

The logo for Sound-Tec Floating Floor features the brand name in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word "SOUND-TEC" is significantly larger than "FLOATING FLOOR". To the left of the text, there are three blue, curved lines that resemble sound waves or a stylized 'S'. The background of the page is a light gray geometric pattern of interlocking lines.

SOUND-TEC
FLOATING FLOOR

Installation Guide



TILE



Installation Guide for

Pre-Installation

Sound-Tec is a highly durable stone polymer composite (SPC) vinyl floor covering with a 100% waterproof limestone core.

Following the instructions in this guide are required to ensure your floor is attractive, long-lasting and covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

These instructions apply to both commercial and residential flooring installations.

Sound-Tec floors are intended for interior use only and are suitable for above grade, on grade, and below grade applications. **DO NOT** install in areas that are prone to flooding, or areas that are not temperature-controlled.

Sound-Tec is a floating floor and should be allowed to expand and contract freely. **DO NOT** glue, nail, or fasten to the subfloor in any way.

Permanent cabinets, vanities, islands and similar items should be installed prior to installing Sound-Tec, ensuring a 1/4" inch gap around the perimeter. Sound-Tec can be installed under vanities with legs as well as toilets; leave proper expansion space around flange and use a premium waterproof 100% silicone sealant.

Overage Allowances

Order 5-10% more flooring than square footage needed to account for cuttings and waste. Smaller rooms will require a higher percentage of overage allowance.

PROTECT your floor from exposure to direct sunlight via the use of window-treatments or UV-tinting on windows. Discoloration to Sound-Tec flooring may occur due to UV fading resulting from direct sunlight exposure.

Important

Sound-Tec is a waterproof floating floor, but it should not be used to seal an existing floor from moisture. It cannot inhibit the growth of mold or prevent structural problems associated with, or caused by flooding, excessive moisture, alkalis in the subfloor, or conditions arising from hydrostatic pressure. Regardless of location, always remove standing water, urine and other liquids promptly. Job site moisture issues should be addressed and corrected prior to installation.

Product Inspection

Please contact our Customer Service Department at (800) 492-8722 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the installation and/or care & maintenance of Sound-Tec flooring, so as to ensure that you do not engage in any actions that might void the limited warranty.

Check whether your Sound-Tec flooring is in its original packaging and free from any visible damage or defects. Inspect all material for correct color, design, size and quantity to finish the job.

Installer/Owner assumes all responsibility to inspect all flooring before installation. It is the responsibility of the installer/homeowner to determine if the job site conditions and sub-floor are acceptable for the installation of Sound-Tec floors. Prior to installation, the installer/owner must determine that the jobsite meets or exceeds all applicable World Floor Covering Association Installation Guidelines.

Urban Surfaces does NOT warrant against failure resulting from or connected with the subfloor after installation.



TILE



Installation Guide for

Sound-Tec flooring does not generally require acclimation. Product should be stored horizontally in a dry area away from direct sunlight. If the product is subject to extreme hot or cold temperatures prior to installation, allow the product to acclimate to room temperature.

Before, during, and after installation the HVAC system must be on and functional between 50°F & 100°F (10°C & 38°C).

Locate the batch number on the end of each carton and verify that all of the boxes contain the same batch number. Minor shade variations within the same run number contribute to the natural look of Sound-Tec floors. To minimize noticeable shade variation, avoid installing material from different batches across large areas.

Randomly pull planks from three different cartons to ensure good color and shade mixture. Carefully inspect each plank for visual defects prior to installation. Do not install damaged tiles.

Warranty Note

Urban Surfaces warrants that Sound-Tec products shall be free from visual defects. **Do not install Sound-Tec products with visual defects.** The installation of defective flooring is the error of the installer. Urban Surfaces will provide replacement product for the uninstalled, visually defective material upon acknowledgement of the issue. Materials installed with a visual defect are considered accepted as is. Further info regarding warranty and claims can be found on urbansurfaces.com

LVT flooring is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit manufacturing, grading and natural deficiencies not to exceed 5%. If more than 5% of the material is unusable, do not install the flooring. Immediately contact the distributor/retailer from which the flooring was purchased.

