

INSTALLATION MANUAL

SOLIDFLOOR MINERAL WOOD

Thank you for choosing our high-quality products. Below, you will find important guidelines for the correct installation of SOLIDFLOOR MINERAL WOOD flooring with 5G click connection. Please read the entire text carefully before beginning the installation process. SOLIDFLOOR MINERAL WOOD floors are suitable for indoor floating installation in residential areas such as living rooms or bedrooms, as well as in commercial spaces like shops, offices, and showrooms. They can also be used in humid environments like bathrooms and kitchens, but please adhere to the warnings provided in these instructions. However, they are not suitable for installation in wet areas such as showers, pools, or saunas. Since it's real wood, the surface of SOLIDFLOOR MINERAL WOOD is sensitive to stains caused by various substances. We recommend following the instructions for cleaning and maintenance.

Storage:

Before you start laying the flooring, store the unopened packages in the location where the floor will be installed for at least 48 hours. The ideal conditions for allowing the material to acclimate to the environment are a temperature range between 15°C and 25°C and relative humidity of the air between 35% and 65% (see fig. 1). Floor installation should be the final step at the site, even after painting the walls. Ensure that the environment is clean and equipped with doors, windows, and glass. Place the packages in the center of the room where the floor will be laid, away from walls, and on a nylon sheet or a flat wooden pallet. If you're laying the floor in multiple rooms, distribute the materials proportionally among them. Avoid sudden temperature fluctuations and drafts. Only open the packages when you're ready to install.

Preparing the Floor Screed:

The laying surface must be level, dry, and smooth. Check the flatness at various points on the laying surface using a levelling rod that is at least 200 cm long. The height difference should not exceed 2 mm (see fig. 2). If it does, level or smooth the surface using appropriate products until the desired flatness is achieved. The screed is considered dry if it has been protected from external or underground water infiltrations over time, and the residual humidity of the cement screed is no more than 2% CM (1.7% on warm water-heated floor structures), while anhydrite screeds must have a maximum humidity of 0.5% CM (0.2% on warm water-heated floor structures) (CM: measuring method by carbide/magnesium chemical reaction) (see fig. 3). To accelerate the drying of cement, ventilate the room during the day and use hot air fans. The laying surface should be free from residues (cement, plaster, pebbles, cement powder, etc.), which must be removed using a metal spatula and/or vacuumed (see Fig. 4).

Using the Vapor Barrier: (see Fig. 5)

Solidfloor always recommends the use of a moisture barrier. When laying it, make sure to overlap the joints by approximately 20 cm and seal them with adhesive tape.

Insulating/Noise-Reducing Underlays:

The cork underlay is already integrated into the SOLIDFLOOR MINERAL WOOD flooring.

Laying on Old Wood Floors:

Level the wood strips, secure the moving strips, and lay the planks perpendicular to the old wood floor. There should be no missing parts in the old flooring, and the wood's moisture content should not exceed 10%.

Installing over Textile Coverings:

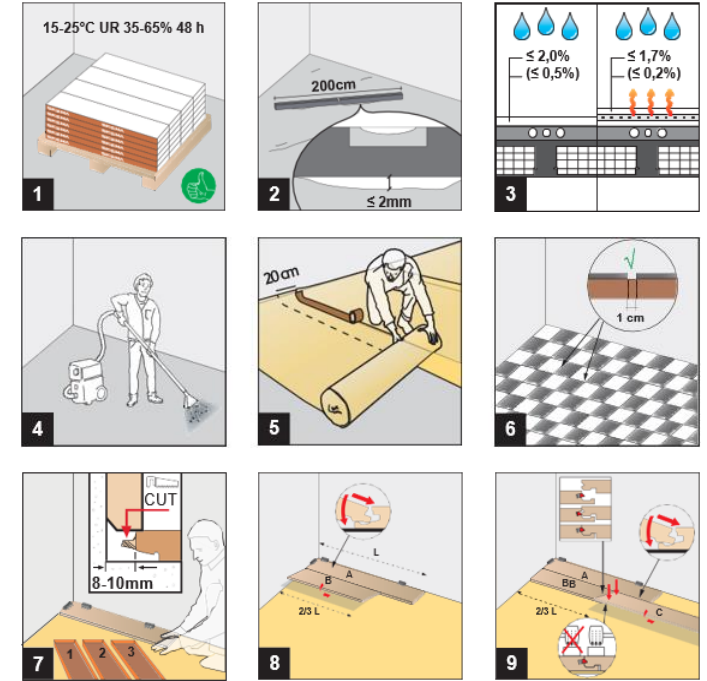
Textile coverings such as carpets or needed flooring must be removed for both technical and hygienic reasons.

