



THE MODERN FLOORING SOLUTION

SOUND-TEC FULL INSTALL GUIDE

In any floor covering installation there are six basic requirements to insure a proper long lasting and attractive floor. These requirements are the same for Urban Surfaces Commercial and residential products.

- 1. Choose the Appropriate Product for the Job.....(1)
- 2. Conduct Proper Product Inspection.....(1)
- 3. Ensure Job-Site is Ready for Flooring.....(2)
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Choose the Appropriate Product for the Job

1. Always select the proper product for the job, which you plan to install. Do not use a residential product for a commercial installation. Urban Surfaces’ Sound-Tec Line offers an unparalleled selection of some of the most beautiful and practical flooring available anywhere. Flooring products are a long-term investment. Choose wisely.

Conduct Proper Product Inspection

- 1. Ensure that Sound-Tec comes in its original packaging and is free from any visible damage or defects.
- 2. Check all material for correct color, design, size, and that the correct quantity is available to finish the job.
- 3. All products should be visually inspected before installation for color and style, to minimize possible shade variations mix flooring from several different cartons upon installation.

WARRANTY NOTE: Urban Surfaces warrants that flooring products shall be free from visual defects. *Do not install Sound-Tec with visual defects. The installation of defective flooring is the error of the installer, therefore, no extra labor, material, or shipping costs will be paid by Urban Surfaces due to installation errors. (Refer to warranty for specifics)



Ensure Job-Site is Ready for Flooring

Clean Area:

1. Areas to receive Sound-Tec flooring must be clean, fully enclosed, well lit, and weather tight.

Temperature & Humidity:

2. The permanent HVAC system set at a minimum room temperature of 50°F and a maximum of 90°F for 48 hours prior to, during and after the installation. The floor temperature should stay between 50°F and 90°F before, during, and after installation.
3. A relative humidity no greater than 95% for at least 48 hours is required before, during, and after installation.
4. Sound-Tec is to be installed inside a climate-controlled structure. Sound-Tec products are not designed to be installed outdoors and the installation of them outdoors will void all warranty.

Job Scheduling:

5. The installation should not begin until the works of all other trades have been completed, especially overhead trades.

Conduct Proper Sub floor Preparation

Prepare Sub floor:

1. No floor covering installation is better than the sub-floor over which it is installed. The preparation of the Sub-Floor is one of the most important parts of the installation process. The quality of the sub-floor will affect the levelness and durability of the flooring.
2. If the old flooring must be removed, make sure it is done properly and responsibly.
3. The sub-floor should be weather tight, rigid, finished smooth, clean, free of moisture, oil, dust, and solvents.
4. All cracks and holes larger than 1/8" should be filled with a non-shrinking water resistant Portland Cement Patching Compound or Floor leveler.
5. The responsibility for determining the suitability of the sub-floor rests solely with the flooring installer.

NOTE: Urban Surfaces does not manufacture floor patch, and therefore does not warrant its performance. Be sure to refer to the correct floor patch manufacturer's installation instructions that was used in your particular installation.



A. Concrete/Lightweight Concrete Sub-Flooring

Clean Surface:

1. Surfaces must be clean, dry and flat; free of voids greater than 1/8", projections, loose materials, oil, grease and all other harmful surface contaminants.
2. Mechanically remove all harmful surface contaminants by grinding the substrate if necessary.

Floor Patching:

3. Surface areas requiring patching or leveling must be treated using fast setting, high strength floor patch. Refer to the technical data sheets of respective products for proper installation.

Concrete Strength:

4. Concrete shall have a minimum compressive strength of 3000psi.

Surface Flatness:

5. Surfaces need to be as flat as possible; to ensure visual aesthetics, and to keep wear-down from happening prematurely as higher points will wear fast.
6. Variations in sub floor flatness should not exceed 3/16" 10' (4.76 mm in 3.05 m) or 1/8" in 6' (3.17 mm in 1.83m). Level floors with a suitable cement-based self-leveling underlayment following the manufacturer's recommended guidelines.

B. Wood Sub-Flooring

Structurally Sound:

1. Wood sub floors must be structurally sound and in compliance with local building codes.
2. Wood sub floors, if suspended off grade, should be a minimum of 18" of well-ventilated air space below.
3. Wood sub floors directly fastened to concrete, or sleeper construction, are not recommended.
4. APA rated Sturdi-Floor panels are designed as combination sub floor/underlayment, but exposure to construction conditions including weather may necessitate installation of an underlayment panel prior to installation.



