansion and UFH sections carefully or contact Flooring Monster for advice before starting.

1. PRE-INSTALLATION

Your new SPC Rigid Click flooring uses a modern interlocking edge system designed for fast, easy floating installation. With proper preparation it can often be installed in just a few hours. Please read this guide fully before starting.

1.1 Tools & Materials Needed

- Utility knife + straight edge or laminate cutter
- Measuring tape, pencil, square
- 4–6 mm spacers (adjustable spacers recommended)
- Tapping block or off-cut plank + rubber mallet
- Pull bar for final row
- Shears or jigsaw for irregular cuts
- Transition mouldings, baseboards/skirting, T-mouldings for doorways/large areas

1.2 Measuring & Planning

Measure the room length and width (add alcoves separately) to calculate m². Purchase at least **10% extra** for waste, trimming and future repairs. If using multiple boxes, mix planks from 4–5 different boxes during installation to blend colour and minimise shade variation.

Caution: Do not install over carpet, soft underlay or existing floating floors. Not suitable for outdoor use, solariums or saunas. SPC can warp with excessive heat and shrink in extreme cold.

1.3 Acclimatisation

Although many rigid SPC products require minimal acclimatisation, we recommend placing the unopened boxes horizontally in the installation room for **24–48 hours** at a stable temperature of **18–27°C**. Do not remove planks from the boxes during this period. This helps the product adjust to the room's temperature and humidity.

1.4 Subfloor Preparation

The subfloor must be **smooth, dry, clean and solid**. Any adhesive residue, dust or debris must be removed.

- **Flatness:** Maximum deviation **3 mm over 2 m** (or per product spec). Sand high spots or fill low areas with a suitable leveller. Folds or humps will prevent proper locking.
- **Moisture:** SPC is waterproof but excessive subfloor moisture can cause issues. Correct any moisture problems before installation. For new concrete, allow minimum 60 days curing. On ground-floor cement, a 0.6 mm polyethylene DPM with sealed joints is recommended.
- Suitable subfloors include sand-cement screed, anhydrite, timber (properly ventilated and stable), existing glued-down hard floors (LVT, linoleum, tile – if flat), and many others. Do not install on soft carpet or floating laminate/click PVC.

2. INSTALLATION

2.1 Getting Started

Begin installation in a corner. Lay the first row with the **tongue facing away from the wall**. Use 4–6 mm spacers along the wall to maintain the expansion gap from the very first plank.

2.2 Laying the First Row

Interlock the short ends by inserting the tongue into the groove at a **15–20° angle**. Line up each subsequent plank evenly. Keep the row straight using spacers. Cut the last plank to length, leaving a 4–6 mm gap at the end wall.

2.3 Continuing the Installation (Numbered Steps)

1. Keep seams tight. You should feel and hear a solid click when the planks lock. If there is any visible gap, pull the planks apart immediately and re-click.
2. Stagger the rows so short-end seams are not in a straight line. Use the off-cut from the previous row to start the next row (provided it is long enough — minimum ~150–200 mm or 1/3 plank length).
3. To start a new row, angle the long side of the first plank into the previous row, then drop or slide the short end to click. For subsequent planks in the row, click the short end first (slightly away), then slide/angle into the long side.
4. Continue row by row. For the last row, measure and cut planks to width (remember expansion gap). Use a pull bar to click the final row into place.

2.4 Expansion Gaps & Large Areas

SPC must be able to expand and contract. A **4–6 mm gap** is required around all walls, door frames, pipes and fixed objects. For rooms up to approx. 7.6 m × 12.2 m, 6–8 mm is often sufficient. Larger rooms, very long runs, underfloor heating or conservatories usually require **8–12 mm** or the installation of **transition joints / T-mouldings** in doorways and between adjoining areas.

Never seal expansion gaps with silicone — this prevents movement and can cause buckling. Gaps can be covered with skirting, scotia or quadrant moulding.

2.5 Cutting Around Pipes & Irregular Objects

Make a paper template to fit around pipes or awkward shapes. Trace onto the plank, cut with utility knife (score & snap) or fine saw. Always leave a 4–6 mm expansion gap around the object.