Laying on Ceramic, Marble, and Concrete:

Installation over ceramic floors is allowed only with joints of a maximum of 1 cm (see Fig. 6). Other marble or stone floors are suitable provided that flatness requirements are met.

Laying on Floor Screeds with Underfloor Heating Systems:

Please follow the preliminary laying steps listed below. Lay a sheet of Vapor Barrier (BN).



Materials Needed for Installation:

- Spacers or wedges
- Power tool for cutting planks (circular saw or alternative saw)
- Rubber hammer
- Cutter
- Spatula
- Pencil and ruler
- Carpenter square at 90°



DIRECTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BEFORE LAYING:

Measures must be taken to allow the flooring to expand or shrink as the room's temperature changes. A continuous and even expansion space of 8-10 mm (see fig. 7) must be left between the floor and any wall or fixed elements such as marble thresholds, stairs, partition walls, banisters, fireplaces, doors, windows, columns, etc. The floor must never be fixed to the floor screed, which would prevent it from adapting to changes in the temperature conditions of the surrounding air. Lengths exceeding 12 m (refer to picture 15) must be divided into equal parts with an expansion joint of at least 30 mm. Pay attention to removing part of the connection, as shown in picture 16. To enhance the appearance of your floor, position the longer side of the plank in the direction of the most important natural light source, such as a window. Between contiguous rooms, the floor must be interrupted at the door with an expansion joint of at least 25-30 mm (see Fig. 15-16) to accommodate natural dimensional variations. In narrow and long rooms, like corridors, the long side of the plank must be laid parallel to the long side of the room (be cautious not to exceed 12 linear meters). Begin from the most aligned wall.

NOTE: Additional directions are provided in the "General Warnings - Laying" section.

ATTENTION: For a uniform appearance of the floor, it's important to mix planks from at least three different boxes (see Fig. 7).

LAYING:

Open the packages required for laying the first rows. Check the production batch and visually assess the combination of different batches, if any. During installation, inspect all planks before use and set aside any unsuitable elements. Do not install planks with visible defects, as they cannot be replaced later. After preparing the floor screed and installing the vapor barrier, position the long side with the tongue joint toward the wall, and trim as shown in Figure 7 to increase the expansion space. Place expandable spacing clamps between the wall and the planks to ensure the necessary expansion space (see Fig. 7). Proceed from left to right to assemble the first two rows of flooring, following the steps indicated in Figures 8 to 12.

NOTE: To avoid subsequent cracks, offset the top joint by 1/3 of the length between one row and the next (see Fig. 8-13). To properly engage the TLS5G head joint, bring the two head slats together and manually close the joint until it's completely flat. Confirm closure with a few taps of a rubber hammer on the right side of the joint, as shown in Figure 9. Check for the presence of the black plastic tab (TLS-5G) on the short side of the plank.

