



**Installation Instructions**  
For Assistance,  
Call: 1-877-630-1800  
For latest revision, visit  
Homedepot.com/lifeproof

**Product Description**  
Waterproof  
Hardwood SPC  
Flooring  
5Gi Locking System

**Grade Levels**  
Above Grade / On Grade  
Below Grade

**Warranty**  
Limited Lifetime  
Residential Warranty

**Installation Method**  
Floating

**CAUTION: ASBESTOS IN EXISTING FLOOR:** Lifeproof product does not contain asbestos. Existing installed resilient flooring and asphaltic adhesive may contain asbestos fillers or crystalline silica. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead-blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic “cutback” adhesive or other adhesive. See “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” (rfci.com) for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

**WARNING:** Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood)

## Safety and Health Precautions

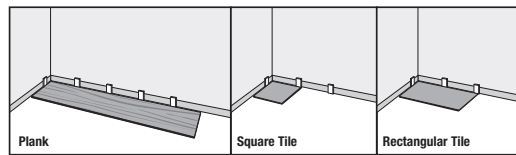
Power tools can be dangerous. Operate in strict accordance to manufacturer’s operating instructions and safety precautions. Unsafe and improper use can cause serious injuries. Avoid inhalation and exposures to dust by mechanical means and by wearing personal protective equipment. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes NIOSH or OSHA-approved dust masks, safety goggles and work gloves.

## Warranty

This flooring product comes with a manufacturer Lifetime Limited Residential Warranty. For the warranty to be effective, the flooring must be installed and maintained according to manufacturer’s installation instructions and maintenance guide. The warranty applies to the original purchaser of the flooring for the duration of the stated warranty from date of purchase. It guarantees the original purchaser that (1) the finish surface will not wear through from normal foot traffic, and (2) the floor will resist damage due to moisture from general cleaning and water spills when removed within 24 hours or reasonable amount of time. The warranty excludes damages resulting from outside the normal conditions including but not limited to: Scratches and dents from sharp objects, shoes with spikes and cleats, environmental conditions including excessive humidity or extreme temperatures, mold/ mildew, appliance leaks, natural disasters, Acts of God and damages which are generally covered by casualty insurance. For more detailed warranty terms, coverage and exclusions, please visit [homedepot.com/lifeproof](http://homedepot.com/lifeproof).

## Product Description

The procedures and illustrations in this manual apply to plank, square tile and rectangular tile floorings.



## Pre-Installation

### OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

The owner is advised to be at home during the installation for consultation/direction. The owner and installer should discuss installation and layout to maximize satisfaction. If this is not possible, consultation should be done prior to installation. Installers should be familiar with installation guidelines from National Wood Flooring Association ([woodfloors.org](http://woodfloors.org)). The owner/installer assumes all responsibility for product quality of completed installation. **PERFORM PRE-INSTALL INSPECTION. OPEN UP TO 4 BOXES PRIOR TO INSTALLATION AND EXAMINE COLOR, FINISH AND QUALITY OF EACH PLANK CAREFULLY. IF YOU ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE MATERIAL, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE RETAILER PRIOR TO INSTALLATION. INSTALLATION OF THE FLOOR INDICATES THE OWNER’S ACCEPTANCE OF THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCT.**

Prior to installation, arrange planks from several boxes to ensure even distribution of colors, shades and characteristics in the installed flooring.

Purchase flooring to be installed in one large area at the same time. Product purchased at a later time than the first purchase may vary beyond your expectations.

Accessories, trims and moldings are manufactured to coordinate with the varied appearances of the floor planks. Any exact matches are coincidental. Non-matching accessories are not defective products.

This product is manufactured according to strict quality standards. In the event that defects are discovered in the field, the industry standards permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. Order an additional 5% extra for cutting wastage and grading allowances (10% for diagonal installations). During installation, inspect the planks continuously. Defects that can be seen from a standing position should be cut off or held out. Installing defective planks implies acceptance.

Squeaking and clicking noises are the result of interactions among flooring, joists and subfloors when they move. Limiting the movements of the flooring system usually eliminates most of these noises. Sometimes, it is impossible to eliminate them completely and minor squeaking or clicking noises are to be accepted as normal flooring phenomenon.

