JOHNSON PREMIUM HARDWOOD FLOORING

SICILY COLLECTION SPC RIGID CORE PLANK FLOORING

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES [05/20/2019]

ALWAYS CHECK www.johnsonhardwood.com FOR THE LATEST INSTALLATION, WARRANTY AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSTALLER TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST CURRENT DOCUMENTS ARE USED DURING INSTALLATION OF JOHNSON HARDWOOD FLOORING PRODUCTS.

Product Quality: The contractor/installer/end-user assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. The flooring **MUST** be inspected at time of delivery and prior to installation. Carefully examine the flooring color, finish quality or any damage during transit **before** installing it. The installer should use reasonable selectivity to cull out or cut off unacceptable pieces. If the flooring material is considered unacceptable, **"STOP DO NOT INSTALL THE FLOOR"**, but contact the Johnson Premium Hardwood dealer immediately. **Once the flooring is installed, there is no question as to its acceptability.**

JOB SITE REQUIREMENTS:

1. The space where flooring is to be installed shall be fully enclosed and the permanent HVAC system shall be operational at 55° - 85° Fahrenheit (18° to 26° Celsius) for 5 days prior to installation and during installation. **Note:** Maintaining an optimum temperature of 70° F and relative humidity of 35 – 55% is highly recommended. **Please refer to page # 7 regarding 3-Season Rooms.**
2. Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project.
3. ***Note:*** *Failure to properly acclimate Sicily Collection SPC Rigid Core Plank Flooring can result in buckling, gapping, end-joint peaking, cupping, ledging, side and end-joint failure and/or difficulty engaging the tongue and grooves inner locking mechanism.*

QUICK TIPS:

1. After receiving the flooring lay cartons on a flat surface in the rooms in which the flooring will be installed. NEVER stack the flooring in a standing position as this can damage the interlocking tongue and groove mechanism, as well as cause the planks to take on a bowed effect.
2. Do not tap on the tongue and grooves interlocking mechanism as this can/will result in breakage of the tongue and/grooves interlocking mechanism which will result in the planks not interlocking properly, resulting in gapping and/or ledging at the seams.
3. Do not apply tape to the floors surface as this could result in irreversible damage to the floors surface.
4. Keep your working environment clean. Set up your saws outside whenever possible so as to prevent cut off pieces from making their way onto the floors surface. In addition, be sure to have walk-on/walk-off mats at any/all doorways leading outside so as not to track in dirt and sand particulates, which can/will damage the surface of the floor.
5. **Note: It is not recommended to use an underlayment pad beneath the floor as this will provide cushion, which will allow the floor to move up and down when walked upon, which could result in breaking of the floors interlocking mechanism.**

PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Johnson Hardwood recommends acclimation of our Sicily series for 24 hours prior to installation to ensure the product is at equilibrium with the installation environment.
2. Doorways and archways 6 feet or less in width must have a suitable "T" molding installed as control joint to allow for normal product movement between rooms. A minimum of 5/16" gap is to be allowed on either side of the installed T-mold post and/or track for the molding.
3. Plan your layout to allow for a ¼" expansion space from all vertical obstructions.
4. Dry lay several cartons of flooring to get a feel for color and surface variations and to make sure the floor meets the end users satisfaction. Claims for color, surface, and grain variations cannot be accepted once the floor is installed.
5. This product cannot be installed with full spread adhesives.
6. "IMPORTANT" follow the below installation guidelines, as well as illustration guides which are located on the last page of these guidelines.
7. Sicily series floating flooring is designed to be installed as a "floating" floor. Do not secure individual planks to the subfloor with mechanical fasteners or adhesives. Always undercut all doorjambs. Do not install cabinets or kitchen islands on top of Sicily Collection SPC Rigid Core Plank Flooring.
8. Use of a small, soft bristle brush to clean the joints prior to locking will ensure that there is no debris which will cause stressing or failure of the joint after interlocking the pieces together.
9. Use care when installing wall moldings and transition strips to not fasten through flooring planks, as this can cause impingement of the floor, which can/will cause the floor to buckle and/or separate. In addition, do not apply caulking between the bottom of the base board and/or shoe trim molding and the surface of the floor, as this can result in buckling and/or separating of the planks due to a buildup of compression, and/or contraction related stresses.
10. The flooring planks are best cut in the following ways: a VCT or laminate cutter; a sabre saw with a fine-tooth wood cutting blade; a 12" power miter saw with a shallow or negative kerf blade, similar or equal to a plastics cutting blade. As for rip cutting, use a table saw with a cutting blade diameter of 10 to 12". Note: The cutting teeth of the blade should be comprised of carbide, and should have a minimum of 90 cutting teeth.
11. **Crawl Space:** The soil within the crawl space **MUST** be covered with "black" 6-mil polyethylene sheeting overlapping the seams a minimum of 12" followed by taping the seams the entire length of the over-laps with 3' wide clear packing tape. Note: Per industry standards in order to foster proper airflow there **MUST** be at least 1 ½ vents for every 100 sq. ft. of crawl space area. In addition, the distance between the surface of the soil and the bottom of the sub floor must have a clearance of 18 to 24 inches.

SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION

Wood Subfloors:

1. Subfloor must be dry, and should not exceed 12% mc.
2. Subfloors must be clean and free from debris such as drywall mud and/or anything that may be stuck to the subfloors surface so as to create a bump.
3. **Note: Rubber, cork, asphalt tiles, textured or cushioned backed resilient flooring, and/or "sleeper" floor systems are not approved substrates.**
4. Subfloor must be flat to within 3/16" in 10' in all directions. For areas that exceed 3/16" in height, sanding and/or grinding will be required in order to bring those areas into the required flatness specification. For low spots that exceed 3/16" use a Portland base cementitious patching material to fill in the low spots so as to bring those areas into the required flatness specification. **Note: It is the flooring installer's responsibility that when sanding and/or grinding that the sanding and/or grinding equipment be connected to vacuum.**
5. Make sure there are no screws and/or nails protruding from the subfloors surface.
6. Wood subfloors installed directly on concrete slabs or installed over sleeper type systems are NOT suitable.

7. Plywood, OSB, chip/flake board, and/or particle board are suitable subfloor panels provided they are smooth, structurally sound, and free of deflection.

Concrete Subfloor:

1. The concrete slab must be dry, smooth and free from contamination.
2. Fill pock holes, cracks and feather out cracks with ledging with a Portland cement-based patching material.
3. The newly poured concrete slab usually takes 1-month per 1" in thickness for the batch water to work its way out of the slab. That means that a 4" thick slab will take approximate 4-months to dry to a moisture content level suitable for the installation of your flooring.
4. Subfloor must be flat to within 3/16" in 10' in all directions. For areas that exceed 3/16" in height, sanding and/or grinding will be required in order to bring those areas into the required flatness specification. For low spots that exceed 3/16" use a Portland base cementitious patching material to fill in the low spots so as to bring those areas into the required flatness specification. Note: It is the flooring installer's responsibility that when sanding and/or grinding that the sanding and/or grinding equipment be connected to vacuum.

Existing Floors:

1. Marble, ceramic, granite and/or porcelain are suitable flooring surfaces that can be installed over as long as they can be made flat applying a cement-based embossing leveler/patch.
2. Resilient type floors must be firmly bonded to the subfloor. **Note:** Cushion-backed vinyl and floating vinyl floors are NOT suitable substrates for floating vinyl installations.

BEFORE INSTALLING YOUR FLOOR:

1. Plan your layout to allow for a ¼" expansion space from all vertical obstructions
2. Dry lay several cartons of flooring to get a feel for color and surface variations and to make sure the floor meets the end users satisfaction. Claims for color, surface, and grain variations cannot be accepted once the floor is installed.
3. If color coordinated molding is to be used, first select Sicily panels that best match the available molding and make sure these panels are installed adjacent to the molding.

FLOOR INSTALLATION:

Note: Do not nail/staple or screw planks to the sub-floor.

1. Place a layer of 6-mil poly sheeting over the surface of the concrete slab, overlapping the seams approximately 12", then completely seal the seams using 3" wide "clear" packing tape. Note: Johnson Silent Seal can be used for additional moisture vapor protection as well as sound control.
2. Work from 3 to 5 cartons as this will allow you to blend the color tones so as to achieve an overall random look.
3. Snap a chalk line away from the starting wall the width of a plank plus add an additional ¼" for expansion.
4. Starting from the top left corner of the room, align the plank edge onto the chalk line with the tongue facing the wall leaving a ¼" expansion space. Next, install the second plank in the first row by engaging the tongue of the end-joint into the groove of the first planks end-joint making sure the planks end-joints are aligned perfectly. Note: When inserting the tongue into the groove you will need to angle the plank at an approximate 15° to 20°. Please refer to Figure 1.

Figure 1

5. The starter piece for the second row can be from the cut off piece from the first row as long as it is a minimum of 8” in length. Or, you can cut a new starter board making sure that you stager the end-joint by at least 8”. Next, install the first piece in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the piece in the first row at the above-mentioned angle(s) to the installed piece. **Note:** As a general rule the use of tapping blocks and pull bars are <u>not</u> recommended as they can damage the G5 tongue and groove inner locking mechanism. In addition, do <u>not</u> tap on the edge of the planks as this can/will damage the inner locking mechanism preventing the planks from engaging properly.