No claim will be accepted for materials with visible defects once they are installed. Installation of any material serves as acceptance of the material delivered.

Transport, Storage, Acclimation

When transporting and storing cartons, ensure they remain flat at all times. Stack boxes no more than 8 cartons (4ft.) high. Keep away from direct sunlight. Flooring does not need to be taken out of the boxes, just opened at the ends. It is important that flooring products maintain proper temperature before, during, and after installation in order to minimize dimensional changes. The subfloor, all flooring material, and the adhesive must be conditioned at a constant temperature between 65°F (18°C) and 85°F (29°C) for 48 hours prior to, during, and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter, maintain a room temperature between 55°F (13°C) and 100°F (38°C).

Subfloor Requirements

Must be level to within 3/16" in a 10ft. (4.76mm in a 3m) span; no bumps or low spots. Subfloors should not slope more than 1" per 6ft. (25mm per 1.8m).

Must be clean: no construction debris, soil, mud or any other objects on or adhering to the floor; if necessary, scrape and sweep away before the installation; no protrusions of nails, debris, or metals should remain.

Must be free from moisture-related conditions that can damage the installed flooring.

Be structurally sound without deflection.

Warranty Note

The installation of flooring over an improperly prepared sub-floor is the error of the installer, therefore, no extra labor, material or shipping costs will be paid by Urban Surfaces due to installation errors.

Moisture

Moisture requirements vary by subfloor. Test all concrete subfloors for moisture content and document the results. Visual checks are not reliable. Moisture must still be checked even though Sound-Tec is waterproof in order to protect surrounding structure. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near walls containing plumbing, near foundation walls and in the center of the room.

Warranty Note

Urban Surfaces will not assume responsibility for floor covering failure due to hydrostatic pressure or excessive moisture vapor emission. The Limited Warranties do not cover issues arising from flooding, leaking plumbing or appliances, water entering through sliding glass doors, presence of mold, discoloration from mold or fungi, or similar conditions.

Crawl Spaces

Concrete slab or ground must be dry. Ensure that crawl spaces have open vents year-round to ensure proper air circulation and prevent moisture build-up. Crawl space clearance between the earth and underside of joists should be no less than 18" (45.7cm) and the perimeter vent area should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space or as mandated by code.

Acceptable Subfloor Types

It is possible to install Sound-Tec Floors over many existing floor coverings, provided they are stable and firmly fixed. Existing flooring cannot be soft, damaged or loosely laid. Please remove carpet, needle felt, cushion vinyl, floating laminate and floating hardwood. You may install directly over ceramic tiles, PVC, VCT, glued laminate, glued hardwood and fixed wooden boards, provided they are installed over a wooden subfloor.

Existing floors must be firmly attached to the structural floor. Fill in grout lines larger than ¼" (6mm) on ceramic tiles, terrazzo, quarry tiles, and similar floors with a cementitious leveling and patching compound. Install over one layer of vinyl only.

Radiant Heating System

Ensuring stable job site conditions, subfloor suitability and proper acclimation are especially important when installing over a radiant heat system. It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to ensure that the recommended environmental conditions are met for installation.

Refer to your radiant heat system manufacturer to determine its compatibility with vinyl flooring, and to learn the specific requirements for installation. It is recommended that the user consult with the radiant heating provider for best practices, installation methods and proper subfloors.

In-floor radiant components must be a minimum of ½" (13mm) below flooring. Floor surface temperature should never exceed 85°F (29°C). Heating system should be operational for at least two weeks prior to installation to calibrate temperature settings. Flooring cannot be laid directly over radiant heating mats. 3 days prior to installation lower the temperature to 65°F (18°C), after installation

gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5°F to avoid overheating.

Wood (Plywood, OSB, Particleboard, Chipboard, Solid Hardwood, Luan) Subfloors

Subfloors must be securely fastened. If leveling is needed, sand down high spots and fill in low spots with a Portland based leveling compound.

