

# SAWYER <sup>C</sup> AND <sup>S</sup> SOUTHERN

## QPC

### Rigid Core

### Waterproof Flooring

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### BEFORE YOU START / PREPARATIONS

Improper installation will void warranty.

Please read all the instructions before you begin the installation.

#### Important notice

Make sure the room temperature after installation is not lower than 60°F. Extremely high or extremely low temperatures can result in the floor expanding or contracting, leading to visual defects in the floor that are not covered by the warranty.

QPC is a waterproof product, but it does not act as a moisture barrier to protect subfloors or walls from moisture. We strongly recommend the use of moisture barriers in crawl spaces and over concrete subfloors, and not doing so can void the warranty.

Before installing the floor check that the batch numbers of the supplied floor are identical (this is stated on the packaging). It is recommended that you use boxes with the same batch number per room, to avoid differences in color or gloss level in the same floor.

Do not use any damaged or irregular boards. If you use these for the flooring installation, the warranty no longer applies.

Slight color deviations cannot be avoided during the production of vinyl floors, which is why you should always mix the boards from 2 to 3 packages to achieve the best results.

- Calculate the room's surface area prior to installation and ensure that you leave 5 - 10% extra for cutting waste.
- If the packages are exposed to extreme temperatures for over 2 hours (below 55°F or above 90°F) in the 12 hours prior to installation, these packages will need to acclimatize. You should then store these at room temperature for at least 12 hours in the unopened packaging before starting installation. The room temperature must remain between 60°F and 78°F prior to and during installation, and between 55°F and 100°F after installation.
- For surfaces larger than 4000 SF or longer than 200 continuous feet (lengthwise or widthwise), you must definitely use an expansion joint. It is important that you use expansion joints every 100 feet if the room is subject to extreme temperature fluctuations.
- Inspect your subfloor before you start. This must be dry, clean and level, with a tolerance of ¼" across a length of 10 ft. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction.
- Even though QPC is waterproof, it does not act as a moisture barrier. The subfloor must be dry (max. 2.5% moisture content; anhydrite 0.7% – CM test). This product is not suitable for installation in rooms with a risk of flooding, such as saunas and outdoor areas. If no moisture barrier is used, moisture related problems are not covered by warranty.
- This product is intended for indoor use only.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. A 10 mil poly-film is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth.
- If this floor is to be installed on top of an existing wooden floor, any loose planks must be replaced and any cracks should be repaired prior to installation. We recommend laying the new floor crosswise to the existing wooden floor.
- If this floor is installed on tiles, the following conditions must be met: 1) The height difference may not be more than ¼" over a length of 10 feet. 2) The cement grout joints must be less than 3/16" wide and no more than 5/32" deep.
- Do not install on top of (this is not an exhaustive list): hardwood floors or wood subfloors that have been installed directly onto concrete, carpet, an existing vinyl floor with a soft layer, e.g. made from PU foam, a floating floor, floating parquet, loose lay or linoleum with perimeter install.
- With a floating floor you must always ensure you leave an 3/8" gap between walls and fixtures such as pillars, stairs, etc. These gaps will be covered with trim moldings after the floor is installed. QPC should be installed floating and must remain floating. It is not permitted to place built-in furniture or extremely heavy furniture on the floor. You should install the floor around the built-in furniture.
- Do not grout the gap between the skirting and the flooring. Use trim moldings or a quarter-round or a baby threshold but do not attach directly to the QPC flooring.
- Decide on the installation direction. It is recommended to install the length direction of the boards perpendicular to the window or main light source.
- Measure the space: the width of the last board should not be less than 3". If this is the case, you should adjust the width of the first row. In narrow halls it is recommended that you install the boards lengthwise parallel to the hall.
- Prior to installation, inspect all material in daylight for defects or discrepancies in color or shine; check the edges of the flooring for straightness and any damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.
- Complaints regarding color differences between the samples viewed at the distributor and the floor that was actually delivered must be notified prior to installation. Installing the floor means that you have approved the look of the boards.