5. Urban Surfaces' flooring is not recommended directly over- fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood.

6. Not for use over particle board, cip wood, Luan or pressboard.

WARRANTY NOTE: Installation over these sub floor types will void warranty.

Floor Flatness:

7. A floor flatness tolerance is cited in the "Performance Standards for Wood Floors" published by the National Association of Home Builders. This states that floors shall not have more than 1/4 - inch ridge or depression within any 32 - inch measurement when measured parallel to the joists; and that no point on the surface of a wood floor shall be more than 1/2" higher or lower than any other point on the surface within 20 feet, or proportional multiples of the preceding dimensions.

C. Moisture Test

Moisture Emission:

1. On concrete use the Calcium Chloride Moisture Emission Test. Test must be conducted in accordance with ASTM-F1869. The moisture emission results must not exceed 8.0 pounds, the installation should not proceed until the problem has been corrected. Relative humidity should not exceed 95%. Be sure to record your results and keep them for your own records.

2. When testing floor for alkalinity ASTM F710 it must be 7.0 to 10.0 PH to be acceptable. (Mopping with a vinegar/water solution of 1 pint of vinegar to 2 gallons of water can sometimes reduce a higher PH.)

WARRANTY NOTE: It may not be the floor covering installer's responsibility to conduct the tests listed above. It is, however, the floor covering installer's responsibility to make sure these tests have been conducted and that the results are acceptable prior to installing the floor covering. When moisture tests are conducted, it indicates the conditions only at the time of the test.

E. Radiant Heating System

1. Sound-Tec may be installed over Radiant Heating Systems.

2. Several days prior to installing resilient products over newly constructed radiant heated systems, make sure the radiant system has been on and operating at maximum temperature to reduce residual moisture within the concrete.

3. Radiant-Heated sub straights may not exceed a maximum surface temperature of 85°F



WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEAD-BLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALT "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

These products may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to www.rfci.com

Installing Over Resilient Floor Covering

Existent Resilient Floor Covering Must Be:

1. Single layered, non-cushion backed, fully adhered and smooth.
2. Free of moisture or alkalinity.
3. Free of waxes, polishes, grease or grime.
4. Free of cuts, cracks, gouges, dents or other irregularities.
5. Do not install over rubber based substrates.

NOTE: The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring is suitable to be installed over top of with resilient, rests solely with installer/flooring contractor on site. If there is any doubt as to suitability, the existing flooring should be removed, or an acceptable underlayment installed over it. Installations over existing resilient flooring may be more susceptible to indentation.

Underlayment

Some Sound-Tec products already have attached pad underlayments, some do not.

- If an underlayment is already attached, no other underlayments are necessary. If an additional underlayment is desired the density of it must be at least 62lbs. Per cubic foot and must have a thickness of .056'(1.42mm) or less. Urban Surfaces offers "Whisper Step" underlayment which meets these requirements.
- If no underlayment is attached to the Sound-Tec product, then rolled out underlayments must be a maximum of 2mm thick and within a range of 40 – 100 kilograms per square meter in density. Underlayments that fall outside of these ranges may undermine the Sound-Tec clip system and will therefore void the warranty. Acceptable underlayment types are cork, rubber, and various types of foam.



Quarry Tile, Ceramic Tile, Poured Floors (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless):

Existing Tile Must Be:

1. Totally cured and well bonded to the concrete.
2. Free of any residual solvents and petroleum derivatives.
3. Free of waxes, polishes, grease, grime and oil.
4. Show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.
5. Free of cuts, cracks, gouges, dents, and other irregularities.
6. Flat. Fill any low spots, holes, chips and seams that may telegraph through the new flooring.
7. Smooth. Grind any highly polished or irregular/smooth surfaces. Quarry tile or Ceramic tile grout joints and textured surfaces must be filled with an embossing leveler or substrate manufacturer approved material.



