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# ScubaSeal Installation with Video Link

## Yellow Labeled Boxes with Angle/Angle System

Congratulations on choosing ScubaSeal. ScubaSeal Rigid Core Flooring has the beautiful designs that are perfect for your active lifestyle.

- Distinctive Designs
- Beautiful Hues and Colors
- Detailed Embossing
- Easy to clean: No buffing or waxing
- 100% Waterproof
- Incredibly Durable
- Dent/Scratch Resistant
- Noise Reducing
- Stain Resistant
- No expansion transition pieces needed in most installations

Don't settle for anything less.

## Recommended Uses:

- Residential
  - Any enclosed room in the house to include 3 season rooms
- Commercial Applications
  - ScubaSeal has a PSI greater than 3000 (test performed without the cushion back)
  - ScubaSeal is your best choice in the industry for all Light Commercial applications
  - For Commercial applications, contact us to work with our design professionals to best fit your jobsite requirements.



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## 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](http://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.
- ScubaSeal 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. ScubaSeal 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, ScubaSeal may be installed under cabinets. It is best if it is fully adhered to the floor using a high-quality pressure sensitive adhesive designed for LVT.
- Installing Cabinets on top of floor. (Residential only). When cabinets are installed on top of rigidcore flooring the subfloor must be perfectly flat and secure. If cabinets are to be secured one cannot do so using nails or screws through the flooring product. Cabinets are to be secured to wall but not through the flooring. (Therefore islands may not be installed in this manner.) Expansion space is required around pipes and other fixed objects.
- 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



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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. ScubaSeal 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.

- [To view video, press arrow](#)
- [After viewing to continue reading install instructions, press Esc](#)





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## 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

ScubaSeal 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. ScubaSeal 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 degree 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



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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 ScubaSeal 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. ScubaSeal 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 sq. 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

ScubaSeal 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.



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## 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](http://www.rfci.com).

Do not install additional backings or foam/cushioned underlays with ScubaSeal.

## 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 of the subfloor surface 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.





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## 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 non-asbestos 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
- 1/4" spacers
- Carpenter Square
- Chalk line
- Tape Measure
- Pencil

### 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.



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- 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

- For best appearance planks should be installed parallel to the long dimension of the room and preferably parallel with outside light sources, i.e. windows and doors.
- Determine the layout to achieve the largest cut planks at the walls and snap a chalk line at the starting point.
- Install planks in a random layout. Start with a whole plank in the left-hand corner of the room with the tongue side and end toward the wall. Lay the first row of planks along the chalk line and trim to fit to the wall allowing the appropriate amount of expansion space. Note: If starting the first row with a whole width plank it will be necessary to trim the tongue off against the wall. Always place the cut edge against the wall.
- Your ScubaSeal flooring has the best locking system in the industry, an ANGLE/ ANGLE with easy longside slip in feature for fast yet strong installs. (Please see video at end of install instructions)
- Use spacers between the edge and the end of the planks and the wall to maintain the appropriate amount of expansion space.





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- After the first row is on the floor, start the second row by using 1/3 of a plank. Place the cut end against the wall. Insert the long side of the first plank of the second row into the groove of its corresponding planks of the first row. With this system when you begin to lock in two sides of a plank, you lock in the short side of the plank first. Align the plank to be installed parallel to the previous row (in this case the first row of planks) and separate it from the first row by about 1/8". We will call the short side of each plank about ready to be installed the head seam. With your second plank on your second row, lift the plank to be installed at a 30° angle and insert the head seam short end into the short end groove of the first plank of the second row. Then, lift the first and second plank simultaneously and slide the second plank tongue into groove of the corresponding planks of the first row. Be sure that the long-side locking system fully engages into the previous row. If necessary, you can do this by using a small taping block but most installations should engage without the need of a taping block. If a plank needs to be removed, SLIDE the plank horizontally to disengage the plank and then simply lift it out of the groove. It is best to disengage a full row at a time and then slip planks apart. Damaged locking systems are not considered a manufacturing defect and are not covered by your warranty.
- Start the third row using 2/3rds of a plank with the cut end against the wall. Complete each row thereafter using a random layout with end joints off-set by at least 8". Plan the layout to avoid using small planks (less than 6") at the walls. The cut piece at the end of the row can often be used to start the next row provided it achieves a random layout. Always place the cut end against the wall and allow the proper amount of expansion space.
- ScubaSeal planks are unique in that they can also be installed with a pull bar or tapping block and rubber mallet in difficult areas, such as the last row, and when fitting around door trim. Use a pull bar and rubber mallet to lock the joints together in the last row. Always use a pull bar on the cut edge of the plank. Factory edges can be damaged if the pull bar is used directly against them.
- When fitting around door trim it will be necessary to slide the plank under the trim. This can be accomplished easily by starting the row on the side of the room with the door trim and then sliding the plank into place once it is attached. The row can be completed by inserting the tongue into the groove or the groove into the tongue depending on the direction. Use a series of light taps until the joint is gradually locked together.

## Special Instructions:

### Bathrooms

ScubaSeal 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



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areas to prevent surface water seepage under the floor.

## Stairs

ScubaSeal 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 stair nose 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.

## Plank Replacement

Should one of the planks/tiles become damaged and need to be replaced, follow these simple instructions:

1. Score top of damaged plank/tile with a utility knife. Make two triangle cuts near the end joint and then connect the points with one long cut in the middle of the plank/tile. (See diagram below.)

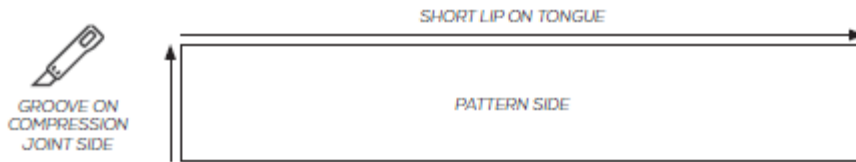


SCORE TILE AS SHOWN

2. Use an awl or screwdriver to tap down through plank/tile on scored triangle cut points.
3. Lift and remove damaged tile.
4. With the pattern side facing up on the new replacement plank/tile, trim off the short lip on the tongue side and the groove on the compression joint side, making it flush with the edge of the plank/tile. Be careful not to damage the finish surface of the tile.



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5. Cut several pieces of acrylic double-sided tape made for vinyl floors and slide under the edges of the existing floor on the two edges where the replacement plank/tile will have its lips cut off. Tape should face sticky side up; leave the paper on the side facing the floor.

6. Using a Premium Seam Bond, run a small bead of sealer on the groove edge of the panel of the existing floor where the replacement plank/tile will rest.

NOTE: The long tongue of the replacement plank/tile and the uncut compression fit end joint will not need tape or seam adhesive as you will be using the plank's/tile's locking mechanism

7. Install replacement plank/tile by angling the long groove of the replacement panel under and over the tongue of the floor panel until the finish edge of the replacement panel is tight against the finish edge of the floor panel, and the compression end joint is lined up. Rotate down, locking the length tongue joint then pressing the end joint with your thumb or palm of your hand to lock into place.

8. Wipe any excess sealer that comes to the surface of the tiles with a damp cloth and follow with a dry cloth to ensure all sealer is removed from tile surface.

9. Keep foot traffic off the replaced plank/tile for 24 hours.

