| Product | |
|---|---|
| **Supplier** | Flooring2 |
| **Product Type** | Laminate Flooring |
| **Number** | VT |
| **Name** | Vantage |

# Floating Floors Installation Guide (Drop-Lock)

> **Document Version:** 1.1
> **Last Updated:** May 2026

**Applies to:** Laminate, Magnesium Core (MgO / mineral core), SPC, and WPC floating floors with drop-lock (fold-down) locking systems, including Valinge 5G and similar mechanisms.

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## Legal Disclaimers

> **IMPORTANT: READ BEFORE INSTALLATION**

**Limitation of Liability**
This guide provides general installation information only. We are not responsible for installation errors, product damage, personal injury, or property damage resulting from the use of this guide. Actual results depend on site conditions, installer skill, and adherence to all applicable codes and standards.

**General Information Notice**
This guide covers floating floor installation for products using drop-lock (fold-down) locking systems. Product specifications may vary between product lines.

**Professional Consultation Recommended**
We recommend consulting a licensed flooring professional before installation, especially for complex projects or situations involving structural modifications.

**Assumption of Risk**
By proceeding with installation, you assume all risks associated with flooring installation, including but not limited to physical injury, property damage, and voiding of product warranties due to improper installation.

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## Safety Warnings

### Regulatory Compliance

Before beginning any flooring installation, ensure compliance with:

- **OSHA Standards** - Follow workplace safety requirements (29 CFR 1926 for construction)
- **EPA Regulations** - Proper handling and disposal of materials
- **Building Codes** - Comply with International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC)
- **Lead Safety** - For structures built before 1978, follow EPA RRP Rule requirements
- **Asbestos Requirements** - For structures built before 1981, have existing flooring tested before removal

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

| Equipment | When Required |
|---|---|
| Respiratory Protection | N95 mask when cutting planks (especially important for Magnesium Core - inorganic mineral dust) |
| Eye Protection | Safety glasses during all cutting |
| Hearing Protection | When using power saws |
| Hand Protection | Work gloves when handling materials |
| Knee Protection | Knee pads for floor-level work |

## Health Hazards

> **Dust Exposure:**
>
> • Use dust collection when cutting
> • Cut outdoors or in well-ventilated area when possible
> • Laminate and rigid-core dust can irritate respiratory system
> • Magnesium Core produces fine mineral dust when cut - always use dust collection or wet-cut
>
> **Physical Strain:**
>
> • Use proper lifting techniques for material boxes
> • Magnesium Core planks are denser/heavier than SPC or WPC - get help with full boxes
> • Use knee pads to reduce knee strain
> • Take regular breaks during installation
>
> **Sharp Edges:**
>
> • Cut edges can be sharp
> • Handle materials carefully
> • Magnesium Core edges can be brittle if struck - handle carefully to avoid chipping

## Emergency Procedures

| Situation | Action |
|---|---|
| Cuts from Saw/Knife | Apply pressure, clean wound, seek medical attention if deep |
| Eye Injury from Dust | Flush with clean water for 15 minutes, seek medical attention |
| Inhalation of Dust | Move to fresh air, seek medical attention if symptoms persist |

**Emergency Contacts:**

• Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
• Local emergency services: 911

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# Understanding Drop-Lock (Fold-Down) Systems

## How Drop-Lock Works

Drop-lock (also called fold-down or 5G) systems allow for faster, easier installation than traditional angle-angle systems:

1. **Long edge:** Angles into the previous row (similar to angle-angle)
2. **Short edge:** Simply drops/folds down and clicks into place
3. **No angling required** on short ends - just press down

This is achieved through a spring-loaded plastic tongue or flexible locking mechanism that snaps into place when the plank is pressed down.

