

ScubaSeal Tile Installation Instructions

General Requirements:

- All instructions and recommendations are based on the most recent information available. If you receive a printed copy of these instructions, please refer to www.dlffloors.com to ensure you have the most up to date version of our installation instructions. By starting installation of this product, you are agreeing that you have read and understand all installer/owner's requirements and responsibilities and are aware that deviating from the instructions and recommendations in this installation guide may result in voiding the product warranty. If you need additional assistance, please contact Diamond Living Services at (281)766-1600.

Always store and transport cartons stacked neatly on a smooth, flat, solid surface

- Never stack cartons on their sides or ends
- Do not stack more than 10 cartons high
- It is best to acclimate flooring and room at a constant temperature between 65°F and 85°F for 48 hours prior to, during, and 48 hours after installation.
- If these conditions can't be met, flooring should be acclimated in the install environment for 48 hours.
- Rigid Core can be installed in 3 season rooms that are completely enclosed and over a concrete slab, at least 5/8" must be allowed for expansion in these installations. Rigid Core can withstand temperatures between -20° F and 150° F, while not occupied. While occupied, the temperature range should be maintained between 55°F to 100°F. Careful acclimation is required when installing in 3 season rooms. Please note that extreme variances in temperature may increase expansion and contraction not only in the flooring itself but the structure as well.
- For new residential construction, Rigid Core may be installed under cabinets but it must be fully adhered to the floor using a high-quality pressure sensitive adhesive designed for LVT. If not fully adhered, cabinets or island may not be installed over Rigid Core.
- Additional underlayment pad is not recommended and may void your warranty.
- Mix planks from several different cartons to ensure a random appearance.
- Always allow a ¼" expansion space around the entire perimeter of the room and at all fixtures and pipes for any installation under 4,356 sq. ft. and runs less than 66 feet. For jobs above 4,356 sq. ft. and runs greater than 66 feet, allow at least 5/8 inch for expansion. Cover all exposed edges with trim or fill the gap with a high-quality silicone caulking.

- It is the sole responsibility of the installer/owner, prior to installation, to assure that the planned installation area is suitable for the flooring and meets local building codes. Confirm that all subflooring meets or exceeds all industry standards and local building codes; as well as the recommendations listed herein. The manufacturer accepts no responsibility for product failure extending from or related to failure to meet job environment and subflooring requirements. The installer/owner assumes full responsibility for the final inspection of this product. Inspection should be done prior to installation and should include: print/color/texture/ factory finish /visible conditions. If the product is not acceptable, DO NOT INSTALL IT. Contact your supplier immediately for assistance. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and quality accepted. Diamond Living, LLC. will not accept any responsibility for any flooring installed with visible defects.
- Rigid Core is waterproof but is not a moisture barrier. Water traveling over or around the outer edges of the flooring can damage the subfloor. Elevated moisture levels below your flooring can migrate through the joints as vapor emissions possibly causing a milky white appearance known as Blushing. Blushing is a site related condition and will dissipate once the moisture levels have decreased to the specified level. Water damage and/or associated conditions are not warranted. In addition, other contaminants could migrate up as well. These are not manufacturing related conditions. When installing in a lavatory, bathroom, laundry room, or other area with frequent water usage, it is recommended that any gap be filled with a silicone caulk. This will lower the possibility of the water traveling under the floating floor and help to reduce bacterial growth and problems associated with it.

Preparing the Area

- Remove all furniture and appliances from the room(s)
- Remove wall and doorway trim
- Undercut door casings
- Remove all debris and equipment that may damage finish
- Do not install over soft, rough, uneven surfaces, or floating floors.
- The Flooring should only be installed after all the other trades have finished and the jobsite has been cleared of any/all debris that could damage a finished installation.
- All sub-floors and substrates must be clean, flat (smooth) and dry prior to installation. Sweep or vacuum your subfloor prior to installation ensuring nothing will interfere with the installation. All subfloors must be flat. High or low areas exceeding 3/16" per 10' (7.5 cm in 3 meter) or 1/8" per 6' (2.5 cm in 1.8 meter) must be corrected.
- Wood Subfloors
 - Rigid Core is suitable for installation over a minimum of 3/4" CDX Plywood, OSB, or APA approved plywood. All wood subfloors should be flat, structurally sound, and free from deflection (up and down movement). Sand high areas and fill low