Wood subfloors must be A.P.A approved with a minimum grade of “BB” or “CC”. For reference, A.P.A. is the acronym for an organization originally known as the “American Plywood Association”, and that is now known as “The Engineered Wood Association”.

Perform moisture tests using a reliable moisture meter in multiple locations. Moisture readings should never exceed 14% for plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, and solid hardwood subfloors. If moisture readings exceed 14%, it should be corrected at the job site before installing Sound-Tec floors.

Sound-Tec must not be directly installed over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. An additional layer of ¼” thick underlayment should be installed over treated plywoods before Sound-Tec is laid.

Differences in the thickness of wood panels should be corrected and brought to a smooth, flat surface as specified by the floor flatness requirement.

DO NOT apply sheet plastic over wood subfloors.

DO NOT install over sleeper floor construction.

Sleeper floors can create moisture issues beneath the sub-floor that will be trapped by the Sound-Tec flooring’s waterproof properties. This can lead to mold, mildew, or even wood rot of the sleeper floor construction.

Concrete Subfloors

The final responsibility for determining that the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the installer.

High spots can be removed by grinding; depressions can be filled with patching compound formulated for use in floor installation.

Cure for at least 90 days (applies to newly-laid concrete slabs). Can be either sealed or unsealed. Between 7 and 9 alkalinity when performing pH test (ASTM F710).

Moisture content should meet one of the following criteria:

- 4% max. when tested using Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter.
- Less than 8 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. per 24 hours MVER (Moisture Vapor Emission Rating) when using Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F1869).
- 85% max. when performing Relative Humidity Testing (ASTM F2170).
- Slabs on or below grade must be free of hydrostatic pressure.

Important

Sound-Tec floors are waterproof, however moisture intrusions from concrete hydrostatic pressure, flooding, or plumbing leaks, along with high levels of alkalinity, can affect the floor over time. Moisture can also be trapped below the flooring where mold or mildew can grow. The installer/owner is responsible for making sure the concrete moisture and alkalinity are suitable prior to installing this floor.

Non-Approved Subfloors

- Carpeting/Carpet Pad
- Cushioned Vinyl Flooring
- Floating Floors
- Laminate
- Parquet Over Concrete
- Cork
- Eng. Hardwood
- Sleeper Substrates
- Rubber

Remove the floors noted above and remove old adhesive before installing.

Caution

If you contemplate the removal of a resilient floor covering structure that contains (or is presumed to contain) asbestos, you must review and comply with all applicable regulations.

Caution

Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphalt “cutback” adhesive, or other adhesive. These products may contain 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 bodily harm.

Caution

Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. See “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” (rfci.com) for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

Available Moldings

All coordinated moldings and transitions are available for all Sound-Tec products. Follow molding installation instructions for proper installation.

Visit www.urbansurfaces.com/moldings to buy or learn more about available moldings.

Underlayments

Sound-Tec products already have attached pad underlayments. No other underlayments are necessary. Leggett & Platt’s Whisper Step® may be used with Sound-Tec products in order to achieve a higher sound rating. Please follow the manufacturer specifications. The installer/owner is responsible for making sure the underlayment is suitable prior to installing this floor.

Visit www.urbansurfaces.com/accessories to buy or learn more about available underlayment.

Installation Tools

- Razor Knife
- Tape Measure
- Rubber Mallet
- Straight Edge
- Eye Protection
- Pencils
- Broom
- Nylon Pads
- 1.4” (6mm) Spacers
- Tapping Block
- Coordination Transitions
- Gloves
- Tapping Block
- Level

Whether you’re a pro or DIY homeowner, installing Sound-Tec flooring couldn’t be easier. No power saws needed; Sound-Tec scores and snaps with a simple utility knife. Fast and easy floating click-lock installation without all the sawdust and mess! Follow the instructions in this guide and see how easy it is to do it yourself.

