



Natureffect Mineral Core SPC - Installation Guide

These guidelines are designed to complement our UFH & Caring for your Floor Guides.

This guide is designed to offer step-by-step instructions for the correct installation of V4 Natureffect SPC flooring.

For detailed information on installing over underfloor heating systems (UFH) refer to our separate download.

These guidelines are intended for reference use and should always be followed alongside:

- The most current version of British Standard BS 8203: - Code of Practice for Installation of Resilient Floor Coverings.
- Relevant construction and subfloor preparation standards.
- The specific installation and product instructions provided by the flooring, adhesive, and underlay manufacturers.

While every effort has been made to provide accurate and thorough information, it remains the sole responsibility of the installation contractor to assess the site conditions, select suitable materials, and ensure the flooring is installed correctly and safely.

Following these guidelines will help achieve a high-quality installation, maximise the performance of the floor, and reduce the risk of post-installation issues.

Suitable Areas for Installation

V4 Natureffect SPC flooring is suitable for almost all internal domestic and commercial spaces, including:

- Kitchens
- Hallways
- Bathrooms
- Utility rooms

SPC is waterproof and dimensionally stable, making it ideal for areas with variable humidity. However, it should not be installed outdoors, in wet rooms with floor drains, or where surface temperatures exceed 60°C (e.g. saunas, areas near log burners without thermal protection).





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Pre-Installation Preparation

Site Conditions & Climate Control

Although SPC is more stable than natural wood, stable indoor conditions still play a critical role in performance.

Environmental Requirements

- Temperature: Maintain a consistent room temperature between 18°C and 24°C.
- Relative Humidity (RH): Keep RH between 45% and 65% at all times.
- These conditions should be monitored using a hygrometer and thermometer throughout the project duration.

Why Stability Matters

- Extreme cold or heat can lead to contraction or expansion of the planks.
- SPC is less sensitive to RH than wood but will still respond to large swings in ambient temperature or direct heat exposure.
- Do not store or install flooring in areas that are not yet weather-tight.

Moisture from Wet Trades

- All wet trades (e.g. plastering, screeding, tiling) must be 100% complete and thoroughly dry before flooring is delivered or installed.
- Do not attempt to accelerate drying of screeds or plaster using forced heating (e.g. space heaters or UFH). This can:
 - Weaken the bond strength of the screed.
 - Lead to uneven drying and latent moisture.
 - Cause long-term issues with the floor.
- Moisture can promote mould under the floor if trapped.

Ventilation & Additional Tips

- Ensure the area is well ventilated throughout the build and installation period.
- Avoid installing flooring in properties that are not yet weather-tight or without active climate control.
- Fireplaces, radiators, or direct sunlight can cause uneven temperatures in localised areas, use rugs or shading where needed, but avoid overly insulating thick rugs over UFH.

Subfloor Preparation

A flat, clean, dry, and sound subfloor is critical for a successful SPC floor installation.

Level: Subfloor must be flat with a maximum 3 mm variation over 2 linear metres. Excessive undulation can cause the floor to deflect, resulting in joint stress, squeaking, and premature failure.

Clean: All dust, dirt, paint, old adhesives or debris must be removed. These can compromise the structural integrity of the floor.

Sound: The subfloor must be solid with no movement or flexing. A moving subfloor will compromise joint integrity and lead to creaking or lifting over time.

Dry:

- Concrete and screed subfloors must be:
 - <75% RH for floating installations





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- Timber substrates should have:
 - <11% moisture content.
 - Excessive moisture in wood substrates can migrate to the floor above, causing movement and damage.
- If required, apply a surface-applied damp proof membrane (DPM) or use a suitable underlay with integrated DPM.

Acclimatisation

SPC flooring is dimensionally stable and typically does not require acclimatisation under normal conditions.

However:

- If stored in conditions below 10°C or above 40°C for extended periods, allow unopened packs to sit in the installation area for 12–24 hours prior to fitting.
- Always install from sealed packs at room temperature.

Wastage

- **Planks:** 5-10% recommended wastage depending on the room shape and layout.

Inspection, Board Selection & Planning

- Inspect all boards in natural light for damage or excessive variation.
- Any damaged boards should be set aside and reported before installation.
- Installed boards are considered accepted.
- Mix planks from multiple packs to blend natural variation.
- Layout should ideally run parallel to the longest wall or the primary light source.
- Avoid narrow cuts at wall edges. Aim for a minimum half-board width at either side for a balanced finish.

Protecting the Floor After Installation

- Do not cover SPC flooring with non-breathable sheeting for extended periods.
- Use breathable floor protection if trades continue on site.
- Avoid trapping grit or debris under coverings.
- Only use low-tack masking tape on edges and remove promptly.
- Furniture should have felt pads or soft casters.





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Expansion Gaps & Movement

SPC flooring is rigid and features a click-lock system with built-in expansion tolerance. However, movement gaps are still required around fixed elements.

Required Gaps

- Leave a 6–10 mm expansion gap around all perimeters, including:
 - Walls
 - Kitchen units
 - Pipework
 - Thresholds and transitions
- Do not install SPC flooring under kitchen units or fixed furniture. Install up to the plinth line, allowing space for movement.

Larger Areas

- For installations over 12 linear metres in any direction, use expansion joints or transition profiles.
- Where the floor spans multiple rooms or transitions over doorways, always allow for breaks using appropriate trims.





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Underfloor Heating

Please refer to our SPC underfloor heating guide.





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Installation Instructions – Click Lock

SPC floors must only be installed as floating floors using the manufacturer's click-lock system. Do not glue or nail SPC planks to the subfloor.

1. Underlay (if applicable)

- Use an approved acoustic underlay if needed for sound insulation.
- Acoustic underlay must be thin and dense, never use thick, soft foam which may compromise joint integrity.

2. Starting Row

- Begin in the left-hand corner of the room with the tongue side facing the wall.
- Use spacers to maintain a 6–10 mm expansion gap around all fixed structures (walls, pipes, stairs) to allow for natural expansion and contraction.
- Stagger joints by at least 300 mm between rows for strength and appearance.

3. Clicking the Boards

- Angle the board at 30°, insert tongue into groove, and gently lower while clicking into place.
- Tap boards into place using a soft rubber mallet and tapping block if necessary.
- Use pull bars for final rows near walls.
- Trim final row to ≥ 5 cm width (narrower planks can be unstable).
- Boards must lie flat with no visible gaps. If planks don't engage, disconnect and realign. Never force them.

4. Finishing

- Fit suitable skirting or scotia to cover the expansion gaps, never fix directly through the floor.
- Do not trap flooring under fixed units (e.g. kitchen islands) as this can prevent expansion and lead to buckling
- Install transition trims at doorways, changes in flooring, or where expansion breaks are required.
- Drill pipe holes 20 mm larger than pipe (to allow expansion and movement)





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Floor Care & Maintenance

Please refer to our SPC Floor care & maintenance guide.