Use the Right Tools for the Job

| ✓ | Tool Checklist |
|---|------------------------------------|
| | Safety Glasses |
| | Knee Pads |
| | Floor Scraper |
| | Chalk / Chalk Line |
| | Expansion Spacers |
| | Paper and Pencil |
| | Tape Measure |
| | Straight Edge / Square |
| | Pull Bar |
| | Mineral Spirits |
| | Razor Knife with Additional Blades |
| | Tapping Block |
| | Broom and Dustpan |
| | Marking Pen |
| | Hammer and Nails |
| | LVT Cutter (Optional) |
| | Hand Saw (Optional) |
| | Power Saw (Optional) |



Installation

24 Hours

1. Sound-Tec flooring is more dimensionally stable than typical floating wood or vinyl based flooring products. Acclimation of Sound-Tec flooring is generally not required. However, Sound-Tec flooring subjected to extreme hot or cold conditions can cause the material to become too flexible or rigid, making the material difficult to install and potentially causing damage to the locking system. Optimum material temperature range for installation is 50F - 90F.

2. Use the acclimation time to unpack the planks and inspect the product. Look for visual defects. It is always wise to order 5% to 10% more than the required square footage to account for damaged planks, waste and spares for future repairs.

WARRANTY NOTE: Urban Surfaces does not warrant against shrinkage or expansion of any type.

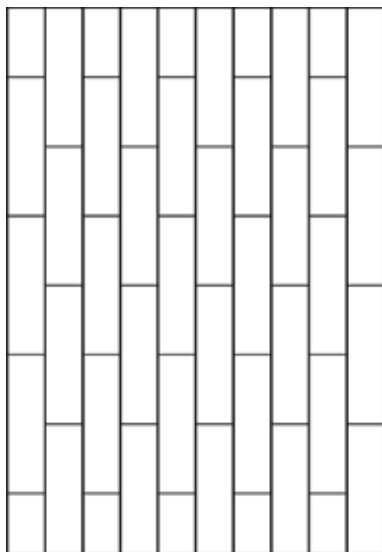
Layout

Plan:

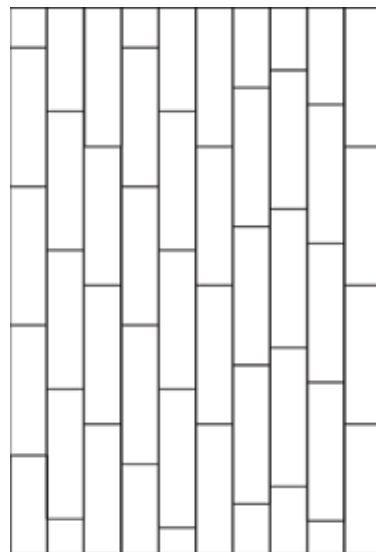
1. Before you start with the installation, it is important to determine the layout of the flooring. Proper planning and layout will prevent having narrow plank widths at wall junctures or very short length pieces at the end of rows.

2. To minimize pattern repeats in the floor, always pull from at least three cartons of flooring while installing and pay attention to the pattern on the planks. For best aesthetics, make sure to not place planks with the same pattern too close together. A "random look" actually has to be installed very intentionally.

Uniform:



Random:



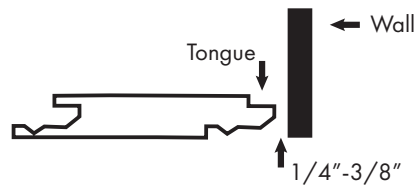


Align with Longest Wall:

4. Sound-Tec flooring is more dimensionally stable than typical floating wood or vinyl based flooring products. Acclimation of Sound-Tec flooring is generally not required. However, Sound-Tec flooring subjected to extreme hot or cold conditions can cause the material to become too flexible or rigid, making the material difficult to install and potentially causing damage to the locking system. Optimum material temperature range for installation is 50F - 90F.

Layout the First Row

1. Installation of the product must start from the left side of the room, working to the right.
2. Lay the first full piece with the long tongue side facing the wall.



3. Install the subsequent piece in the first row by first angling the tongue down into the receiving groove to align the edges then lay the plank flat so the end joints come together tightly. Continue row and cut last piece to fit, maintaining the necessary expansion gap.

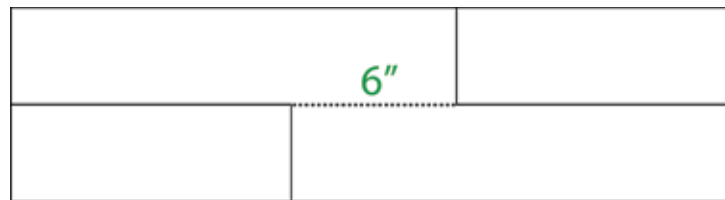


4. The planks should come together nicely, but to be sure, gently use a pull bar and tap the end of the second plank towards the first plank to ensure a tight fit.
5. Use spacers along all sides that butt up against walls to maintain a 1/4" - 3/8" expansion zone.
6. Continue laying planks in the first row in this fashion until you need to cut the last piece.

