

6.21 INTERLOCKING TILES AND PLANK SYSTEMS

6.22 GENERAL INFORMATION

When installing an interlocking product always follow current local and national standards for the installation of floor coverings. The best current installation practice incorporating the latest technical developments should be employed. The preparation of the subfloor, the installation of the floor covering and the measures taken to safeguard value are key factors in ensuring optimum suitability and performance of resilient floor coverings.

6.23 RECEIPT & STORAGE

On receipt of materials:

- ▶ Check that colours correspond to those ordered and that there is no damage or visual defects in the material.
- ▶ In particular, check that the material is from one batch. Claims for visual defects can only be accepted prior to installation and cutting.
- ▶ The Interlocking plank/tile system must be protected against dirt and moisture during storage.
- ▶ During storage and installation the room temperature should be 20°C (minimum 15°C) and have a relative humidity of 50-60%.
- ▶ Prior to laying the floor, open the boxes and place them in the room in which they are to be installed for a minimum of 48 hours BEFORE the installation commences, so the material can acclimatise itself.
- ▶ Boxes should never be stacked greater than **three** boxes high.

KEY POINT

Interlocking tiles & planks should not be stacked more than **THREE** boxes high.

6.24 PREPARATION OF SUBFLOORS

- ▶ The Interlocking plank/tile system can be laid over :
 - Mineral subfloors prepared in accordance with accepted trade standards. It must be clean, durable, permanently dry and flat.
 - Existing floor coverings of ceramic, vinyl and linoleum as long as they are clean, flat and there is no dampness under the floor covering.
 - Wooden floors, floorboards and chipboard floors as long as they are flat, firmly fastened and free of protruding nails etc.
- ▶ Joints in the subfloor must be evened out as a rule the maximum deviation permitted would be 3mm when measured under a 2m straight edge. Higher deviation can cause permanent damage to the locking mechanism.

KEY POINT

Carpets and soft floorings are **unsuitable** as a base for the installation of the Interlocking plank/tile system. These will need to be **removed**.

- ▶ Solid subfloors should demonstrate a maximum damp content of 75% RH before the installation can begin. Residual moisture contents for solid cementitious and screeded subfloors max. 2.0 CM % With underfloor heating 1.8 CM %.
- ▶ Anhydrite floor max. 0.5 CM % (With underfloor heating 0.3 CM %).

NOTE Once the subfloor has been prepared the Interlocking plank/tile flooring **must** be laid over the **recommended Polyflor Underlay**.



Figure 6.10 Polyflor Underlay

6.25 PRIOR TO INSTALLATION (UNDERFLOOR HEATING)

Where underfloor heating has been installed within the subfloor:

- ▶ The system should be fully tested and commissioned prior to the flooring installation commencing.
- ▶ Underfloor Heating systems should be switched off and be fully cooled for a minimum of 48 hours prior to the installation commencing. The system should remain off and fully cooled during the time of the entire installation and for a minimum of 48 hours afterwards. Then over several days slowly and incrementally brought back up to the working temperature.
- ▶ A maximum subfloor temperature of 27°C should never be exceeded.

6.26 CONDITIONING

- ▶ The Interlocking plank/tile system must be protected against dirt and moisture both before and during the installation.
- ▶ The climatic conditions acceptable for the installation of interlocking planks/tiles are:
 - Floor temperature > 15°C
 - Room temperature > 18°C
 - Air Relative humidity < 50-60%

6.27 INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

During storage and installation the room temperature should be 20°C (minimum 15°C) and have a relative humidity of 50-60%.

In the event of extended deviations from the aforementioned room conditions < 30% or > 80% for relative humidity or temperatures of (< 10°C or > 30°C) a change in the dimensions, gap formation is a typical characteristic for this kind of product; the expansion gap required can therefore increase from those described herein.

In such instances please seek advice from **Polyflor CTSD** by calling +44 (0) 161 767 1912.

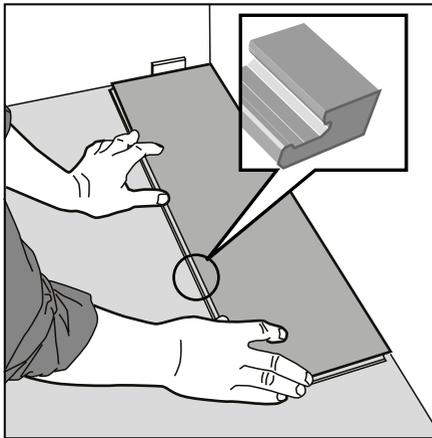


Figure 6.11 First plank, first row

6.27.1 First tile/plank, first row

- ▶ The boards are laid without glue/adhesive. Start to lay the floor in the left-hand corner of the room.
- ▶ A minimum expansion gap of 4mm should be left around the installation perimeter and anything protruding from the subfloor.
- ▶ For larger installations an expansion gap of 1mm per linear metre of room length should be used. e.g. a room 8m x4m would require an expansion gap of 8mm around the entire perimeter of the room and around anything protruding from the floor.