areas with a Portland based patching compound. To avoid squeaking of the subfloor, nail or screw the floor every 6". Repair or replace any damaged sheathing. Joist spacing should not exceed 19.2". Set fasteners 1/32" below the subfloor surface, sand joints, smooth and fill holes or gaps wider than 1/8 inch wide. Install suitable underlayment when necessary to achieve a flat or solid surface. Rigid Core planks can be installed over underlayment grade plywood, lauan plywood and other underlayments recommended by the manufacturer for use with rigid core flooring. Installation over oriented strand board and particle board is not recommended, unless it is underlayment grade and non-weathered since these panels present a greater risk of sub-floor instability and can detract from the performance of the floor. Wooden subfloors installed over a crawlspace should have a moisture barrier installed in the crawlspace with at least 18 inches of ground clearance with a black ground cover minimum 8mm thick Polyethylene overlapped a minimum of 6" (115 cm) and taped using a moisture resistant tape to avoid moisture migration from the ground up through the flooring. Cross ventilation (vents located around the perimeter) equal to 1.5% of the square footage of the area should be highly considered (if not already a local code). Wood floors installed directly on concrete or installed over sleeper construction are not satisfactory for installation and should be removed. Repair all squeaks prior to installation. Wood subflooring moisture should not exceed 15%. Install planks at a 90° angle to any existing wood floor. NOTE: Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection because subfloor movement will telegraph through to the finished installation. Indications of excessive deflection are subfloor fastener release, squeaking, compromised, or sectional contours such as bowing or dipping in floors and uneven flooring material. Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure boards with excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the Rigid Core planks. If the subfloor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, then it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete.

- Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said structures. The suitability of any subfloor is the responsibility of the installer and the final consumer.
- Concrete Subfloors
 - The flatness of concrete subfloors must meet or exceed the requirements of ACI FF25. Most concrete subfloors are not flat/smooth and must be properly prepared before installation. In all cases, verify the substrate is flat (See above subfloor and substrate requirements). All concrete floors must be properly cured and allowed to dry for at least 60 days after the curing process. Rigid Core planks can be installed over concrete on all grade levels, if a proper moisture

barrier is used. Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 3 lbs./24 hours per 1,000 sqft. when tested with the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test in accordance with ASTM F 1869 or 80% RH in accordance with ASTM F 2170 Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Slabs using in-situ Probes. A 6-mil polyurethane moisture barrier should be used with concrete subfloors. Fill cracks, saw cuts and control joints and level uneven areas that exceed 1/16" in 3'. Do not install flooring over expansion joints. All subfloors must be patched or leveled with an industry standard latex fortified Portland Cement based patching compound product that is water resistant and non-shrinking.

- Existing Floors
 - Rigid Core planks can be installed over a variety of finished floors including single layer resilient sheet floor and tile, ceramic, marble, and terrazzo. The surface must be in good condition and show no signs of excessive moisture conditions. Level deep or wide grout lines with embossing leveler. Do not install flooring over cushioned floors or over tile installed over concrete below grade level. The grout joints in ceramic tile and marble must be leveled so they are flush with the tile surface. Additionally, the tile may require several skim coats to achieve a flat surface.
- Existing Resilient Floor Covering
 - The existing resilient must be single layered, non-cushioned backed, well bonded, fully adhered, and smooth. The flooring should show no signs of moisture or alkalinity. All topical waxes, polishes, airborne contaminants, etc. must be removed. Any irregularities must be repaired or replaced. Skim coating the surface is recommended to prevent telegraphing.
- Do not install over rubber-based substrates.
- Old Adhesive Residue:
 - Diamond Living does not recommend skim coating over existing adhesive. Because we cannot control how the adhesive was applied, the existing adhesive may break down, possibly leading to a failure. Remove existing adhesives using a scraper such as a razor scraper designed for scraping flooring surfaces. The adhesive must be removed to the level of a film. Do not use solvents or chemical adhesive removers to remove old residue. These products can leave a residue in the concrete that may affect the performance of your new flooring.
- WARNING
 - For installation over old resilient floor coverings or when considering removing existing resilient floors, please be advised that these products may possibly contain asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Please follow all recommended Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) work practices as www.rfci.com.
- Do not install additional backings or foam/cushioned underlays with Rigid Core.

➤ Radiant Heated Systems

- The Hydronic or Embedded radiant heating system needs to be operational and working for one week prior to install date to reduce any residual moisture. For radiant heating systems in use at the time of installation, lower the temperature to 65°F (18.3°C) for a minimum of three days prior to the installation date, during the entire installation, and for 24 hours following upon completion of the installation. The temperature can then be gradually increased in 5° increments. Temperature must never exceed 85°F (29°C). It is the responsibility of the purchaser to confirm the suitability of the radiant heating system for use with this product. Any damage to the floor caused by the radiant heating system will not be covered by the product warranty. Should the radiant heating system be an aftermarket system, Diamond Living requires confirming with the manufacturer of that system that Luxury Modular Flooring (considered resilient) can be installed over their system. Any problems associated with aftermarket radiant heating systems are not the responsibility of Diamond Living. Radiant heating systems that are installed on top of the subfloor surface and covered with self-leveling underlayment are not recommended.