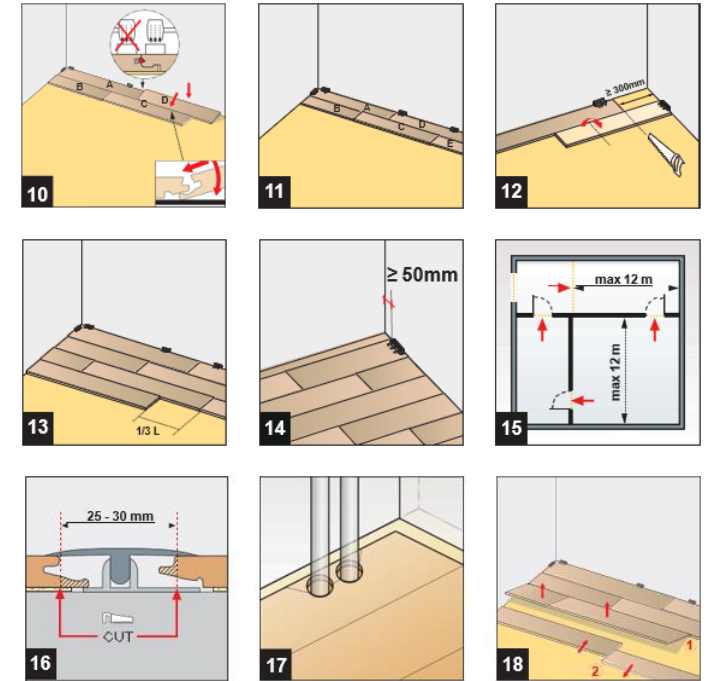
At the end of the row, turn a plank to determine the correct measurement for the last piece (see Fig. 12). The remaining part of the plank can be used as the starting element for the following rows. Before proceeding, ensure that the first two rows are perfectly closed and that the perimeter space has been maintained throughout. Continue laying row by row until you reach the opposite side of the room (see Fig. 13-14), keeping the offset consistent at 1/3 L. Laying the last row is straightforward (with a gap of 8-10 mm from the wall): cut the planks to fit the remaining width. Verify that the plastic joint is still in place after cutting. Proceed as you did with the previous rows. Confirm from the beginning that the width of the last row is greater than or equal to 50 mm (see Fig. 14). If not, adjust the width of the planks in the first row. Remove the spacing clamps. To cover the perimeter expansion space, use skirting boards. Do not allow the planks to come into contact with any products containing silicon.

LAYING ON FLOOR SCREEDS WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEM:

SOLIDFLOOR MINERAL WOOD is not suitable for installation on low-thickness electric or hot water radiant screeds. The floor screed must be prepared following the manufacturer's instructions for the heating system. The minimum coverage of pipework should be 30 mm to ensure even and non-concentrated heating, preventing the floor from cracking. Solidfloor floor is suitable for installation on heated floor screeds, provided that the given instructions are strictly followed. It's the installer's responsibility to adhere to these instructions to avoid any issues with the laid floor. Prior to installation, check the existence of the system ignition protocol as required by the EN 1264-4:2009 standard. Before starting the installation, use a carbide/magnesium hygrometer (measuring method by chemical reaction CM carbide/magnesium, standard UNI 10329) to ensure that the residual humidity of the screed does not exceed the following values: CEMENTITIOUS SCREED 1.7% - SCREED OF ANHYDRITE 0.2%. If the measured values are higher than the indicated levels, perform a warm-up operation until the specified values are reached. Turn off the system three days before laying the floor and place the floor in the installation area. The ambient temperature must not be lower than 15°C, with relative humidity between 40% and 65%. Begin laying according to the previously provided installation instructions. After the installation is complete, it's recommended to gradually increase the temperature to the normal operating level.

Directions for Use of the Product Laid on Floor Screed with an Underfloor Heating System:

To prevent cracks between the elements, do not cover the floor with rugs or other heat-insulating materials. During seasonal changes, it's advisable to gradually turn off and on the heating system. The surface temperature of the heated floor must not exceed 27°C. Maintaining appropriate relative humidity and air temperature (40-65% - 18/25°C) is crucial to ensure a balanced product moisture content and a healthy environment. Conductivity and product thermal resistance values are indicated in the technical documentation or can be obtained from our technical department. When installing the product for required reaction-to-fire performance, refer to the label on the package, which specifies the reaction-to-fire class obtained by laying the product on non-combustible construction elements and using the underlay applied to the product.



HEATING PIPES:

Through Pipes: Cut and drill the floor. The hole diameter should be 20 mm larger than the through pipe to allow for floor expansion (see Fig. 17). If it becomes necessary to remove some elements, lift the entire row of planks upwards (see Fig. 18), then slide the planks apart from the head joint. Do not twist the planks at the head connection to prevent damage.



GENERAL WARNING & MAINTENANCE

Although the product has a substrate that is not sensitive to humidity, the screed must be dry, as excessive humidity can lead to the proliferation of molds and fungi and result in deformations. Never affix furniture structures such as banisters, thresholds, partition walls, shelving, chairs, tables, etc., to the floor. Chipboard or plasterboard partition walls should be installed before laying the floor. Avoid placing heavy structures on the floor, such as bar counters, large bookcases, aquarium-holding frames, etc.

