

# RIGID PLANK

## INSTALLATION, CARE & MAINTENANCE

### GENERAL

- Rigid Plank is designed for indoor applications only.
- Rigid Plank can be installed on all grade levels.
- Most installations need approximately 5% cutting allowance added to the square meterage of the room; therefore, purchase of some extra flooring materials are recommended.

- Rigid Plank should be installed when the temperature of the planks is between 10°C and 35°C.
- Rigid Plank has an underlay incorporated into its construction. There is no need for any additional underlay.
- If subfloor moisture content is high (see Subfloor Section below for acceptable ranges) a moisture barrier will need to be installed. Acceptable

- moisture barrier: 200 Micron builder plastic overlap join by 300mm and duct taped on all seams.
- If installing Rigid Plank on Yellow tongue flooring you must first install a 200 micron thickness builders plastic on top of the yellow tongue flooring. Then install the Rigid Plank Hybrid flooring onto of the builders plastic.

### SUBFLOORS

- Rigid Plank can be installed over concrete, suspended wood subfloors and fully adhered existing resilient floors (without foam or cushion backed).
- Do not install over carpet, foam backed vinyl flooring.
- All substrates must be structurally sound, dry, clean and flat with no deflection.
- Substrates must be free from moisture, dirt/dust, adhesive residue, paint, oils, solvents, other foreign matters and contaminants.
- Any unevenness or holes in the floor

- must be filled and/or leveled with appropriate products.
- Any nails and/or staples must be removed and patched accordingly.
- Cement joints between tiles or other gaps of more than 2mm in depth and 5mm in width should be levelled. Any unevenness of more than 1mm over a length of 20cm must be levelled out. The same applies to unevenness of more than 4mm over a length of 2m. Bumps should be removed by sanding or scraping. And depressions must be filled in with a dedicated floor self

- levelling compound.
- Floor heating systems (water/electricity) which are built-in the screed can be used with Rigid Plank hybrid floors if a constant room and floor temperature of minimum 18°C can be guaranteed during acclimatization, installation and 48h after installation. To avoid distortions with the Rigid Plank hybrid floors, a floor surface temperature of maximum 27°C is allowed. Rigid Plank hybrid floors cannot be installed on top of so called loose layed heating systems like electrical foils, etc.

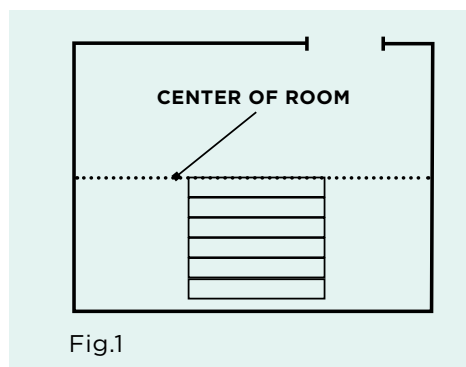
### DAMP SUBFLOORS

- Rigid Plank must be installed on dry subfloors.
- For concrete floors the moisture content must not exceed 3.5%. For wooden subfloors the moisture content must not exceed 12%.

**NB: If any subfloor shows moisture readings above these limits, then an acceptable damp proof membrane/ moisture suppression system must be applied.**

### PREPARATION

- Make sure the installation site is free of any appliances, furniture and other obstructions.
- Determine the long direction of the plank to be installed (preferably paralleled to windows where light enters the room). Find and mark the center of each of the end walls perpendicular to the plank long direction. Connect these two points by striking a chalk line. See Fig. 1



- Do a dry layout of the planks from the chalk line to check the widths of the end rows. These border rows should not be less than half of the plank width. If they are, move the starting line so that the room would be in balance and allow for larger cut piece at the ends.
- Check all planks in daylight before and during installation. Defective panels must never be used.

### INSTALLATION

- Most open plan areas can be installed without need for control joints, however it is a good idea to install control joints at doorways to allow the entire panel to expand or contract freely. This is called “compartmentalisation”. A perimeter gap of 10 mm is recommended, this will be covered with skirting, scotia or other special profiles available from your retailer. Continuous runs of flooring should not exceed 20m in the length and 20m in the width in a residential home. Excessively long hallway installs that run into large open floor plans must have a control joints installed where the hall way meets the open plan room.
- Check all panels before and during installation in optimal daylight conditions under the angle of light reflection. Defective panels must never be used. An installed plank is considered as

accepted and cannot be claimed.