## Benefits of Drop-Lock

• **Faster installation** - No need to angle short ends
• **Easier for tight spaces** - Planks can be installed flat
• **Simpler for beginners** - More intuitive locking motion
• **Works in any direction** - Can install from any starting point

## Product Types Using Drop-Lock

• Laminate flooring (most modern high-quality laminate)
• Magnesium Core flooring (MgO / mineral core - often uses Valinge 5G systems)
• SPC (Stone Plastic Composite) with 5G-style locks
• WPC (Wood Plastic Composite) with drop-lock mechanisms

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# Pre-Installation Preparation

## Tools and Materials Needed

**Basic Tools:**

- □ Tape measure (minimum 25 ft / 7.6 m)
- □ Chalk line or laser level
- □ Utility knife with extra blades
- □ Straight edge or T-square
- □ Pencil or marking tool
- □ Tapping block (specific for floating floors)
- □ Pull bar for tight areas
- □ Rubber mallet (use lightly with Magnesium Core to avoid chipping the rigid mineral core)

**Power Tools:**

- □ Circular saw, miter saw, or laminate cutter
- □ Jigsaw for irregular cuts
- □ Oscillating multi-tool (for undercutting door frames)
- □ **Carbide-tipped or diamond blade** required for cutting Magnesium Core (standard wood blades dull quickly on the mineral core)

**Materials:**

- □ Floating floor planks (add 10% for waste and cuts)
- □ Underlayment (if not attached to planks)
- □ 6 mil polyethylene moisture barrier (see requirements below)
- □ Spacers (1/4" / 6 mm for vinyl/SPC/WPC/Magnesium Core; 3/8" / 10 mm for laminate)
- □ Transition strips (T-molding, reducer, end cap)
- □ Quarter round or shoe molding

**Safety Equipment:**

- □ Safety glasses
- □ Work gloves
- □ Knee pads
- □ Dust mask (N95 required for Magnesium Core dust)
- □ Hearing protection

## Moisture Barrier Requirements

**IMPORTANT: CRITICAL: Moisture Barrier Policy**

| Installation Location | Moisture Barrier Requirement |
|---|---|
| On-grade (slab on ground) | REQUIRED - 6 mil (0.15mm) polyethylene |
| Below-grade (basement) | REQUIRED - 6 mil (0.15mm) polyethylene |
| Above-grade (upper floors) | RECOMMENDED - 6 mil (0.15mm) polyethylene |

**Moisture Barrier Installation:**

- Overlap seams by 8" (20 cm) minimum
- Tape all seams with moisture-resistant tape
- Run barrier up walls 2" (5 cm) - trim after installation
- Do not staple or puncture the barrier

**Product-Specific Notes:**

- **Laminate** is more susceptible to moisture damage than other products - moisture barrier is especially critical. Consider combination underlayment with built-in vapor barrier.
- **Magnesium Core** is dimensionally stable in moisture and will not swell, but a moisture barrier is still required on/below grade per the table above to protect the subfloor and indoor air quality.
- **SPC/WPC** cores are waterproof but the barrier remains required to prevent subfloor moisture issues.

# Room Preparation

1. **Remove furniture and appliances** - Clear the entire installation area
2. **Remove existing flooring** - If applicable (floating floors can go over many surfaces)
3. **Remove baseboards and transitions** - Label for reinstallation if reusing
4. **Clean the subfloor** - Remove all debris, dust, and contaminants
5. **Undercut door frames** - Allow flooring to slide underneath (use plank as thickness guide)
6. **Check door clearance** - Doors may need trimming

# Subfloor Requirements

**Flatness Specification:**

- Maximum variance: 3/16" over 10 feet (4.7 mm over 3 m)
- Laminate is less forgiving than vinyl; strict flatness is essential
- Magnesium Core is rigid and unforgiving like SPC - strict flatness improves performance and reduces hollow spots
- Sand down high spots
- Fill low spots with leveling compound

**Acceptable Subfloor Types:**

- □ Concrete (fully cured, minimum 60 days)
- □ Plywood (minimum 1/4" / 6 mm, in good condition)
- □ OSB (minimum 1/4" / 6 mm, in good condition)
- □ Existing hard-surface flooring (vinyl, tile, hardwood - if well-bonded and level) - see note below
- □ Existing laminate (if well-bonded and level - check total thickness) - see note below

**Installation Over Existing Flooring:** While installation over existing hard-surface flooring is allowed, it is NOT recommended. Installing over existing flooring increases total floor height, may affect door clearances, and can transfer any underlying issues to the new floor. For best results, remove existing flooring and install directly on the subfloor.