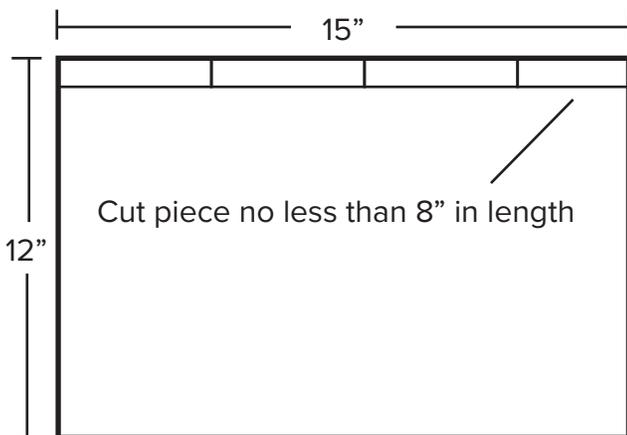
Note: Due to the nature of Sound-Tec, it is acceptable to use the score and snap method for your end cuts. It is still recommended to use a table saw for any rip cuts.

Installation

Measuring

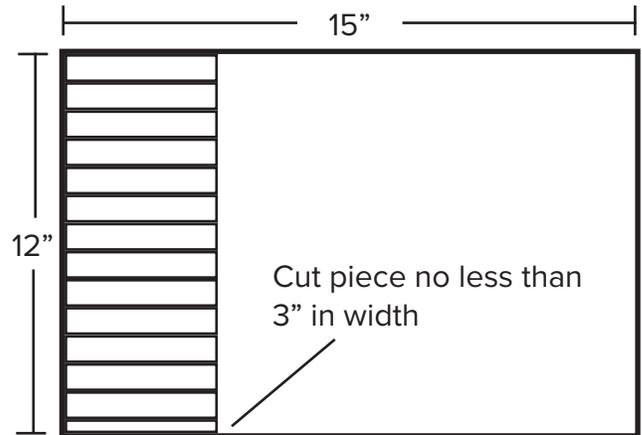
First, lay a row of loose planks without securing them to each other. This will help you determine the width of the first and last plank to avoid end pieces that are less than 8". Alternatively, measure the length of the room and divide by the length of 1 plank. If the remainder is less than 8", trim a piece of your first plank to ensure that there is a minimum of 8" on each side of the wall.

Then, lay a row of loose planks in the opposite direction. Follow the same instructions to determine if you need to also adjust the width of your first or last row to ensure each one is no less than 4" in width or 1/3 of the plank width.



Cutting

To cut a plank, simply measure and mark the plank with a pencil. Then, use a straight edge and utility knife to score and snap. You will also need to back-cut the under pad on the bottom of the plank. If you have difficulty using this method, you can use a jig saw, circular saw or miter saw.



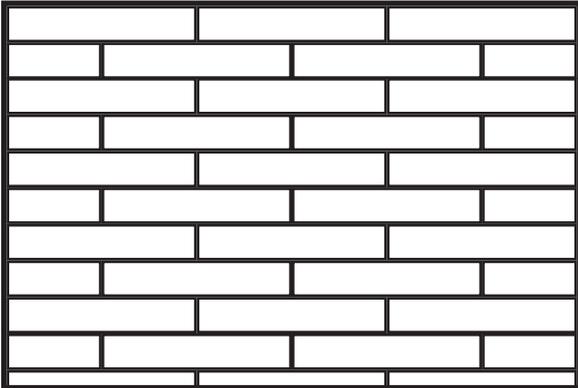
Tip

For cutting around irregular objects use the original packaging of the Sound-Tec box to cut out a rectangle equal to the size of the plank. Use the cardboard as a template to trace on and cut to fit around pipes and other irregularities. Place the cardboard pattern on a plank, trace the outline and cut along the traced lines.