2.6 Doorways & Transitions

Use T-mouldings or appropriate transition profiles in doorways and where SPC meets other flooring types. This also allows for expansion between rooms.

3. UNDERFLOOR HEATING & WET AREAS

3.1 Underfloor Heating

Most quality rigid SPC floors are suitable for use with water-based and electric underfloor heating when installed correctly. Maximum surface temperature is typically **27°C**. Always check your specific product's guidelines.

- Commission and test the UFH system before installation.
- Reduce temperature to 15°C or switch off 48 hours before laying.
- Keep system off or at low temperature during installation and for 48 hours afterwards.
- Increase temperature gradually by 3–5°C per day after the 48-hour period.
- Larger expansion gaps (or transition joints) are usually required with UFH.

3.2 Wet Areas

SPC Rigid Click is suitable for bathrooms and other wet areas (it is waterproof), but it is **not suitable as a shower tray or shower wall**. Use appropriate shower mats on wet floors as they can be slippery. Ensure good ventilation.

4. POST-INSTALLATION CARE & MAINTENANCE

4.1 Immediately After Installation

- Protect the floor from heavy traffic for the first 24 hours.
- Do not wet-clean or scrub for at least 24–48 hours (longer if adhesive was used for transitions).
- Sweep or vacuum thoroughly after installation.

4.2 Daily & Routine Maintenance

- Maintain room temperature between **12°C and 27°C**.
- **Never use steam cleaners** — they can damage the click system and are not covered by warranty.
- Clean up spills immediately. SPC can handle short-term water exposure but should not be flooded for long periods.
- Use only vinyl-safe, neutral pH cleaners. Avoid abrasive pads, solvents and wax polishes.
- Place walk-off mats at entrances to trap grit and moisture.
- Use felt pads or wide floor protectors under furniture. Heavy items need proper load distribution.
- Roller chairs must have soft “Type W” castors designed for hard floors.
- In rooms with strong direct sunlight, use blinds or UV film to reduce fading and thermal expansion.

4.3 Protecting Your Floor Long-Term

When moving heavy furniture or appliances, always use protective boards or a dolly. Never drag items across the floor. Store a few spare planks in a dry, flat location for future repairs.

5. WARRANTY & HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure the longevity of your floor and to support any warranty claim with the manufacturer, please follow these responsibilities:

5.1 Key Responsibilities

- Install the flooring **exactly as described** in this guide.
- Use only approved vinyl-safe cleaning products.
- **Retain three spare planks** from the original batch for potential testing or repairs.
- Keep your purchase receipt, delivery notes and installation photos/records.
- Do not glue planks down or pin mouldings through the floor in a way that restricts natural expansion.
- Maintain proper expansion gaps at all times.

5.2 Warranty Claims & Complaints

Flooring Monster is a retailer, not the manufacturer. **Warranty claims for manufacturing defects should be directed to the product manufacturer in the first instance**, following their specific claims process (usually requires proof of purchase, installation photos, and retained spare planks).

- **Visible defects must not be installed.** Laying the floor means you accept the product condition.
- If you are unsure how to make a claim or need assistance coordinating with the manufacturer, please contact Flooring Monster support at support@flooringmonster.com. We are happy to help guide you.
- Issues caused by incorrect installation, subfloor problems, or failure to follow this guide are the responsibility of the installer/homeowner and are not covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

SUMMARY — KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL SPC CLICK INSTALLATION

1. **Subfloor** — Clean, dry, flat to 3 mm over 2 m. No carpet or soft underlay.
2. **Expansion** — Minimum 4–6 mm gap around everything. Larger gaps or T-mouldings for big rooms / UFH.
3. **Clicking** — Keep seams tight. Listen and feel for a solid click. Re-do immediately if there's a gap.
4. **Staggering** — Short ends offset by at least 150–200 mm or 1/3 plank length.
5. **Protection** — Use furniture pads, walk-off mats, soft castors. Avoid steam cleaners and prolonged flooding.

Follow these simple rules and your new SPC floor will look great and perform beautifully for years. If you have any questions, contact Flooring Monster customer support before or during installation.

Thank you for choosing Flooring Monster.
Quality flooring, straightforward advice, and support when you need it.