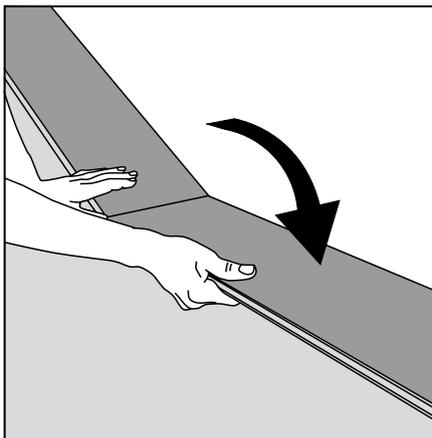


Figure 6.12 Second plank, first row

- ▶ Use small offcuts of the tile/plank as spacers between the planks and the walls to help achieve the correct size gap.

6.27.2 Second tile/plank, second row

- ▶ Press the short end of the next tile/plank at an angle to the first one, and then lay down. Complete the first row in the same way.

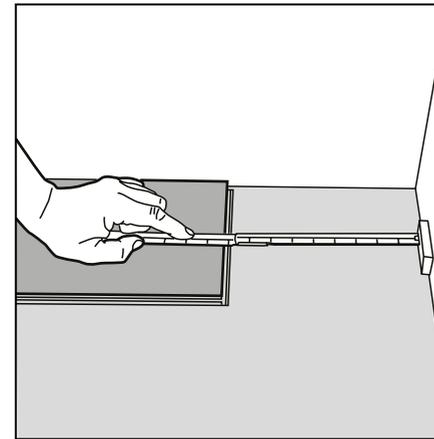


Figure 6.13 Last plank, first row

6.27.3 Last tile/plank, first row

- ▶ Insert correct sized spacer between the end of the first row and the wall to ensure the correct expansion gap is left.
- ▶ Measure the length of the last tile/plank to fit.
- ▶ Cut the last panel to correct length, recommended minimum length is 350mm.

6.27.4 First tile/plank second row

- ▶ Insert spacer between the end of the first row and the wall. (Expansion gap).
- ▶ Start the new row with the leftover piece from the last row.
- ▶ Insert the tile/plank at an angle against the plank in the previous row, press forward and fold down at the same time.
- ▶ Always try to stagger the short joints approx. 150mm from a short joint in the previous row.

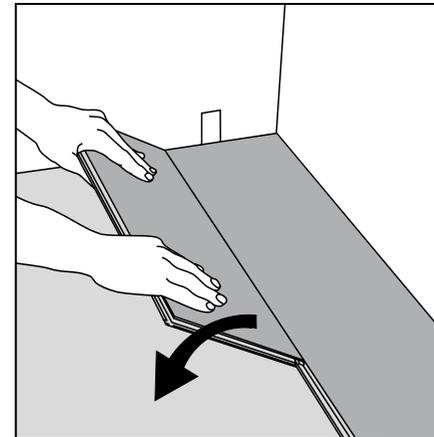


Figure 6.14 First Plank second row

6.27.5 Managing uneven walls

- ▶ If the wall is uneven, the floorboards should be marked or scribed to its contours.
- ▶ Mark the floorboards with the contour of the wall. Don't forget to include the required expansion gap to the wall.
- ▶ To cut the planks to fit the last row, position them one at a time directly over the previous row in the direction you'll be laying them.
- ▶ Hold them firmly in place. Then line up a third board on top.
- ▶ Use the edge of this board to mark the cutting line with a pencil on the board beneath. Remember to allow for the expansion gap (Figure 6.15).