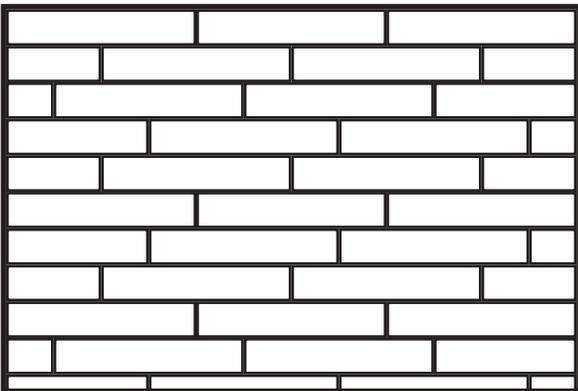
Patterns

In each box of Sound-Tec, there will be pattern repeats. For a more natural look, always pull planks from at least three boxes of flooring as you prepare to install. Look closely at the pattern of each plank and space them out before laying them out. This will prevent planks with the same pattern from being too close together and ensure the overall appearance of your flooring meets your expectations.

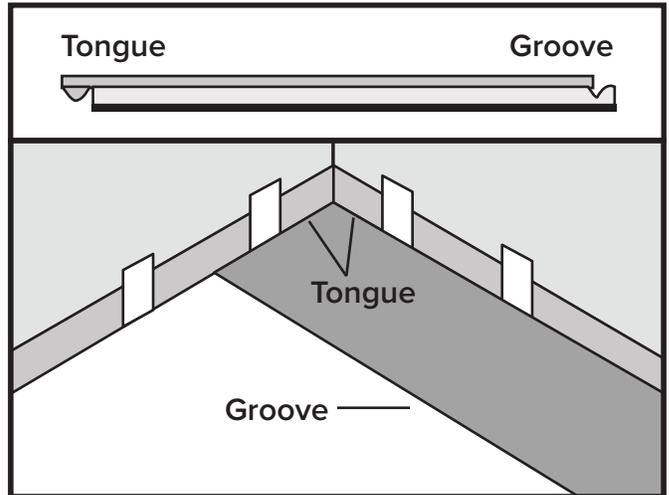
For the best aesthetics of wood-style Sound-Tec planks, lay flooring in a random look. For Sound-Tec tile, lay boards so that the joints are staggered in the middle of the preceding row's tiles. This is often referred to as a "subway" style installation.



Subway



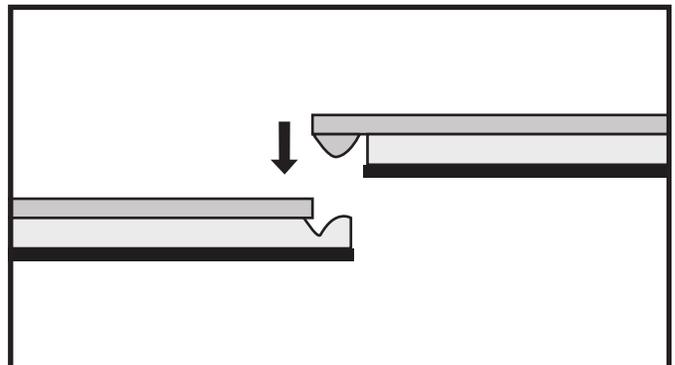
Random



First Row

Starting from the left with the tongue-side facing the wall, carefully place the first board in place, using spacers to leave a 1/4" expansion gap between wall and edges of the plank. Install the second piece by aligning the butt end with the end of the first piece. Softly drop the second piece down until the tongue and groove lock together to secure the joint on the ends.

Using a rubber mallet tap the edges to secure each connection. Continue in this manner until reaching the final board in the first row. Cut the final board piece to length and install it in the same manner as the previous piece.



Spacers

Find your starting wall and set 1/4" (6 mm) spacers. Start in the left hand corner and work left to right with the "groove" edge facing to the right and away from the starting wall. Place spacers along the wall every 8"-12".

If the installation area exceeds 50 feet, a greater expansion space is required; approximately 1/16" for every additional ten (10) feet. If the floating installation flows into other rooms, a T-molding must be used in doorways and openings between rooms (halls, archways, etc.) to allow separate areas to move without interference.