Cleaning and Maintenance:

Below are the general instructions for cleaning the floor. Keep in mind that it is a real wood coating, so cleaning and maintenance should align with typical practices for wooden floors.

Dry Cleaning: The initial cleaning step for all floors is dry cleaning, which involves removing coarse dirt (e.g., dust, sand particles, fluff) using a soft brush or a vacuum cleaner. No cleaning products are used at this stage. Perform this cleaning as needed. To reduce the need for dry cleaning, always place large rugs in entrance areas from the outside.

Routine Cleaning (Wet): This is a wet cleaning procedure in which you dilute the specified amount of detergent or soap indicated in the Data Sheet or on the label in lukewarm water. Mop the floor with a well-wrung-out rag or mop. Avoid using excessive quantities of cleaning products and water to prevent damage to the wooden floor. Some products may require a final cleaning step; allow the floor to dry before use. The frequency of this treatment depends on the level of surface use. For residential or private areas, weekly cleaning should suffice. In public areas (offices, shops, etc.), daily cleaning may be necessary. It's important to note that wet cleaning gradually wears down the finishing layer. The maintenance described in the next point helps restore the situation.

Surface Maintenance: Periodically, the floor needs to be refreshed. By using the specific product designed for the floor (typically a wax and oil-based product), you can recreate a protective layer that preserves the flooring's beauty and charm. Before applying the maintenance product, clean the floor as indicated in step 2. The product should be used either in the recommended diluted quantities or pure, as specified in the datasheet, and should be evenly distributed with a soft cloth. Allow the floor to thoroughly dry before use. The frequency of this treatment should align with the floor's usage. For public areas, the maintenance intervals should be shorter compared to private areas.

General Warnings on the Product:

Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight and/or sunlight filtered through glass and windows may naturally cause a change in the colour of the flooring. Climatic conditions in the installation environment are crucial for maintaining the dimensional stability of the flooring planks. The temperature should be maintained between 18°C and 25°C, with particular attention to maintaining the relative humidity of the air between 40% and 65%. When humidity exceeds 65% or falls below 40%, deformations or cracks between the planks may occur. During the hottest periods and times of the day, it's advisable to avoid direct sunlight on the flooring. The use of curtains and blackout systems is recommended to mitigate this effect. Colour variations in the wooden elements are allowed (both before and after installation) and are influenced by factors such as the wood's natural characteristics, the type of treatment/surface finish applied, pigmentation characteristics of the products used, prolonged exposure to direct or filtered sunlight, and the presence of certain natural substances in the wood (extractives) that become more pronounced during the natural oxidation process. Samples and pictures provided are indicative and do not bind the supply since wood is a natural material, and each board is a unique exemplar. Therefore, there may be variations in pattern, fibers, colour, and tarnish among boards from the same or different batches. Comparisons with previous supplies and/or delivered samples won't be accepted due to the inherent variations in natural wood characteristics. Solidfloor does not accept claims related to this aspect.

Solidfloor floorings undergo rigorous checks throughout the production process. However, it is necessary for the installer to conduct a test and quality check before installation. Solidfloor is solely a material supplier and not responsible for installation. Therefore, Solidfloor is not liable for any damages resulting from incorrect installation or the installation of materials with visible defects. Solidfloor products are warranted for the technical characteristics specified in the sale documents and/or datasheets, in compliance with the mentioned warnings, and subject to the natural limits of the material.



CHECKLIST

General Rules for Better Floor Preservation:

- It's advisable to ventilate the area daily.
- Prevent water from stagnating on the surface.
- Immediately clean up any spilled products to limit absorption into the wood.
- Use entrance area carpets suitable for shoe cleaning and dust retention.
- Place felt protectors on tables, chairs, furniture legs, etc., to prevent abrasions and scuffs on the floor.
- Use only chairs with soft rubber wheels (type W) and consider protecting the floor with a thin, transparent carpet. Do not use self-polishing wax.
- Avoid steam cleaning.
- Avoid industrial clean-dry machines.
- Never use ammonia, vinegar, alcohol, or foaming detergents for cleaning.
- Do not use maintenance products with aggressive characteristics, even at low concentrations, as they may deteriorate the surface coating. To ensure protection and warranty coverage when using cleaning and maintenance products, it's essential to use the specific products recommended by Solidfloor.