6. Continuing the installation of the second row, align the long edge tongue into the groove of the previous row at the aforementioned angle(s). Slide the piece to the left until the piece meets the previously installed piece. Please refer to Figure 2.

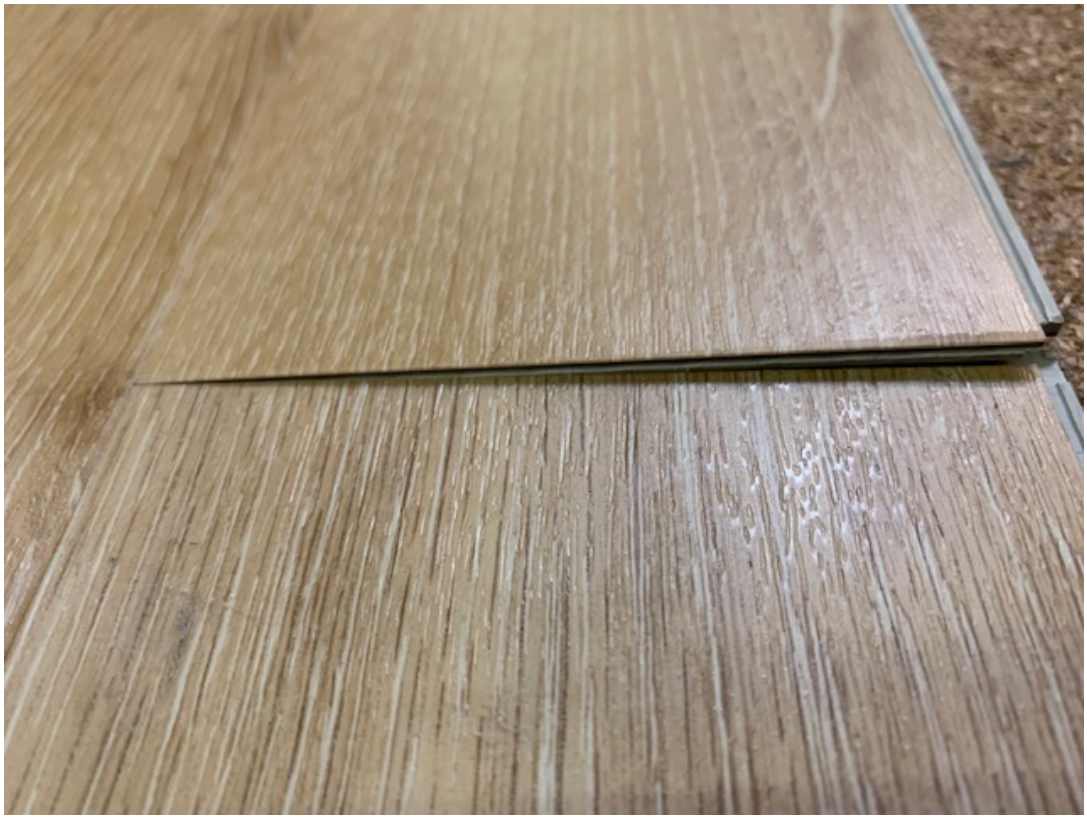

Figure 2

7. Next, lower the piece while maintaining pressure towards the installed piece. The pieces should fit snugly and flat with no visible gaps along the side and/or end-joint. Please refer to Figure 3.

Figure 3

8. **Note:** If you experience lippage at the adjoining end-joints you can use a 24oz firm rubber mallet with a “white” non-marring head to tap down the lippage so that the end-joint is smooth and even. Please refer to Figure 4.

Figure 4

9. For the remaining rows repeat the steps used to install the second row making sure that you continually check that your rows are checked for straightness and that you maintain a minimum of ¼” expansion around all vertical obstructions.
10. The last row may need to be cut lengthwise (rip cut using a table saw).
11. Install base moldings and doorway transition last.
12. If you have any questions before or while installing the floor, call Johnson Hardwood technical Service Department @ 800/910-3047.

REQUIRED TOOLS:

- Tape measure
- Black Sharpie pen
- Chalk line
- Razor knife
- Small bristle brush for cleaning debris from locking mechanism
- 24 oz double headed rubber mallet
- Miter saw/table saw/jig saw
- ¼" spacers

RADIANT HEAT: Sicily is approved for over in-floor radiant heat systems. The following guidelines apply:

1. The heating system should be turned off during the installation, as well as 24 hours before, and 24 hours after.
2. After installation, the system should gradually be brought up to temperature, and should never exceed 85 degrees.
3. Surface applied heating mats are not an acceptable type of radiant heat.

3-SEASON ROOMS:

Sicily series floating floors can withstand temperatures fluctuations as low as -25°F and as high as 155°F for short periods of time, but as a general rule, the flooring should be protected from direct sunlight and not exposed to direct sunlight for extended periods of time by use of blinds, drapes or suitable window coverings or be in use in areas of large amounts of direct sunlight exposure.