Tip

When installing around pipes, drill the hole 3/4" larger than the diameter of the pipes.

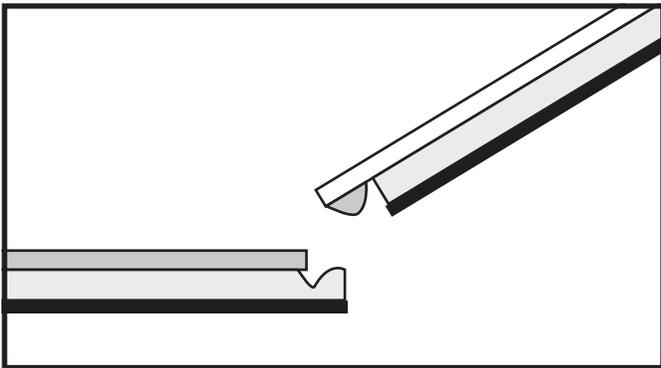
Caution

DO NOT angle the planks as this will damage the clip system.

DO NOT lift planks once the clip has been engaged.

Second Row

If the cut plank from your last row is at least 8" in length, it can be used as a starter piece in another row. If the cut plank is shorter than 8" do not use it. Instead, begin with a new board that is at least 8" in length and allows 8" between the end joints on the adjacent planks.



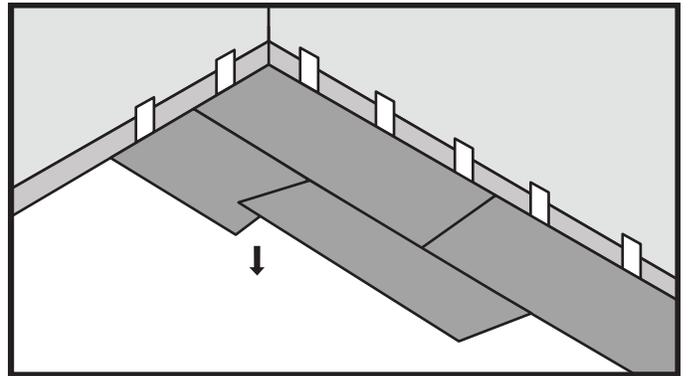
Position the first board in place by angling it up slightly, pushing forward and interlocking the side tongue. The long side of the plank should fit snug with no gapping. Install the second plank in the second row by aligning the butt ends of the first and second plank and dropping the groove of the second plank into the tongue of the first plank. Carefully inspect the long edge and short ends of the plank for any gapping before moving on to the next plank. Using a rubber mallet tap the edges to secure each connection. If you notice a gap, STOP, and reinstall the board to ensure a snug fit. Install the remaining boards and rows in the same manner.

Tip

Whenever practical, use cut pieces from previous rows as the starter board to reduce waste,

however, it is a best practice when doing this to not create a repeating pattern. For a natural look rows and patterns should be staggered. Maintain proper spacing (at least 8") between end joints for best appearance.

Last Row



The last row may need to be cut lengthwise (ripped). Make sure the ripped piece is at least 3" or 1/3 the size of the overall width of the plank. Place the last row of boards to be fit on top of the last row of installed boards. Use a piece of plank or tile as a scribe to trace the contour of the wall. Mark where the board will be cut. If the fit of the wall is simple and straight, simply measure for the correct fit and cut.

Tip

After boards are cut, position boards and tap all joints (long AND short ends) with the rubber mallet.

Toilets

1. When installing ULV in restrooms, toilets will need to be removed. (The steps for removing the toilet are not the expertise of Urban Surfaces).
2. Once the toilet has been removed, use the same method of cutting around irregular objects to cut around the wax ring.
3. Re-install toilet per toilet manufacturer's instructions.

Finishing The Job

Remove spacers. Cover expansion spaces with quarter round or other trim, being sure not to trap or pin down the floor. Nails should go into the wall, not the floor.