- Never fix the floor. If heavy/fixed objects (ex. kitchen, kitchen island, build-in cabinets, heavy stoves, electrical accumulators, and others) are on the floor, they can fix the flooring, preventing free expansion or contraction. \*Heavy objects should be installed first and not placed on top of the Rigid Plank Hybrid flooring. \*For heavy objects with radiant heat, it is recommended to install the stove/combustion heater on the recommended hearth, and installed the Rigid Plank Hybrid flooring around the hearth and respect the 10mm perimeter gaps. The Rigid Plank Hybrid flooring must be able to move around heavy objects to avoid open joints and separating planks. The 10mm perimeter gap size must be respected around all heavy/fixed objects. A floating installation should ALWAYS stay floating!
- Rigid Plank is fitted with easy to install fold over Valinge 5G click system. This system click system has a plastic insert at the end of the female short end. This plastic insert has small plastic springs that compress during the fold over process then releases when the adjoining short ends are level with each

other. This creates a lock between both short ends of the planks.

**NB: Before installing each plank make sure that the black plastic insert is fully inserted in the ends and that either side of the insert is not protruding out from its slot. This will insure a smooth and simple installation.**

- Position the first plank so that the grooved edge is facing you.
- Put the short end of the second plank in the short end groove of the first plank with the fold-down method and push downward gently along the joint to engage the 5G click. Continue the first row installation.
- Position the long side of the first plank in the second row in the long groove of the first row with angle-angle method.
- Position the long side of the second plank in the second row in the long groove of the first row with angle-angle method.
- Position the short end of the second plank of the second row in the short groove of the first plank with the fold-down method and engage the 5G click. Continue the second row installation.
- Whenever possible, avoid having

plank joints over top of seams or joints in the existing substrate.

- For natural appearance, end joints of all planks should be installed with staggered random length. A min. of 300mm or more, is recommended to avoid repeating pattern.
- Make sure the planks are mixed sufficiently during installation so that no identical panels are installed next to one another.
- After the first 3 rows, use a string line to check for straightness. If they are not straight, the starting row of planks may have to be re-trimmed to account for any unevenness from the wall. This can be done without having to disassemble these rows.
- Finishing the installation by installing molding or wall base around the perimeters. Make sure to allow slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Use molding or equivalent where the planks meet other flooring surfaces to cover the exposed edge without pinching the planks. Make sure you leave at least 10mm expansion gap.

## **POST INSTALLATION CARE**

- When moving heavy appliances or furniture across the newly installed floor, it is recommended to use plywood panel or equivalent material to protect the floor from scuffing and gouging.
- Use proper felt or rubber floor protectors under furniture to reduce potential scratch and indentation.
- Furniture on casters/wheels must be easily turned with wide width, non-staining hard rubber wheels that are suitable for a vinyl floor. Otherwise, suitable protective mats are recommended.
- Avoid exposing floors to glowing end of a cigarette, matches or any other

similar hot sources since they may create permanent burn marks and damage the floors.

- Avoid bringing dirt, and sand indoors by using a suitable non-staining backed floormat at the door.

## **MAINTENANCE**

- Sweep or vacuum (without beater bar) the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. The frequency will depend on volume of traffic.
- All spills should be wiped up as soon as possible. Avoid using abrasive scrubbing tools/cleaners on any Rigid Plank flooring products.

• For dry maintenance, a dust mop or vacuum cleaner with a soft bristle brush only are recommended.

• For wet maintenance, use a damp mop with a diluted cleaning solution and make sure it dries completely. Avoid harsh cleaning products that may damage the floor.

• Rigid Plank products are completely waterproof, but they do not prevent the transmittance of moisture. Care should be taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of Rigid Plank to prevent the growth of mold and mildew.

**RIGID  
PLANK**

Manufactured by

 **Proline  
floors**