**NOT Acceptable:**

- Carpet or carpet pad (must be removed)
- Cushion-backed vinyl
- Floating floors over floating floors (stability issues)
- Uneven or damaged subfloors

**Moisture Testing Requirements:**

| Subfloor Type | Test Method | Maximum Reading |
|---|---|---|
| Concrete | Calcium Chloride (CaCl) | 3 lbs per 1,000 sq ft / 24 hrs (laminate); 5 lbs (SPC/WPC/Magnesium Core) |
| Concrete | Relative Humidity (RH) | 75% RH (laminate), 85% RH (SPC/WPC/Magnesium Core) |
| Wood | Pin-type moisture meter | 12% moisture content |

> **Note:** Laminate has stricter moisture limits than SPC/WPC/Magnesium Core due to its wood-based core. Magnesium Core is the most moisture-tolerant of the four product types - its inorganic mineral core does not swell or deform from moisture exposure - but subfloor moisture limits still apply to protect the subfloor and underlayment.

# Climate Requirements

**Required Conditions:**

- Temperature: 65F - 85F (18C - 29C)
- Relative Humidity: 35% - 55% RH
- Maintain conditions 48 hours before, during, and after installation

**Vacation/Seasonal Homes:**

- Operating range: 55F - 95F (13C - 35C)
- Minimum temperature: 40F (4C)
- HVAC must be operational to maintain conditions
- Magnesium Core handles wider temperature swings better than laminate or SPC/WPC, but the operating range above should still be observed for warranty coverage

**Acclimation:**

| Product Type | Acclimation Time | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Laminate | 48-72 hours | Essential due to wood-based core |
| Magnesium Core | 24-48 hours | Minimal due to dimensionally stable mineral core; some manufacturers waive acclimation but 24 hours is the conservative recommendation |
| SPC | 24-48 hours | Minimal due to rigid mineral core |
| WPC | 24-48 hours | Minimal due to rigid foam core |

- Store in installation area
- Keep boxes closed until ready to install
- Material and room should be at similar temperature

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# Installation Method

## Drop-Lock Installation

**Best For:** All laminate, Magnesium Core, SPC, and WPC products with drop-lock/fold-down locking systems

**Requirements:**

- Clean, level subfloor
- Appropriate underlayment/moisture barrier
- Proper environmental conditions

### Step-by-Step Instructions

**Step 1: Plan Your Layout**

- Measure the room width and calculate number of rows
- Ensure first and last rows are at least half-plank width (adjust starting point if needed)
- Determine starting wall (typically longest, straightest wall)
- Plan plank direction (usually parallel to main light source or longest dimension)
- Calculate stagger pattern: minimum 8" (20 cm) offset between end joints

**Step 2: Install Moisture Barrier and Underlayment**

- Install 6 mil moisture barrier if required (see requirements above)
- Install underlayment per manufacturer instructions
- If planks have attached underlayment, do not add additional padding
- Tape all seams to prevent overlap and bunching

**Step 3: Begin First Row**

- Start in left corner of starting wall (for right-handed installers)
- Place spacers (1/4" - 3/8" / 6-10 mm) against starting wall and side wall
- Lay first plank with tongue facing the room
- Cut off groove edge of first row planks (the side against the wall)

**Step 4: Complete First Row**

- For second plank: angle short end into first plank OR drop-lock depending on system
- For drop-lock short ends: position plank, then press down to engage lock
- Continue adding planks to complete first row
- Cut final piece to fit, leaving expansion gap at end wall
- **Magnesium Core cutting:** Use a carbide-tipped or diamond saw blade. Score-and-snap with a utility knife (as commonly used for laminate) does NOT work reliably on Magnesium Core