Remember, the use of coordinating T-Moldings is required when installing Sound-Tec in a room or area that is larger than 50 linear feet in any direction, so that the floor is separated into sections that are no larger than 50ft. x 50ft. per section.

Save and protect any leftover tiles. Do not discard, as they are colormatched (by dye-lot) to your floor. They can be used for replacement in the event you need to replace a tile in the future.

Sealing the perimeter

The following is optional for superior wetness protection.

Sound-Tec planks are made of waterproof materials and form a watertight seal when clipped together properly. However, Urban Surfaces does not accept liability for water damages including any mold, mildew or flood damage. Preventative measures can be taken when installing in a wet area (bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, etc.) to protect from water seeping underneath the perimeter of the flooring.

To seal the edge of the floor, fill in the 1/4" expansion gap with 1/4" foam backer rod (aka "caulk saver"). Then run a thin bead of permanently flexible mold resistant silicone over the top of the backer rod. Wearing a disposable glove, run your finger across the bead of silicone to flatten and ensure that it seals from the edge of the plank, over the backer rod, and to the edge of the wall. **Do Not** fill in the expansion gap completely with silicone or to allow the silicone to get underneath the planks edge.

To prevent the silicone from running underneath the planks, the backer rod should completely fill in the expansion gap. If the gap is not being adequately filled by 1/4" backer rod, use 3/8" backer rod ensuring that it is flush with the planks and able to be covered by a baseboard or other molding. If a 1/4" backer rod does not fit, your expansion gap is too small and must be adjusted to a 1/4". Installing the base molding while the silicone is still wet will seal the base to the flooring. If the base is waterproofed with a waterproof paint or coating then this will aid in creating a coving affect which will keep excess water from spills or other incidents on top of the flooring allowing for easy clean up and preventing water from seeping under the edges.

Installing on Stairs

To install Sound-Tec on stair treads and risers:

1. Determine if the Sound-Tec planks will be installed on the treads alone, or both the tread and riser.
2. Apply Urban 3020 flooring adhesive to the stairs and risers with a 1/16" square notch trowel to the areas receiving Sound-Tec planks.
3. Allow adhesive to dry to the touch. Press your thumb into the glue and give it a twist. If the glue is tacky and does not come up on your thumb, you can continue with install. If it comes off on your thumb, it's too wet, wait 30 minutes and then check again.
4. Press planks into the adhesive starting with the treads first, followed by the riser.
5. Use a hand roller to apply pressure to planks to ensure they are firmly embedded into the adhesive.
6. Use a stair nose molding at the leading edge of the stair treads. (See the full molding installation guide on urbansurfaces.com.)
7. Use a colored caulk to fill in the seam where the treads and risers meet if desired.

Note: LVT adhesives are often not suitable for bonding to OSB plywood, as the surface is not always even and resins in the material make it difficult to bond to. OSB must be underlayment quality, smooth and level, and may require a bond promoter/sealer in order to be bonded to.

After Install/Floor Care Maintenance

Please see the maintenance guide for cleaning instructions.

DO NOT drag furniture across the floor, use felt pads on chair and furniture legs. Keep pet's nails trimmed to avoid excess scratching. Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. DO NOT use vacuums that use a beater bar, or turn beater bar off. Place quality walk-off mats at all entrances to retain tracked in dirt, grit and moisture, never use latex or rubber backed mats as they can permanently stain the floor. Area rugs are also recommended in front of kitchen sinks and in high traffic areas.

Although the Sound-Tec Flooring is waterproof, it is still a best practice to avoid excessive moisture on the floor. Therefore, we recommend soaking up spills immediately using a dry towel or dry mop. Limit direct sunlight on floor by using curtains and blinds in areas that are exposed to high UV rays. Heating units or non-insulated ductwork close to the flooring or subfloor may cause "hot spots" which must be eliminated prior to installation.

Caution

Heavy furniture (500+ lbs.) may obstruct the free, natural movement of a floated floor. Restricting this movement in certain areas can lead to problems such as buckling or separation when the floor experiences natural expansion and/or contraction.