## UNDERFLOOR HEATING and COOLING

- QPC can be installed on top of underfloor heating at low temperatures under the following conditions. This applies to underfloor heating in which the heating elements - hot water or electric - are encased in the screed.
- Installation on top of low temperature electric underfloor heating that is installed on top of the screed is only possible if the maximum power is below 6 W/ft<sup>2</sup> and the heat distribution is homogenous across the entire floor.
- The underfloor heating must be installed in accordance with the supplier's instructions and in accordance with general requirements and regulations. QPC should always be installed floating. At least a ¼" space must be left between the heating system and the QPC flooring.
- When using another subfloor, the heat resistance should be monitored.
- Ensure that the surface temperature is never higher than 82°F. It may not be 10°F lower than room temperature or lower than 65°F.
- When installing on recently installed underfloor heating systems: before installing QPC, switch the system to maximum power to remove moisture from the underfloor heating's cement layer. The screed moisture content percentage may not be higher than 1.5% - anhydrite: 0.5% (CM test). Switch off the underfloor heating at least 48 hours prior to installation. Ensure that the room temperature during installation is at least 60°F. After installing QPC, it is recommended that the underfloor heating is started up gradually (max. 10°F/day).
- For additional information please refer to the underfloor heating manufacturer's recommendations.
- It is important that underfloor cooling systems are equipped with a control and safety system that prevents the temperature dropping below the internal condensation point. The minimum temperature may not be below 65-72°F depending on where the floor is installed. In humid climates, 72°F is the minimum permitted temperature; in average climates 65°F is permitted.

## INSTALLATION

- Accurately measure the room to determine the centerline, adjust this established line to accommodate a balanced layout and then transpose this line to a comfortable width away from the starting wall (approximately 2' to 3' wide.) Determine if the starter row will need to cut. It will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge is toward the wall.
- A small, soft bristle brush is recommended to be used to clean the joints of each piece before attempting to lock them together.
- Starting in the farthest left, upper corner of the room position the first piece so that both the head and side seam groove is exposed. This requires installing the product from left to right in the room. Keep in mind that with a tile installation this may be a cut piece both in length and width based on the pattern layout.
- Install the second piece in the first row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first piece. Be careful not to bend the corner of the piece. Maintain an expansion gap of approximately 5/16" from the wall. Then cut a piece in half of the length to start the second row; stagger the end seam at least 6" from the first piece.
- Install the first piece in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the piece in the first row. This is best done with a low angle (20° to 30°) of the plank.
- Install the second piece in the second row by inserting the short end tongue into the previously installed piece end groove. Align the piece by sliding it towards the first row so the long side tongue tip is positioned just over the groove lip of the piece in the first row. Working from the end seam, at a low angle (20° to 30°) insert the long tongue into the groove of the adjoining piece. Very little force is required to seat the tongue into the groove. You should feel the tongue lock into the groove.
- Work across the length of the room installing pieces along the wall in the first row and then aligning the pieces in the second row. It is critical to keep these two rows straight and square, as they are the "foundation" for the rest of the installation. Check for squareness and straightness often. Use of several 5/16" spacer blocks along the first wall will ensure the proper spacing is achieved and that floor does not 'walk' back towards the wall during installation.
- Cut the last piece in the first row to fit approximately 5/16" short of the end wall. Use the cutoff of this plank to start the third row.
- Continue installing pieces, being certain to maintain a random appearance and offset end seams by at least 6". Maintain a 5/16" expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces. Check to be certain all pieces are fully engaged; if slight gapping is noticed, the gap can be tapped closed using a scrap of flooring and a tapping block.
- When fitting under door casings, etc., a flat pull bar or "last board puller" may be used to assist in locking the planks.

## MAINTENANCE

- Sweep or vacuum daily using soft bristle attachments.
- Clean up spills and excessive liquids immediately.
- Damp mop as needed and use cleaners recommended with no-wax or oil.
- Use proper floor protection devices such as felt protectors under furniture.
- Use a mat at entrance ways (please ensure the mat doesn't have rubber backing).
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, bleach or wax to maintain the floor.
- Do not drag or slide heavy objects across the floor.
- Some rubbers contain chemicals that can react with vinyl. Avoid rubber contact with the floor.