**Step 5: Start Second Row**

- Cut first plank of second row to create stagger (minimum 8" / 20 cm offset from first row)
- **Long edge:** Angle into first row at approximately 20-30 degrees
- Lower plank flat onto underlayment
- **Short edge:** Simply push plank against previous plank and press down
- The drop-lock mechanism clicks into place automatically

**Step 6: Continue Installation**

- Work left to right, row by row
- For each plank:

1. Angle long edge into previous row
2. Lower plank flat
3. Push against adjacent plank and press down on short end

- Maintain consistent stagger pattern
- Mix planks from different boxes for pattern variation
- Use tapping block if needed to fully engage locks
- **For Magnesium Core:** Always tap through a tapping block - never strike the plank edge directly with a hammer or mallet. The rigid mineral core can chip at the joint if struck directly.

**Step 7: Install Final Row**

- Measure width needed (minus expansion gap)
- Rip planks to width using table saw or circular saw (carbide/diamond blade for Magnesium Core)
- May need to remove locking edge on wall side
- Use pull bar to help engage final row
- Maintain expansion gap at end wall

**Step 8: Complete Installation**

- Remove all spacers
- Install transitions at doorways and floor changes
- Install quarter round or shoe molding to cover expansion gap
- Nail molding to wall, not to floor (allows floor to float)

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# Finishing Touches

## Expansion Gap Requirements

**IMPORTANT: Critical: Expansion gaps are essential for floating floors.**

| Product Type | Minimum Perimeter Gap |
|---|---|
| Laminate | 3/8" (10 mm) |
| Magnesium Core | 1/4" (6 mm) |
| SPC | 1/4" (6 mm) |
| WPC | 1/4" (6 mm) |

**Gap Locations:**

- All walls
- Around fixed objects (columns, pipes, cabinets)
- At door frames and transitions
- For rooms over 40 ft (12 m) in any direction: consider T-molding expansion break

> **Note:** Although Magnesium Core has extremely low thermal expansion (one of its key advantages over SPC and laminate), the 1/4" perimeter gap is still required for warranty coverage and to accommodate subfloor movement.

## Transitions and Moldings

| Transition Type | Use Case |
|---|---|
| T-Molding | Between rooms of equal height flooring |
| Reducer | Transition to lower flooring (carpet, tile) |
| End Cap | At doorways, sliding doors, or fireplaces |
| Stair Nosing | For stair edges (verify product is stair-rated) |
| Quarter Round | Along walls to cover expansion gap |
| Flush Reducer | Between laminate and hard-surface flooring |

## Installation Notes

- **Quarter round/shoe molding:** Nail to wall only, never to the floor
- **Transitions:** Fasten to subfloor only, allowing floor to move underneath
- **Never pin flooring:** Don't fasten anything through the floor surface
- **Cabinets and islands:** Floor should not be trapped under heavy, fixed objects

## Final Steps

1. **Clean the floor** - Sweep or vacuum thoroughly
2. **Inspect all areas** - Check for gaps, damage, or unlocked joints
3. **Test all locks** - Walk the floor and listen for clicks or movement
4. **Install transitions** - At all doorways and floor type changes
5. **Install quarter round** - Around entire perimeter
6. **Replace furniture** - Use felt pads under all furniture legs
7. **Trim doors if needed** - Ensure proper clearance

## Traffic Restrictions

- **Light foot traffic:** Immediately after installation
- **Normal use:** Immediately (no adhesive curing required)
- **Heavy furniture:** 24 hours (allow floor to settle)
- **Rolling loads:** Use hardboard paths for moving heavy items

**WARNING - ROLLING LOADS NOT RECOMMENDED:** Floating floors are not designed for sustained rolling loads such as office chairs, carts, pallet jacks, or other wheeled equipment. Rolling loads can damage locking mechanisms, cause joint separation, and create permanent wear patterns. Damage caused by rolling loads is not covered under product warranties. For areas with rolling chair traffic, use chair mats to protect the floor.