MAINTAINING AND PROTECTING YOUR FLOOR:

1. As with any fine floor covering, care should be taken when moving heavy furniture or appliances back into the room. Use wood panels to protect the floor when rolling heavy appliances back into place.
2. Proper floor protectors should be used under any furniture which is regularly moved, or which is heavy and may dent the floor.
3. Non staining, non-rubber backed protective mats should be used under rolling office chairs, and any rolling furniture/carts need to have wide, flat wheels.
4. Protective walk off mats should be used at all exterior doors.
5. Oil and petroleum based driveways can stain vinyl floors. Do not track petroleum based products onto the floor.
6. Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove dirt/grit. Do not use a vacuum with a revolving beater bar.
7. Protect the floor from direct sunlight by using appropriate window coverings.
8. Sicily Collection SPC Rigid Core Plank Flooring should be regularly cleaned with a neutral ph cleaner such as Bona Professional Series Stone, Tile & Laminate Cleaner, or equivalent type neutral ph cleaner. Follow manufactures instruction. **Note: Using a cleaner other than a neutral ph cleaner can/will result in irreversible damage to the floors surface, which can/will void ALL applicable warranties.**

Sicily Collection warranty information is available on our web site at johnsonhardwood.com

FLOOR MUFFLER VS 6 MIL POLY SHEETING AS A CLASS 1 VAPOR DIFFUSION RETARDER

Dear Customers:

Many of you have asked whether you can substitute Floor Muffler as a stand-alone CLASS 1 Vapor Barrier (aka Vapor Diffusion Retarder) over the surface of a concrete slab in lieu of 6 mil poly sheeting which is what we currently require as a stand-alone CLASS 1 Vapor Barrier (aka Vapor Diffusion Retarder) beneath Johnson's Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring and/or Johnson's High Performance Laminate Flooring? My response to this question is usually No, as 6 mil poly sheeting has a lower PERM rating than Floor Muffler. **Please see below for further information pertaining to this question:**

After speaking with Ricardo Gonzelez (COO) of Diversified Industries, makers of the Floor Muffler product line, here is what he had to say regarding the placement of Floor Muffler products beneath our LVP/SPC and/or laminate type of flooring products **(Note: The following answers are in direct response to customers who want to use Floor Muffler underlayment either as an additional cushion beneath the floor or use Floor Muffler underlayment as a vapor barrier, in lieu of 6 mil poly sheeting when said type of flooring is being installed over the surface of a concrete slab):**

LVP/SPC / HPF: Taking into consideration that Johnson's LVP/SPC / HPF flooring comes with an attached 1.5 mm (thick) underlayment pad; if/when a customer wants to incorporate the use of an additional underlayment pad beneath said flooring types, Diversified Industries limits the choice of pads to their Encore product, which consists of closed cell high density foam that measures 1.1 mm (thick) which qualifies as a CLASS 1 Vapor Barrier (aka Vapor Diffusion Retarder) at 0.108 PERMS, which is based on the Water Vapor Transmission Rate (WVTR) as per ASTM E96 (**Note:** Diversified Industries placed a limit as to the maximum amount of Moisture Vapor Emission Rate (MVER) rate of 6 lbs. / 1,000 / 24 hrs. based on ASTM F1869-22 for their Encore underlayment pad).

Note: According to Diversified Industries, they don't recommend the use of a thicker pad (i.e., 2 mm thick) with flooring that already has an attached pad as the combined thickness can result in compression stress damage to the locking mechanism, which can/will result in failure of the locking system, which can/will result in fractures, cracking, splitting, and/or edge joint ledging due to breakage.

Note: When installing over the surface of a concrete slab, the use of 6 mil poly sheeting as a vapor barrier (aka Vapor Diffusion Retarder) is required, as it offers better protection against Moisture Vapors transmitting through the surface of a concrete slab (PERM rating of 6 mil poly sheeting is 0.06 whereas Floor Muffler Encor has a PERM rating of 0.108). Bottom line is, the lower the PERM rating the better protection against Moisture Vapor Transmission; therefore, 6 mil poly sheeting should always be placed over the surface of a concrete slab (prior to the placement of Floor Muffler Encor product) and should always be considered the primary defense against Moisture Vapor Transmission.

Note: For moisture transmission related claims where it's discovered that 6 mil poly sheeting was Not utilized as required in combination with Floor Muffler Encor, and it is determined that Floor Muffler Encor was used as a stand-alone vapor barrier, Johnson's Claim Dept. will direct the claimant to Diversified Industries who handles claims involving their specific brand of products.

Steve Marley
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Johnson Premium Hardwood