Minor scratches can generally be repaired with the use of putty, stain or filler. It is an industry standard practice of flooring installation and it should be accepted as normal by the home owner.

To assure the warranty is not inadvertently voided, before proceeding with any activity that is not covered in this manual, please contact our Customer Support Team at 877-630-1800.

### CONCRETE SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Concrete subfloors must:

- Have minimum rated strength of 3000 psi.
- Be level to within 1/8 in. in a 6 ft. span or 3/16 in. in a 10 ft. span; no bumps or low spots. High spots can be removed by grinding; depressions can be filled with patching compound formulated for use in floor installation.
- Be clean; no construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; if necessary, scrape and sweep away before the installation; no protrusions of nails, debris, metals should remain.
- New concrete slab must cure for at least 60 days. It must have a minimum 10 mil polyethylene sheet between the ground and the concrete.
- Be free from moisture related conditions which can damage the installed flooring.
- pH value must be between 7 - 9.

### CONCRETE MOISTURE

Test all concrete subfloors for moisture content and document the results. Visual checks are not reliable.

Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near walls containing plumbing, near foundation walls and in the center of the room. Minimum sample size is 3 samples per 1000 sq. ft. of area and one test for every additional 1000 sq. ft. thereafter. Moisture content should meet one of the following criteria:

- 5% when tested using Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter.
- Less than 3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. per 24 hours when using Calcium Chloride test (ASTMF1869).
- 85% when using Relative Humidity Testing (ASTMF-2170).

**NOTE:** Concrete moisture content may be acceptable the time of the test. These tests do not guarantee a perpetual “dry” concrete slab. The concrete slab moisture content can vary at other times of the year. We are not responsible for moisture-related damage to installed flooring.

### WOOD SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

The subfloor must be clean; no presence of construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; no protrusions of nails, debris, or metals should remain. If necessary, scrape and sweep the subfloor before the installation.

The subfloor must be structurally sound and stable; no movements or squeaks; no loose panels or loose nails; no signs of ply de-lamination or other damages. Repair all shortcomings before installation.

The subfloor must be flat; no visible bumps or low spots; the subfloor should be flat to within 1/8 in. in 6 ft. span or 3/16 in. in 10 ft. span. Test for moisture using a reliable moisture meter. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near foundation walls, near walls containing plumbing lines and in the center of the room. Measure 20 locations per 1000 sq. ft. Moisture content of the subfloor should be less than 12%.

### PLYWOOD OR ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB) SPECIFICATIONS

On truss/joist spacing of 16 in. (406 mm) O/C or less, the industry standard for single-panel subflooring is a minimum 5/8 in. (19/32 in., 15.1 mm) CD Exposure 1 plywood subfloor panels (CD Exposure 1) or 23/32 in. OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4 ft. x 8 ft. sheets. Expansion gap between panels should be 1/8 in. (3 mm). If panels are not tongued and grooved and there is not sufficient spacing or is inadequate, cut in the required spacing with a circular saw. Do not cut in expansion space on tongue and groove panels.

### PARTICLE BOARD OR FIBER BOARD

Only for floating installation.

### EXISTING FLOORS

Installation over existing floors requires the installer to ensure the existing floor meets the subfloor requirements for either concrete or wood above.

Acceptable floor coverings include: solid hardwood, linoleum, terrazzo, ceramic tile and other “moisture sealing floors.”

Unacceptable floor coverings include: carpet, needle punch felt, edge glued linoleum and other “moisture absorbing flooring.”

### JOB SITE CONDITION

Prior to installation, the installer must ensure that at the time of installation, the job site conditions including subfloor/substrate, ambient temperature and relative humidity, and all impacting variables will not negatively affect the floor. The manufacturer will decline responsibility for damages associated with improper installation or poor site conditions.

### STORAGE AND CONDITIONS

Do not store flooring in uncontrolled environmental conditions. For example, garages and exterior patios are not acceptable areas to store flooring. Handle and unload flooring with care and store within the environmentally controlled site in which it is expected to perform. Flooring stored on a concrete slab should be elevated at least 4 in. to allow air circulation under cartons. Do not allow boxes to bend, support as necessary. Stack box one on top of another.