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# Room-Specific Considerations

## High-Traffic Areas

- Magnesium Core and SPC are most durable for high-traffic areas
- Magnesium Core offers excellent indentation resistance due to its rigid mineral core
- Laminate: choose AC4 or AC5 rated products for commercial traffic
- Plan transitions at heavily used doorways

## Kitchens

- **Magnesium Core:** Fully waterproof inorganic core - excellent for kitchens
- **SPC/WPC:** Waterproof core - excellent for kitchens
- **Laminate:** Water-resistant only - wipe spills immediately
- Install under or around appliances as appropriate
- Leave expansion gap around island cabinets

## Bathrooms

**IMPORTANT: Important: Product-Specific Ratings**

- **Magnesium Core:** Fully waterproof and dimensionally stable in moisture - excellent for bathrooms (verify product specifications)
- **SPC/WPC:** Most are waterproof and bathroom-rated - verify product specifications
- **Laminate:** Generally NOT recommended for bathrooms due to moisture sensitivity

For approved products:

- Maintain expansion gaps even in wet areas
- Apply silicone caulk at tub and toilet bases
- Ensure good ventilation to prevent moisture buildup

## Basements

- **Magnesium Core:** Excellent for basements - inorganic core resists moisture, mold, and mildew
- **SPC/WPC:** Excellent for basements (waterproof core)
- **Laminate:** Use with caution - higher moisture risk
- **REQUIRED:** 6 mil moisture barrier on all basement installations
- Conduct thorough moisture testing before installation
- Monitor humidity levels seasonally

## Stairs

- Verify product is rated for stair use
- Most floating floors require adhesive for stair treads
- Use proper stair nosing
- Each tread must be secured (not floating on stairs)
- Magnesium Core can be heavier on stair treads - verify adhesive compatibility with the inorganic core
- Consider professional installation for stairs

## Radiant Heat Systems

**Magnesium Core is particularly well-suited for radiant heat** due to its low thermal expansion and good thermal conductivity. However, all product-specific requirements still apply.

**Pre-Installation Requirements:**

- Verify product is rated for radiant heat
- Only hydronic radiant heat typically approved
- Minimum 3/8" (10 mm) separation from heating components
- System must be operational 2 weeks before installation
- Reduce temperature to 65F (18C) 5 days before installation

**Post-Installation:**

- Gradually increase temperature (maximum 5F / 2.8C per day)
- Maximum floor surface temperature: 85F (29C) for all product types covered by this guide
- Never exceed product's temperature rating

## Fire-Rated Assemblies

- **Magnesium Core** is non-combustible and may carry an A2 fire rating per EN 13501-1 (verify specific product certifications and assembly listings)
- Magnesium Core can be a strong choice for multifamily corridors, stairwells, and other applications where fire performance is a consideration
- Always confirm the floor's listed assembly meets local building code requirements
- Laminate, SPC, and WPC typically carry lower fire ratings - check product certifications

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# Quality Control Checklist

## Pre-Installation

- □ Subfloor flatness verified (3/16" over 10 ft maximum)
- □ Moisture testing completed and documented
- □ All moisture readings within acceptable limits
- □ Moisture barrier installed (if on or below grade)
- □ Materials acclimated (48-72 hours for laminate; 24-48 for SPC/WPC/Magnesium Core)
- □ Environmental conditions verified (65-85F, 35-55% RH)
- □ Underlayment installed and taped
- □ Layout planned and first/last row widths calculated
- □ All tools and materials on site (carbide/diamond blade verified for Magnesium Core)

