



RigidLock Plus Tile INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

It is important to work out of several cartons to mix the patterns when installing this select flooring product to enhance the beauty of nature without having duplicate tiles beside each other. Several colors in RigidLock Plus Tile feature a wide range of color movement, therefore it is important to plan the installation of the products as to mix those colors together to create the desired aesthetic. RigidLock Plus Tile offers the natural colors and texture variations that are abundantly available in nature to give a beautiful finished installation within the home. RigidLock Plus Tile should never be installed outdoors, or in areas that will not constantly stay between 23° F and 85° F.

Before you begin installation it is extremely important that subfloor preparations are performed as follows:

SUBFLOOR

1. Subfloor must be level, flat, and structurally sound. The subfloor levelness must not exceed 1/8" level within a 6' span in all directions. It is suggested to use either a level or a straightedge. Grind high spots down and level low spots with a water resistant non-shrinking Portland leveling compound. Be certain the floor joists do not impede the floor flatness as required. Unevenness can cause problems with the integrity of the locking system and cause the system to disengage.
2. Concrete substrates must be fully cured before installation for a minimum of 30 days or more. Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth, and free from dust, solvent, wax, asphalt sealing compounds, and other materials that may compromise the backing of the flooring.
3. Underlayment with cushioning properties may not be used under RigidLock Plus Tile under any circumstances, as the product has an attached IXPE pad.
4. It is the installer's responsibility to be certain the subfloor guidelines are followed before installation begins.

RigidLock Plus Tile may be installed above, on, or below grade over acceptable subfloor types:

1. Concrete slab
2. APA Rated plywood underlayment
3. Properly prepared gypsum cement.
4. Underlayment grade particleboard
5. OSB minimum 3/4"
6. Existing Hardwood floor
7. Ceramic Tile
8. Single layer resilient tile and sheet vinyl
9. Floating or fiber back cushion vinyl products are not recommended
10. Existing hard surface floor covering must be securely fastened



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GENERAL GUIDELINES

ACCLIMATION: HVAC system for the installation must be operational and turned on to provide a temperature of 60-80°F. The product should be brought to the same temperature before installation.

DIRECT SUNLIGHT: The installed flooring should be protected from excessive exposure to direct sunlight.

CRAWL SPACE: The bottom of wooden subfloor joists must be a minimum of 18" above ground surface. Minimum 6 mil black poly sheeting must be in place covering 100% of the ground and overlapped a minimum of 6" at seams acting as a moisture barrier. The poly sheeting must run up the walls no less than 6". Air vents must be open on all sides with no less than 1.5% air vent opening compared to the total crawlspace area.

RADIANT HEAT: Only embedded radiant heat is recommended. Temperature should be reduced three days before installation to no more than 65°F. After installation, slowly increase the temperature a maximum of 5°F per 24 hour period. Temperatures should never exceed 85°F. **Warning:** Heating mats are not recommended for our WPC flooring.

EXPANSION GAPS: A minimum of 1/4" expansion gap must be allowed for all vertical obstructions including door jambs. If lengths or widths of installed areas of the product exceed 30 feet in any direction, a minimum of 3/8" expansion gap must be allowed for all vertical obstructions, including door jambs. Do not exceed 60 feet in any direction, even with the 3/8" expansion space without the approval of Eastern Flooring Products® technical sales department.

INSTALLATION TOOLS

1. Tape measure
2. Tapping block (trimmed piece of flooring)
3. Pencil
4. Pry bar or pull bar
5. Chalk line
6. Crosscut power saw
7. 3M Scotch-Blue Tape 2080
8. Rubber mallet
9. White wood glue

IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS BEFORE INSTALLING

1. Be certain a minimum of 1/4" expansion gap is allowed for all vertical obstructions including door

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jamb. If lengths or widths of installed areas of the product exceed 30 feet in any direction, a minimum of 3/8" expansion gap must be allowed for all vertical obstructions, including door jamb. Please check local building codes before undercutting metal door jamb.

2. Be certain the subfloor is sound, flat, dry, and level. Floor levelness should not exceed 1/8" in a 6' radius span. Using a 6' or longer level or straightedge, slide along the subfloor looking for low and high areas, which must be either ground down or filled with an approved Portland based leveling compound. Eastern Flooring Products® is not responsible for flooring failures resulting from unsatisfactory subfloors.
3. Wood subfloors must be secure making sure it is either nailed or screwed every 6" along the joists to avoid squeaking.
4. Eastern Flooring Products® recommends, crawl spaces have a black 6 to 20 mil thick moisture barrier properly installed. Moisture will not affect RigidLock Plus Tile but it may permeate into the walls and structure of the building exposing you to problems with mold (and/or) mildew (and/or) excessive subfloor expansion/contraction.
5. Do not install RigidLock Plus Tile where it will be in direct sunlight for extended periods of time.
6. Eastern Flooring Products® cannot be responsible for installing tiles with visible defects.
7. Existing floors such as ceramic, resilient tile and non-cushioned sheet vinyl must be well bonded to the subfloor. Do not sand existing vinyl floors, as they may contain asbestos.