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## EXISTING HOME

An existing home should have a consistent room temperature of 60°F-85°F and relative humidity (RH) of 40%-60%. Continual deviation from these conditions will affect the dimensions of flooring. When using a heater during winter months, humidity may be much lower than the acceptable range. A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage in flooring due to low humidity levels. During the warmer months, maintain humidity levels using an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically.

## NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REMODEL

All work involving water, such as pouring basement concrete floors, drywall and plasterwork, plumbing, etc. must be completed well in advance of the floor delivery. Ensure that the building is enclosed. Where building codes allow, permanent heating and/or air conditioning systems should be operating at least five days preceding installation and should be maintained during and after installation. If it is not possible for the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system to be operating before, during and after installation, a temporary heating and/or dehumidification system that simulates normal living (occupied) conditions can enable the installation to proceed until the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system is fully operational. Your job site should have a consistent temperature of 60°F-85°F and relative humidity (RH) of 40%-60% which should be maintained continuously thereafter.

## BASEMENTS AND CRAWL SPACES

Concrete slab or ground must be dry. Ensure that crawl spaces have open vents year-round for proper air circulation and prevent moisture build up. The ground in the crawl spaces must be completely covered using 6 mil black polyethylene. Crawl space clearance between the earth and underside of joists should be no less than 18 in. and the perimeter of the vent area should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space or as mandated by code.

## RADIANT HEATED SUBFLOOR

This product can be installed over radiant heated subfloor with embedded heating elements. Heating system elements must be separated from the flooring by at least 1/2 in. distance. Heating system should be set at 70°F and run for 48 hours prior to and during the entire installation. The heating system should be run 48 hours after installation. Then it can be gradually increased over the course of 24 hours, until normal operating temperature is reached. Floor temperature should not exceed 85°F. Do not make abrupt changes in radiant heating temperatures.

## MOISTURE BARRIER and UNDERLAYMENT PADDING CONCRETE SUBFLOOR

When installing on concrete slab, it will be necessary to use a moisture barrier to prevent moisture migration. A plastic film with a minimum thickness of 6 mil should be placed with a 4 –6 in. (101.6 –152 mm) overlapped seam, and taped with a suitable tape.

## SOUND CONTROL UNDERLAYMENT

Not necessary. The floor planks have attached foam padding for sound mitigation.

## EXPANSION GAP

Required gap width range is 5/16 - 3/8 in. It is required around the perimeter of the floor and between floor and all vertical obstructions. Do not place permanently mounted structures such as kitchen counter/cabinet on the installed floor.

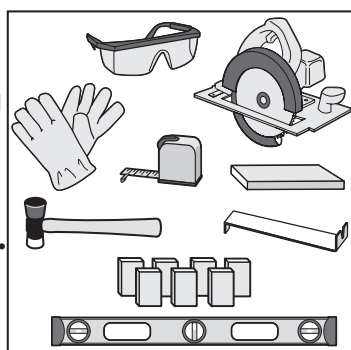
## TRANSITION MOLDING

Maximum continuous installation without transition molding is 65 lineal feet. The limit can be extended to 85 lineal feet providing the expansion gap around the perimeter and other vertical obstruction is increased to 1/2 in. wide. Required at doorways or passageways 5 ft. wide or less.

**NOTE:** Floor areas interrupted by wall openings greater than 5 ft. wide, or interrupted by wall sections extending out of the wall, or floor areas which are not rectangular may experience buckling or gapping if there is excessive floor expansion or shrinkage.

## TOOLS AND MATERIALS BASICS

Tape measure • Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both) • Chalk line & chalk • Non metal hammer • Electric power saw • Carbide tipped saw blade for fine cut • NIOSH-designated dust mask • Hand saw or jamb saw • Eye protection • Straight edge or Spacers • Pry Bar • Mallet • Broom • Color matched wood putty • Tapping block • Pull bar • Painters tape • 100% silicon • PE Foam Backer Rod



## Helpful Pointers

### GENERAL TIPS

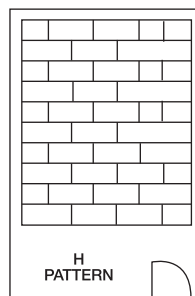
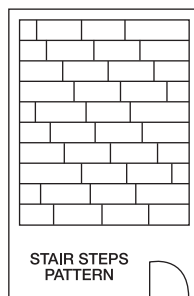
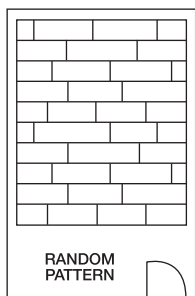
- Make sure your work area is well lit. Good visibility ensures that color is consistent and that visually defective planks are detected and removed.
- The remainder of the last plank can be used as a starter board on the following rows. The minimum length of the first and last plank needs to be longer than the width of the material being installed.
- Using a shorter piece at under cut door jams will help when fitting flooring in place.
- Never hit the flooring directly with the tapping block and be careful not to fracture floor tongue and groove.

### CUTTING THE LAST ROW TO WIDTH

- Most often the entire length of the last row will need to be cut so that it is narrow enough to fit the remaining space.
- Measure the distance between the floor face edge (exclude the tongue) to the wall. Subtract 5/16 - 3/8 in. from this measurement for expansion gap. Draw a line. Cut through the line. Discard the excess piece. Proceed with the installation.

## Preparing for Installation

- No acclimation is necessary. However, the flooring must be installed in the same conditions as the in-service conditions. Boxes should remain unopened until the planks are ready to be installed. Store unopened boxes flat and stacked on top of one another and not be allowed to bend. In-service conditions should be maintained during and after the installation. In-service temperature range is 60°F-85°F and relative humidity (RH) of 40%-60%.
- Ensure subfloors are clean.
- Lay out several cartons. Randomly arrange planks to ensure good color and shade mixture and end joint spacing. Inspect plank quality and grading. Lay out trim moldings in advance and find planks whose shade closely coordinates. Set these aside for future use.
- Remove existing base, shoe molding or threshold carefully. They can be used to cover the 5/16 - 3/8 in. expansion gap left around the edge of the room.
- Undercut doors and casings using a handsaw laid flat on a piece of flooring.
- If an underlayment is used, install it parallel to the flooring according to underlayment manufacturer instruction. Any overlap (top) should be on the same side as the groove of the flooring so that the floor planks will slide smoothly into place. Tape all seams. Secure the underlayment material as necessary to prevent excessive movement.

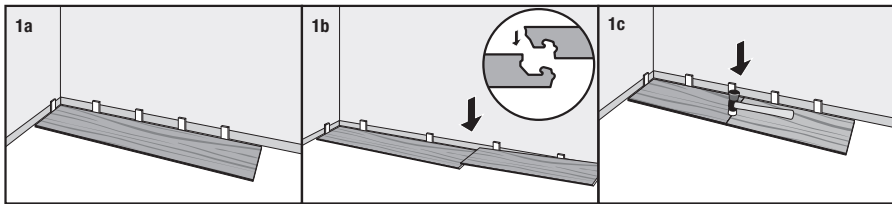


## Installation

### 1. INSTALLING THE FIRST ROW

When starting the first row, remove the tongue from the width and length of the first plank and only from the length of the subsequent planks. The starter plank will guide the expansion gap between the plank and the wall around the perimeter of the area. Use spacers to ensure there is 5/16 - 3/8 in. expansion gap around the perimeter.

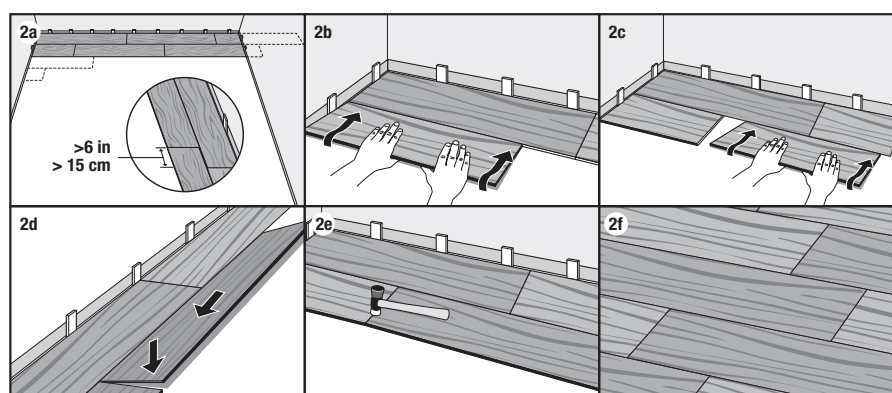
The next plank is fastened by placing the short end tongue of the following plank on top of the groove of the previous plank. Using soft headed hammer, tap the joint to lock the ends together.



### 2. INSTALLING THE SECOND AND REMAINING ROWS

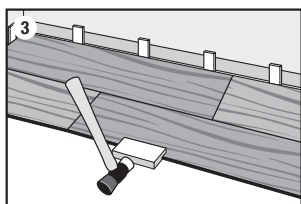
Insert the long edge tongue into the groove at a 35° - 45° angle. Slide left - right into position. Make sure the tongue is tightly engaged in the groove by applying balanced pressure in the direction of the groove. Repeat this process with the next plank. Slide to the left so the tongue and groove are on top of each other. Fold down. Lock the short ends by tapping with non-metal head hammer.

Use spacers or scrap pieces of flooring along the wall to maintain the expansion gap. Make sure there is a random stagger at the end joints of at least 6 in. apart.



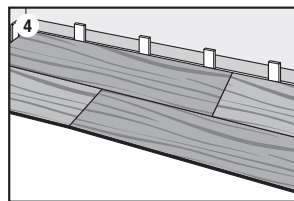
### 3. USING A TAPPING BLOCK

A tapping block is recommended to ensure there's no gapping in the installation process between rows. Follow manufacturer's instruction on how to use the tapping block properly. Proper use of tapping block protects the flooring from the hammer and allows you to set it gently into the groove of the adjacent plank.



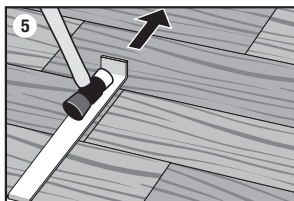
#### 4. EXPANSION GAP AND SPACERS

Continue with the installation process. Ensure the expansion gap is maintained around the entire perimeter using spacers.



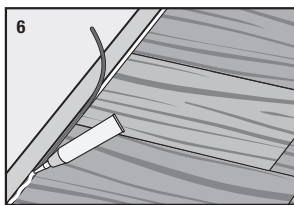
#### 5. INSTALLING THE LAST ROW

Use a pull bar to draw the last row to fit tightly to the previous row.



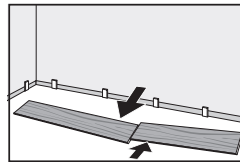
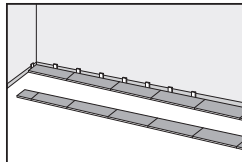
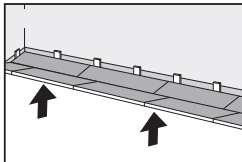
#### 6. SEALING THE WET AREA PERIMETER

In wet areas, once installation is complete, use 100% silicone sealant around the perimeter of the installed flooring. Fill the expansion gap with compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with 100% silicone sealant.



#### DIS-ASSEMBLING THE PLANKS

Separate the rows by slowly lifting up the outermost row until the lock is broken. Place the row flat on the floor. Position hands near the short end joint. Pull the planks in opposite directions.

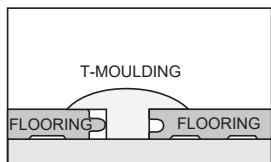


### Finishing Touches

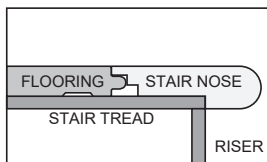
- Clean the floor.
- Use matching putty where necessary.
- Install or reinstall all wall trimpieces. Nail them through the wall, but not to the subfloor to avoid restricting the expansion gap.
- Install transition trimpieces. Nail them to the subfloor, not the flooring.
- At doorways, transitions should be used to protect the edges of the floor and to provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.
- If the floor is to be covered, use a breathable material such as cardboard. Do not cover with plastic.

### Accessories

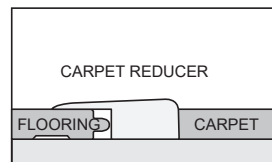
Pictures are for general description and illustrative purposes only. Actual products may differ from diagrams.



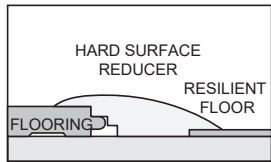
**T-Molding:** Used to create a Transition between floor coverings of similar heights or to cover an expansion gap.



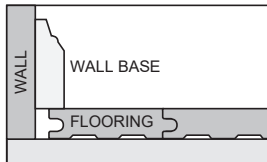
**Stair Nose:** Used in conjunction with flooring installed on stair steps or finished edges of a higher level floor like in a sunken living room.



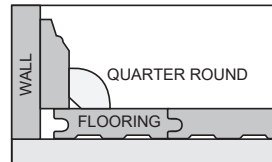
**Carpet Reducer (also called Baby Threshold or End Cap):** Used to transition floor coverings of differing heights. This reducer strip is also commonly used to border a fireplace, sliding glass door and other exterior door jambs.



**Hard Surface Reducer:** Used to transition to another hard surface flooring of different heights such as tile, vinyl, or concrete.



**Wall Base:** Used to give a finished look at the base of the walls. It can be used with or without quarter round.



**Quarter Round:** Used to cover the expansion space between the wall base and your flooring. It can also be used to make smooth transitions between the floor and cabinetry. It can be used with or without wall base molding.

### Care and Maintenance

#### DAILY MAINTENANCE

- Sweep, dust, mop, or vacuum your floor regularly to remove any particles that could cause abrasion or scratch your floor.

**CAUTION:** Vacuums with a beater bar or unshielded power rotary brush head can damage a floor and should never be used.

- Use a damp mop to remove spots and soil. Apply appropriate cleaning solution to the cleaning cloth / mop. Do NOT apply directly to the floor.
- For lightly soiled areas, clean with distilled water.
- For moderately soiled areas, use a mild solution of isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and distilled water. Dilute the mixture by mixing one part alcohol and two parts distilled water. For tougher spots, use a higher concentration of isopropyl alcohol and distilled water.
- HINT:** For best results, clean the floor in the same direction of the planks. When the cleaning cloth/mop becomes soiled, rinse or replace it with a clean one. Following up with a clean, dry cloth will remove residual streak marks and spots.
- DO NOT leave any amount of liquids (water, juice, soft drinks, spills, etc.) on the floor. Clean any wet spots immediately.
- DO NOT use a steam cleaner. Heat from steam may cause the floor plank edges to expand.
- DO NOT douse the floor with water or liquid cleaners. Prolonged standing water or puddle may leave white marks.
- DO NOT use any cleaning agents containing wax, oil or polish. Left over residue will form a dull film.
- DO NOT use steel wool or scouring powder which will scratch the floor.

#### BRANDED OR OFF-THE-SHELF FLOOR CARE PRODUCTS

If none of the above are effective and you choose to use a store bought product, test the product in a non-conspicuous area (i.e., closet, corner, or scrap pieces) for potential adverse side effects.

#### PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

- Avoid exposure of localized direct sunlight or heat source on the floor. Use UV screen on windows if necessary.
- Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances. Protective sheets and/or plywood may be needed. Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the floor.
- Place protective pads beneath furniture legs and other heavy objects.
- Avoid excessive exposure to water from being tracked in during periods of inclement weather.
- Minimize abrasive material and dirt by placing mats on both sides of exterior doors and by using area rugs in high-traffic areas.
- Rearrange furniture and rugs periodically to avoid uneven color and shade changes from light exposure.
- Use protective mats beneath rolling chairs and keep furniture casters clean.
- Keep pets' nails trimmed.
- Remove shoes with cleats, spikes or exceptionally pointy heels before walking on the floor.

#### CLIMATE MAINTENANCE

- Care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35%-55% range. Flooring dimensions will be affected by varying levels of humidity.
- Maintain temperature levels within the 60°F-80°F. High temperature variations will affect the vinyl SPC core.
- Dry Climates: A humidifier is recommended to maintain humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions during the winter months. This also will cause expansion then shrinkage in flooring.
- Humid, Wet Climates: By using an air conditioner, heater, or dehumidifier, proper humidity levels can be maintained to prevent mold or mildew.

#### FLOOR REPAIR

- Very light and small surface scratches can be repaired with a staining "touch up" pen of the appropriate color.
- Slightly deeper scratches can be repaired by means of colored putty or stains. Fill the scratches with the putty. Level with putty knife. Wipe off excess putty.
- Very deep scratches may require the replacement of the planks.