7. Measure the distance between the wall and the face surface of the last plank. Subtract $3/8"$, and cut the plank.
8. If this distance is less than $6"$ go back to the first full plank and cut approximately $6"$ from the end closest to the starting wall. This will leave a longer piece at the end of the first row.

Laying Remaining Rows

Whenever practical, use the piece cut from the preceding row to start the next row. End joints of all planks should be staggered $6"$ or more.



1. Working left to right, place the long edge of a new plank into the receiving groove of the plank in the previous row. Angle down and lay plank flat. Maintain a minimum end joint stagger of $6"$ throughout the installation process.



2. Work the tongues of the planks into the receiving grooves of adjoining planks by first connecting the short edges followed by the long edges. Continue until the plank lays flat and the joints are tight. If small joint gaps appear, close them by gently using a tapping block and hammer. Install the remaining material, one row after the other. Always press, tap and square as you go.





3. Continue installing full planks in the second and subsequent rows in this way.
4. The last row in the installation may need to have some width cut off it.
5. Remember to use a 1/4" - 3/8" spacer against the wall to ensure the correct gap needed for expansion.

Cutting

When using a Hand Saw:

1. Cut with the decorative side of the plank facing up.
2. Use a square to keep your cut line straight.

When using a Power Saw:

1. A good quality carbide-tipped cutting blade that has been designed for composition and laminate materials such as melamine, core-board, or other hard, dense, man made materials is recommended.
2. Cut with the decorative side of the plank facing up.
3. Use a square to keep your cut line straight.

Install Moldings Baseboards / Base shoe

1. Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips. Make sure that no plank will be secured in any way to the sub floor. Sound-Tec needs to be able to expand / contract based on various atmospheric conditions. Do not fasten wall moldings to the planks.



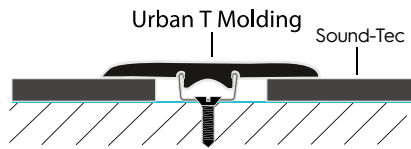
Other Moldings

T-Molding:

Use T-Moldings on any continuous run of over 40 feet.

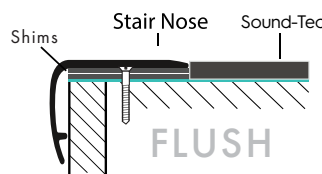
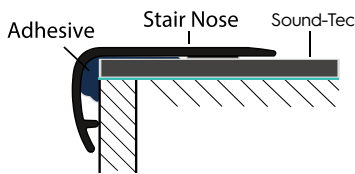
Wood Door jambs: Use T-Moldings at every door threshold when there is a run of 40' or more. Undercut all door jambs so the Sound-Tec product can free float and has at least 1/4" for expansion on all sides.

Metal Door jambs: Use T-Moldings at every door threshold. Allow the planks to free float under moldings.



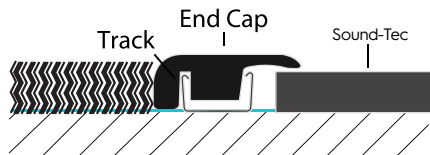
Stair Nose:

Use a Stair Nose to round the edge of a stair.



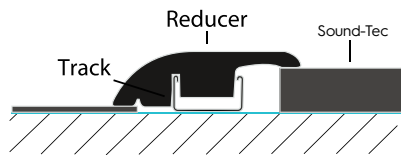
End Cap:

Use an End Cap to transition from laminate to carpet, fireplaces, sliding doors or to end a floor.



Reducer:

Use a Reducer to smoothen a gap between two floors that are not level.



Cabinets:

Install permanent cabinets, vanities, inland counters and similar items first, then fit Sound-Tec around them, leaving a space for expansion and contraction.

Caulking:

Do not caulk in the floor around the perimeter as this does not allow for the movement that the floor requires. Use silicon caulking at doorways or wet areas that remain flexible, allowing product to contract and expand freely.

Proper Moldings:

Use proper moldings such as end-caps, reducers, T-moldings, tub moldings, and base shoe where necessary (next to sliding glass doors, bath-tubs, etc.)