➤ Asbestos Warning

- **WARNING! DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.** Previously installed resilient floorcovering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesives used to install them may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. The products in this carton DO NOT contain asbestos or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust is a cancer and respiratory hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the previously installed product is a nonasbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current editions of the Resilient Floor Coverings Institute (RFCI) publication "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

Tools Required

- Electric Saw or tile cutter
- Utility knife
- Pull-bar
- Vinyl seam roller
- ¼" spacers

- Carpenter Square
- Chalk line
- Tape Measure
- Pencil
- Tapping Block

PRE-INSTALLATION:

- When calculating flooring square footage requirements, allow a minimum of an additional 10% for cuts, waste and defects. If installing a diagonal or other special pattern, allow for 15-20 % additional in material.
- All installations require estimating additional material, due to trimming and culling of material (overages occur). This overage then becomes what is commonly referred to as “Attic Stock”. It is recommended the end user keep attic stock in the event their installation require additional service.
- Verify material prior to installing, checking for debris or damage. Clean, trim or discard any affected sections.
- It is recommended to mix panels from a minimum of 3 different boxes during installation to assure an even distribution of any minor color variations, slight variances in texture and gloss levels. Hint: Try dry racking (laying out) your panels prior to final assembly to confirm this is an acceptable layout.
- Diamond Living requires at least a ¼” expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the installation, any transitions to adjacent flooring materials, door frames, and heating vents.
- It is recommended to undercut doorjamb so the material slides easily under them. A ¼” (5cm) expansion space is necessary here as well. If the door casings are metal the ¼” (5cm) expansion space can be filled using a silicone or acrylic silicone caulk. Please note the expansion gap must be maintained under the doorjamb.

ACCLIMATION:

(Uncontrolled storage) Acclimate all materials in the area to be installed between the temperatures of 55°F to 100°F a minimum of 48 hours before, during, and after the installation. Protect flooring from excessive heat/cold during storage. If the product is stored in an environment different from the installation site, the temperature ranges should be controlled within the 55°F to 100°F. Offsite acclimation is acceptable. Please note the material will need to be delivered directly to the installation site with no stops in between.

INSTALLATION:

With the first row of panels, remove the tongue and place this side against the wall and set straight. For accurate cutting of the last panel in the first row, rotate 180° and, with the pattern side upwards, mark out off cut and saw off. Always saw from the upper surface of the panel (to avoid splintering the edges). Only when using a hand held jigsaw or circular saw should the pattern side be placing downwards.

Connect the panels of the first row on the short side over the entire room length. Planks of the remaining rows interlock with the next plank by swiveling them downward leaving a slight gap at the short end. Then, using a tapping block, gently hammer the plank until the joint clicks tight.

IF THE WALL IS NOT STRAIGHT:

Place the first row against the wall using a spacer and a pencil then transfer the contour of wall to the panels and saw along the markings. Start each new row with the leftover piece from the preceding row. The transverse joints must be offset by at least 10 inches. Please take particular care that the first three rows are perfectly straight.

ADAPTING:

If you are unable to angle the panels (e.g. under a door frame or low fitted radiator) you have to cut away the locking edge of the lip of the bottom groove by using a wood chisel or a small block plane. Run a bead of glue on the modified tongue and groove. Tap the panels tight together by using a hammer and a push block or pull bar. If necessary, fix with an adhesive tape.

AROUND PIPES OR ROOM DIVIDERS

First cut the panel to correct length. Then lay the panel beside the actual position, measure the recesses with a ruler and draw in. Now drill and cut the marked sections. Join up the sawn off piece again tightly behind the pipe.

SHORTENING A DOOR FRAME

Lay a panel next to the frame (with the pattern side facing downward). Cut into the doorframe with a backsaw. Then slide the panel under the frame with pattern side upwards.

LAST ROW:

Measure the exact width of the last panel row. To do this, lay a panel on the previous panel row. Then lay a second panel to be measured with the tongue to the wall and use as a straight edge and saw the panel along the markings. Fit the last panel carefully with the aid of the pull-iron.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

BATHROOMS

Rigid Core can be installed around the toilet leaving a 1/8" expansion space. Use a high quality silicone caulking to fill the expansion space at the tub, shower and all wet areas to prevent surface water seepage under the floor.

STAIRS:

Rigid Core planks can be installed fully adhered over steps using a high-quality pressure sensitive luxury vinyl tile adhesive. Follow the instructions on the adhesive for trowel size and drying time. Always use a flush stairnose molding to finish each step at the nose.

FINISHING THE JOB:

Remove all spacers. Install wall trim lightly over the floor surface. Drive fasteners into the wall and not the floor. When installing doorway transition moldings allow a ¼" expansion space between the edge of the floor and the molding. Do not drive fasteners into the floor. Return appliances to the room by rolling or sliding over strips of hardboard to prevent damaging the floor.

FLOOR CARE:

- Frequently moved 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 castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do not use ball type castors as they can damage the floors.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Avoid using a vacuum with a beater bar.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do not use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor.
- We recommend using a pH neutral vinyl floor cleaner as required. Examples of acceptable cleaners are Bona Stone, Tile, and Laminate Cleaner and ZEP. We do not warrant any of the cleaning agents or conditions associated with them as the application is beyond our control. → Always rinse the floor with clean water and allow to dry as the floor may be slippery when wet. Air movers or fans will speed up drying time.



- Never saturate your floor.
- Do not buff, wax, or use cleaning products that contain surfactants. Dish lotions, laundry detergents, Murphy Oil Soap cleaners should never be used to maintain your floor.
- Never use a steam cleaner or a steam mop on the flooring.