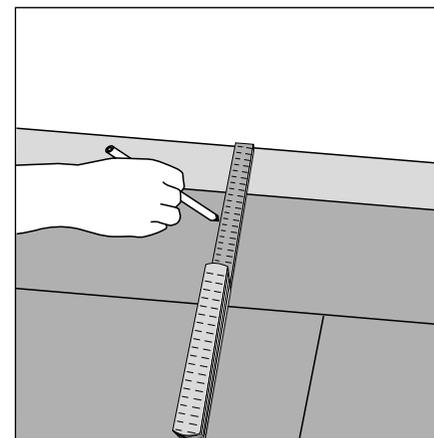


Figure 6.15 Managing uneven walls

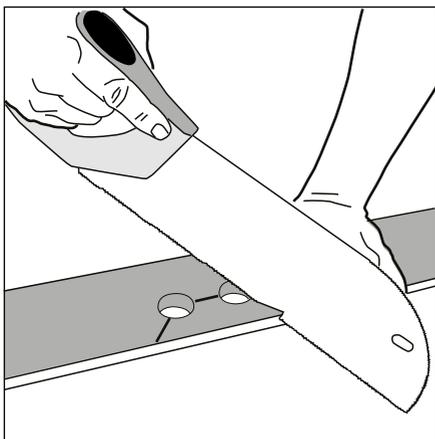


Figure 6.16 Radiator pipes

6.27.6 Radiator Pipes (Figure 6.16 & 6.17)

- ▶ Principle cut out – mark the centre of the holes on both the long and short sides using a carpenters square and a pencil.
- ▶ Where the marks cross drill a pilot hole using a thin #6 or #8 drill bit. Further drill the hole with a spade bit wide enough to accommodate both the diameter of the pipe and the required expansion gap.
- ▶ Cut around as shown with a saw or with a sharp utility knife. Install the floor plank.
- ▶ If necessary, put a bead of contact glue on the cut piece and replace. Insert a spacer directly behind the inserted piece to wedge it in place ensuring that the correct sized expansion gap has been left. Leave this in place until the glue has hardened.

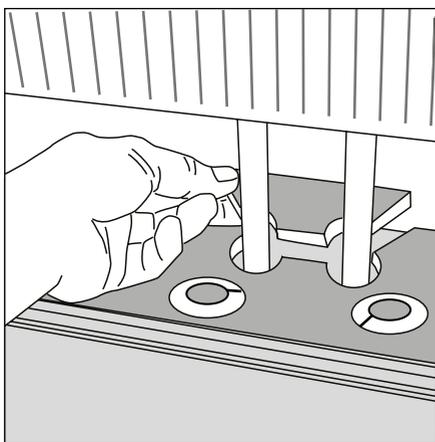


Figure 6.17 Radiator pipes

6.27.7 Door Frames (Figure 6.18)

- ▶ When installing Interlocking plank/tile around a door frame, cut into the door frame with a handsaw, using an off cut plank/tile and some underlay as a guide for the height and the amount to trim off the door frame.
- ▶ Slide the cut piece under the door frame.

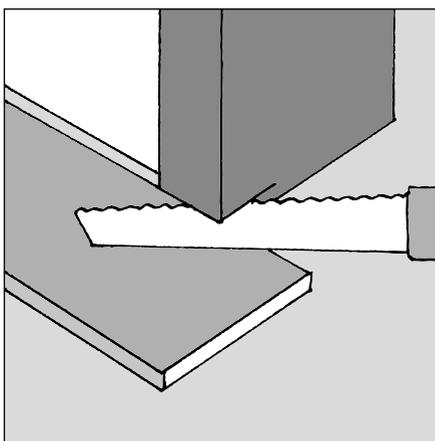


Figure 6.18 Door frames

6.27.8 Adjoining other floor coverings

- ▶ When adjoining other floor coverings, finish the Interlocking plank/tile in the doorway.
- ▶ An appropriate expansion gap should be left between the Interlocking plank/tile and the adjoining floor covering.
- ▶ This can be covered using a suitable threshold or diminishing strip later.

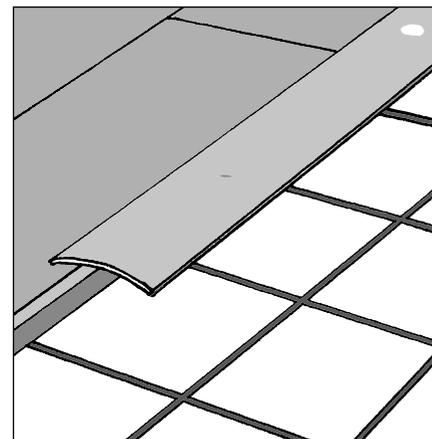


Figure 6.19 Threshold strip

6.27.9 Installing across multiple rooms (Figure 6.19)

- ▶ Finish the Interlocking plank/tile in the doorway on either side and allow a break between the two floors of double that left around the perimeter.
- ▶ A suitable threshold strip can then be installed to cover the resultant gap. Place two small off cut pieces of Interlocking plank/tile back to back to gauge the correct gap size.
- ▶ When installing a threshold never mechanically fix direct to the Interlocking plank/tile; instead affix to the subfloor and allow sufficient space between the top edge of the threshold and the surface of the Interlocking plank/tile so as to allow movement into the expansion gap.

6.28 COMPLETION WORK

Interlocking plank/tile are designed as floating floors hence the floor covering can be walked on directly after it is installed.

- ▶ Remove all the spacers and wedges from the edge expansion gaps.
- ▶ Skirting boards, base boards, quadrants or scotia can be used to conceal the expansion gap, however they should never be fitted directly onto the surface of the interlocking plank/tile.
- ▶ Leave a small gap between the two, allowing for the natural movement of the plank underneath the skirting or scotia.

NOTE Shades that illustrate heavily embossed surfaces will require a slightly larger gap between the surface of the plank/tile and the underside of the skirting/scotia etc. to accommodate free movement into the expansion gap.