## During Installation

- □ Expansion gaps maintained with spacers
- □ Stagger pattern consistent (minimum 8" offset)
- □ Planks mixing from multiple boxes
- □ Long edges fully engaged before pressing short ends
- □ Drop-lock mechanism clicking properly
- □ No damaged or defective pieces installed
- □ Tapping block used where needed (always for Magnesium Core - never strike directly)

## Final Inspection

- □ All joints tight and fully locked
- □ No visible gaps or lippage
- □ Expansion gaps consistent around perimeter
- □ All transitions properly installed
- □ Quarter round installed and covering gaps
- □ Floor is clean and free of debris
- □ Doors open and close properly
- □ No squeaking or movement when walking

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# Troubleshooting

## Drop-Lock Not Engaging

**Cause:** Debris in mechanism, damaged lock, or improper technique

**Solution:**

- Remove plank and inspect locking mechanism
- Clean any debris from joint
- Check for damaged or broken plastic tongue
- Ensure long edge is fully engaged before pressing down short end

**Prevention:**

- Keep subfloor and planks clean
- Inspect each plank before installation
- Follow proper installation sequence

## Chipped or Damaged Joint Edges (Magnesium Core)

**Cause:** Direct hammer/mallet strikes on plank edges, or installation using a damaged plank

**Solution:**

- Replace any plank with chipped locking edges - damaged locks will not seat properly
- If a chip is purely cosmetic (away from the lock), the plank may be usable as a cut piece

**Prevention:**

- Always tap through a tapping block, never directly on the plank
- Use a rubber mallet (not a steel hammer) and use light, controlled taps
- Inspect each plank's locking edges before placing

## Gaps Between Planks

**Cause:** Improper locking, subfloor issues, or environmental changes

**Solution:**

- Lift and re-engage affected planks
- Ensure both long and short locks are fully engaged
- Check subfloor flatness

**Prevention:**

- Engage long edge completely before pressing down
- Maintain consistent room temperature and humidity
- Address subfloor issues before installation

## Buckling or Peaking

**Cause:** Insufficient expansion gap or floor pinned by obstruction

**Solution:**

- Identify obstruction (molding, transition, heavy furniture)
- Increase expansion gap at walls
- Remove any fasteners through flooring

**Prevention:**

- Maintain proper expansion gaps everywhere
- Never fasten through flooring
- Allow gap around fixed objects
- Laminate especially needs adequate gaps (Magnesium Core and SPC/WPC are more dimensionally stable but still require gaps)

## Squeaking or Clicking Sounds

**Cause:** Uneven subfloor, debris under floor, or loose joints

**Solution:**

- Identify source of noise
- May require lifting sections to address subfloor or debris
- Re-engage loose joints

**Prevention:**

- Ensure subfloor is flat and clean
- Verify all joints are fully locked
- Do not double-up underlayment

## Swelling at Edges (Laminate)

**Cause:** Moisture exposure

**Solution:**

- Damaged planks must be replaced
- Identify and eliminate moisture source
- Improve moisture protection

**Prevention:**

- Install proper moisture barrier
- Clean spills immediately
- Do not install laminate in wet areas
- Maintain proper humidity levels
- Note: Magnesium Core and SPC/WPC are not susceptible to moisture-induced edge swelling

## Hollow Sound Underfoot (Magnesium Core or SPC)

**Cause:** Subfloor flatness variation under rigid plank

**Solution:**

- Localized hollow areas may be addressed with the floor in place by injection (consult manufacturer)
- Widespread hollow areas require lifting and re-leveling the subfloor

**Prevention:**

- Strict subfloor flatness (3/16" over 10 ft) is especially important for rigid-core products
- Rigid cores bridge low spots rather than conforming to them, which creates hollow sound

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# Professional vs DIY

## DIY Suitable For

- Most residential installations
- Rectangular rooms with few obstacles
- DIYers with moderate home improvement experience
- Areas under 1,000 sq ft
- Drop-lock systems are easier for DIYers than angle-angle
- Note: Magnesium Core requires carbide/diamond cutting blades - if you only have wood-cutting equipment, factor in tool purchase or rental