USING THE ANGLE TAP INSTALLATION

STARTING THE ANGLE TAP INSTALLATION

1. Work from multiple cartons and "dry lay" several rows before beginning to install insuring duplicate tiles are not installed beside each other.
2. Measure the room to ensure that the last row will not be smaller than 1/2 the width of the product. If so, rip the first row to accommodate the last row.
3. Begin the first row working right to left. Insert minimum 1/4" spacers around the perimeter of the room allowing for proper expansion space. The tongue should be facing the wall. Insert the next tile to the left and connect the short joint at an angle, ensure a complete connection between the two.
4. Insert the second row by sliding the long joint tongue into the groove of the tile in the first row. Press down until it clicks into the adjacent tile. Be certain to allow a minimum of 8" between end joints on the adjacent tile. The shortest starting or ending tile should not be less than 8" in length.
5. Using a scrap piece of tile, align it to the left side of the second tile and lightly tap the scrap piece with a rubber mallet towards the first. Do not tap the face or locking mechanism of the product with the rubber mallet without using a scrap piece.
6. Install the remaining rows in the same manner.

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7. Use cut pieces from a previous row as the starter board to reduce waste being certain it is at least 8" in length.

INSTALLING THE FINAL ROW:

8. The last row may have to be cut (ripped) to properly fit the remaining width from the adjacent tile to the wall spacer. If necessary, complete the tight fit by tapping the board into place with a pull bar.
9. Place the last row of tiles to be fit on top of the last row of installed tiles. Use a piece of tile as scribe to trace the contour of the wall. Mark it for a correct fit and cut.
10. After the boards are cut, position the tiles and tighten the fit by using the pull bar.
11. If the last row is under a counter not allowing an angle click of the long joint, shave off the bottom of the groove and apply wood glue, then slip the tongue into the adjacent tile. Wipe clean excess adhesive.

INSTALLING UNDER A DOOR JAMB:

12. Installation under moldings (such as door jambs) may require that the tip lip of the groove on the end be reduced in size.
13. Using a small plane or knife, carefully shave off the ledge of the groove.
14. After the groove ledge has been trimmed, place the board in place and tighten with a pull bar to test for fit. The installer must be certain the require expansion of 1/4" has been maintained and the flooring is not pinched or tight. If the fit is not correct, re-trim as necessary.
15. Place a bead of wood glue on the bottom lip of the groove.
16. Insert the tongue into the groove and tighten the fit with a pull bar. Hold the board in place with painters tape (3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape) until the glue is dry. Do not use masking tape or duct tape as they may damage the floor's finish.

MOLDING INSTALLATION

1. Eastern Flooring Products® recommends using Eastern Vinyl Stair Caps on stairs. Matching stair caps and risers can be purchase from your source for RockLock Plus Tile.
2. All molding should be dry fit prior to flooring installation to ensure proper fit, finish, and match.

AFTER INSTALLATION

Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.

1. Avoid excessive exposure to direct sunlight.



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2. Indoor temperatures should always stay between 23° and 85° F.
3. Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or other oil based products on to the flooring. Use protected walk-off mats that are non-staining. Rubber may discolor the floor.
4. Furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with wheeled castors should only have wide castors no less than 4" in diameter. Office areas must have a protective mat under chairs. DO NOT use ball-type castors.
5. Floating floors must not be pinned with fixed cabinetry, heavy equipment or other heavy objects. This includes kitchen counters, slate pool tables, or other objects that would pin the floor from floating. If you have questions about a given piece of furniture, machinery, or otherwise heavy object, please contact Eastern Flooring Products® technical services.
6. Moldings from another flooring segment must not be nailed through the tiles.
7. Use walk-off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
8. Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. DO NOT use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off.
9. Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted neutral-PH floor cleaner. DO NOT use detergents, abrasive cleaners or "mop and shine" products. Use caution as with all smooth surface floors may become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after cleaning.
10. If you suspect a problem with your floor, do not walk nor roll on that area prior to reporting it to the point of purchase. Any problem with the floor that you discover must be reported to the point of purchase within 48 hours of discovery. All issues that remain unresolved must be reported to the manufacturer within 14 days of discovery.

WARNING: Existing resilient floor coverings and black asphalt adhesive may contain asbestos. Improper removal procedures could release asbestos fibers into the air. Asbestos fibers, when inhaled, could cause serious bodily harm. Do not sand or dry scrape these materials. If removal of existing floor coverings is necessary, be certain that all precautions are taken and proper procedures are followed. For information regarding proper removal procedures in the U.S.A., please consult the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 12-B, Rockville, MD 20850) for a pamphlet, "Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings."