



How to install your new floor

LUXURY VINYL SPC FLOORING



Tools you'll need

To install your new floor, you'll need the following tools.

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Pencil
- Workbench or sawhorse
- Underlay and underlay tape (if needed)
- Planks or tiles of flooring
- Spacers
- Tapping block
- Rubber mallet
- Stanley knife
- Handsaw or chop saw
- Chisel (for fitting around architrave)
- Drill (for covering pipework)
- Moisture meter – the correct type for your subfloor
- Combination square
- Beading or skirting boards (to finish the look)
- Safety precautions i.e. knee pads, safety goggles, dust masks, ear defenders.

Floating Floor

In a floating floor installation, tiles connect to each other rather than being fixed to the subfloor. All of our SPC luxury vinyl tiles use a convenient click-fit system for easy installation. We recommend ensuring your subfloor is properly prepared beforehand. Each tile comes with a built-in underlay that is 100% waterproof and helps protect against mildew, mould, rot and bacteria. For best results, make sure your subfloor is clean and smooth before fitting.



SPC LUXURY VINYL TILES

This vinyl tile features a rigid limestone core, making it exceptionally strong and durable. It uses a click-lock system for floating installation and includes a 1mm IXPE underlay backing.



Check your flooring

Once your flooring arrives, we recommend opening one box to check that you're happy with the product. Some of our wood-effect vinyl flooring is designed to closely replicate the look of real wood, which means you may notice natural colour variation between planks and batches. When it comes to installation, you can enhance this authentic effect by mixing planks from different packs, creating a beautifully varied and natural-looking finish.



Acclimatise for 24-48hrs

It's tempting to start installing your new flooring as soon as it arrives, but it's important to let it acclimatise in the room for at least **24-48 hours**. This helps the vinyl adjust and reduces the risk of brittleness during installation.

To do this, lay the packs flat on the floor or in stacks, keeping them horizontal and distributing the weight evenly. Leave the planks in their packaging and maintain the room at a consistent temperature—around **20-21°C** is ideal.

Avoid exposing the flooring to drafts or extreme conditions. If you have underfloor heating, be sure to gradually increase the temperature to allow the flooring to adapt safely.



Prepare your subfloor

Before laying your new floor, you'll need to remove any existing flooring, prepare the subfloor, and ensure it is clean, dry, and level. For the best results, a concrete or wooden subfloor is recommended. Use a moisture meter to check that the subfloor is sufficiently dry before you begin.

If you have a concrete subfloor, make sure it is completely dry prior to installation. A damp-proof membrane should be laid on top to protect against moisture reaching the boards, helping to prevent expansion or buckling. Many modern underlays now include built-in damp-proof membranes for added convenience.

Any screws or nails in the subfloor should be countersunk below the surface to prevent puncturing the underlay. Remove any old adhesive and vacuum thoroughly to eliminate dust and debris.

Having a level subfloor is especially important when installing parquet flooring, so take extra care to ensure it is perfectly even for a smooth, long-lasting finish.



Choose the look

As a general rule, lay boards parallel to the longest wall for the best visual effect. It's also worth considering the shape of the room. In square spaces, aligning the boards with the direction of natural light can enhance the overall look.



It's best to install your floor as the **final step** in any renovation. Work from the top of the room toward the bottom to keep your floor safe during installation. If you're placing very heavy furniture, gluing the floor with adhesive can give it extra support.

Let's begin

FLOATING METHOD



- 1. Measure for the final row** – Before laying the planks, measure the width of the final row by dividing the total room width by a single plank's width. This will help you trim the first row so the last row is at least 60mm wide.
- 2. Add spacers** – Place spacers between the first row and the walls to create an expansion gap of at least 2mm. For underfloor heating, aim for a minimum of 5mm.
- 3. Start laying** – Begin at the longest wall, working left to right, with the tongue side of each plank facing the wall.
- 4. Stagger the planks** – Offset each plank by at least 30cm for a natural look and a strong foundation. Trim the plank at the end of each row so the cut side faces the outside wall, and use the leftover piece to start the next row.
- 5. Connect the planks** – To join the ends, place an offcut or piece of card on the edge and gently tap with a rubber mallet until the planks sit flush.
- 6. Click them together** – After the first row, connect each plank to the row before and the adjacent plank. Insert the tongue into the groove at a high angle, apply light pressure, and listen for the click. Lower the plank flat and repeat to ensure all joints are tight with no gaps.
- 7. Finish the last row** – The final row can be tricky, use a pull bar and rubber mallet to secure a snug fit.
- 8. Cure time** – Leave the floor undisturbed for 24 hours before walking on it or moving furniture back into the room.

Finishing touches

Fitting Around Pipes

Mark the position of the pipe on your board. Drill a hole at this point, then make two angled cuts from the edge of the board to the hole to create a removable wedge. Fit the board around the pipe, and glue the wedge back in place behind the pipe so the plank looks seamless.

Fitting Around Door Frames

Start by removing the door. Test-fit an offcut of flooring with a threshold bar stacked on top to ensure it will fit under the architrave. If necessary, trim the bottom of the architrave with a handsaw and chisel, and adjust the bottom of the door before refitting.

Extra Tips

Use matching skirting, beading, or threshold strips to cover expansion gaps and create a professional, seamless finish. Avoid fixing trims directly to the flooring, as this can interfere with the expansion gaps. Keep any leftover planks or cuttings for future repairs. If the expansion gap is too large for the skirting or moulding to cover, cut strips from spare floorboards and glue them into place to fill the gap.

Congratulations! Your floor is complete.



Caring for your new floor

LUXURY VINYL SPC

Care tips

- Luxury vinyl tiles are water-resistant, but it's best to wipe up any spills straight away.
- If you have pets, keep their nails trimmed to prevent scratches, luxury vinyl is scratch-resistant, but prevention is always better than cure.
- Avoid dragging furniture across the floor; always use felt pads under legs.
- Limit direct sunlight on the floor to prevent fading.
- Consider swapping shoes for slippers, especially high heels, to avoid dents.

Cleaning

- Sweep at least once a week to remove dust and dirt. Use a soft-bristled broom for a gentle touch.
- When vacuuming, choose an attachment that won't scratch the floor.
- Microfibre mops work well as they attract dirt using static rather than just moving it around.
- Mop every couple of weeks with a slightly damp mop that's well wrung out, avoid soaking the floor.
- Only use cleaning products designed for luxury vinyl tiles. If unsure, test on a hidden area first.
- Avoid vinegar, soap-based cleaners, and steam cleaners, as they can damage the surface.



If you have any questions simply contact us on **0203 835 2486** or email **sales@easystepflooring.co.uk** and one of our friendly advisors will be happy to help.