## Professional Installation Required For

- Stairs (due to adhesive requirements)
- Very large areas (may need expansion joints)
- Complex room layouts with many cuts
- Commercial installations
- When subfloor preparation is needed
- Radiant heat systems
- When warranty requires professional installation

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# Product-Specific Notes

## Laminate Flooring

- Most sensitive to moisture - always use moisture barrier
- Requires longest acclimation time (48-72 hours)
- Cannot be installed in bathrooms or high-moisture areas
- Use 3/8" (10 mm) expansion gaps
- AC rating indicates durability (AC3=residential, AC4=commercial, AC5=heavy commercial)

## Magnesium Core (MgO / Mineral Core)

- Inorganic composite core made from magnesium oxide, magnesium chloride, and reinforcing fibers (often fiberglass mesh)
- PVC-free and formaldehyde-free - strong environmental and indoor-air-quality profile
- Fully waterproof - the mineral core does not swell or deform from moisture exposure
- Non-combustible - can carry an A2 fire rating per EN 13501-1 (verify specific product)
- Excellent dimensional stability - very low thermal expansion makes it well-suited for radiant heat and large continuous runs
- High indentation and scratch resistance due to rigid mineral core
- Denser/heavier than SPC and WPC - factor handling and weight into transport and stairwell delivery
- Requires carbide-tipped or diamond saw blade for cutting (standard wood blades dull quickly)
- Always use a tapping block - never strike plank edges directly with a hammer or mallet, as the rigid core can chip
- Use 1/4" (6 mm) expansion gaps
- Most products use Valinge click systems (including 5G drop-lock)

## SPC (Stone Plastic Composite)

- Waterproof rigid core
- Minimal expansion/contraction
- Suitable for all residential areas including bathrooms
- Can handle temperature variations better than laminate
- Use 1/4" (6 mm) expansion gaps

## WPC (Wood Plastic Composite)

- Waterproof foam core
- Softer, warmer feel than SPC
- Better sound absorption than SPC
- Suitable for bathrooms and kitchens
- Use 1/4" (6 mm) expansion gaps

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# Care and Maintenance

## Daily Care

- Sweep or dust mop to remove loose dirt and debris
- Wipe up spills immediately (especially important for laminate; less time-critical for Magnesium Core and SPC/WPC, but good practice)
- Use doormats at entrances

## Regular Cleaning

- Damp mop with neutral pH cleaner
- Use neutral pH cleaners only
- Avoid excess water on laminate
- Magnesium Core and SPC/WPC tolerate damp mopping well due to their waterproof cores
- Use microfiber mop for best results
- Never wet mop laminate

## Products to Avoid

- Steam cleaners (can damage core and locks on all product types)
- Excessive water (laminate only)
- Wax or polish products
- Oil-based soaps
- Ammonia-based cleaners
- Bleach or harsh chemicals (especially avoid acidic cleaners on Magnesium Core - the inorganic core is alkaline)
- Abrasive cleaners or scrub pads

## Ongoing Maintenance

- Use felt pads under all furniture legs
- Use chair mats under rolling chairs
- Lift furniture to move, do not drag
- Protect from prolonged direct sunlight
- Maintain consistent indoor humidity (35-55% RH)
- Trim pet nails regularly
- Replace damaged planks promptly

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# Additional Resources

## Industry Associations

- Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) - for SPC/WPC
- North American Laminate Flooring Association (NALFA)
- World Floor Covering Association (WFCA)
- Note: Magnesium Core is a newer category and does not yet have a dedicated North American industry association - rely on individual manufacturer specifications and certifications (EN 13501-1, CARB, FloorScore, etc.)

## Certification Programs

- CFI Certified Flooring Installers
- INSTALL Flooring Certification

## Warranty Information

See separate warranty brochure for complete warranty terms and conditions.

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*This installation guide is provided for general reference. Always consult local building codes before installation.*