



# VERICORE™ & INTEGRACORE™ FLOATING LUXURY VINYL PLANK INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

## INTRODUCTION

These instructions are written as a guide to be used when installing Tarkett Flooring. These instructions, combined with our adhesives and flooring products, create a system. Utilizing this system will ease the installation process and provide the customer with a completed product that will perform to its intended purpose. Always visit [www.tarkethome.com](http://www.tarkethome.com) for the most current installation and maintenance instructions. Technical videos and tip sheets are also available. Contact Tarkett Technical Services at (800)-899-8916 with any questions.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

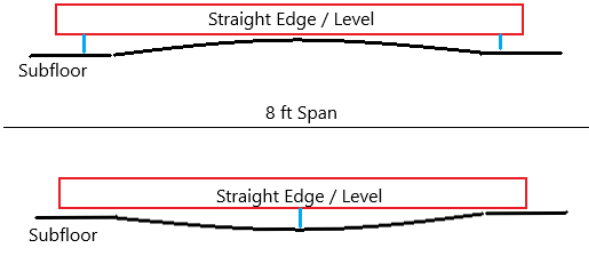
1. VeriCore & IntegraCore must be stored horizontally, on a sturdy base at all times.
2. Cartons must be stored horizontally on a sturdy base at all times.
3. Protect carton corners from damage.
4. Carefully check flooring material for any defects. Contact your supplier immediately if any defect is found.
5. VeriCore & IntegraCore floors are intended for indoor use only
6. Room temperature shall be between 65°F and 85°F (18.3°C - 29.4°C) for 48 hours before, during and after installation. VeriCore & IntegraCore does not require acclimation to the jobsite conditions prior to installation. Refer to SPECIAL NOTES section below
7. Exposure to direct sunlight can result in VeriCore & IntegraCore fading and creates excessive heat directly on the finished flooring and surrounding structure which may result in movement. During peak sunlight exposure, the use of drapes or other window treatments are recommended.
8. Remove all existing transitions, quarter round, baseboard molding, or cove base prior to beginning the installation.
9. Undercut doorway moldings to the thickness of the flooring.
10. Do not use foam padding under VeriCore & IntegraCore.

## SPECIAL NOTES

- When installing VeriCore & IntegraCore in a residential application, transition moldings are not required at egress doorways or between rooms, regardless of overall size of the installation.
- VeriCore & IntegraCore may be installed in fully enclosed spaces that do not have permanent heating and cooling systems in operation. These spaces include seasonal vacation homes, lake cabins, 3 season rooms, etc. The room temperature shall be 55° - 95°F (12° - 35°C) for 48 hours before and during the installation. The use of temporary temperature controls may be needed during this period. VeriCore & IntegraCore shall be installed in these spaces with a full 1/2" expansion gap at all vertical surfaces. **NOTE: When installing VeriCore & IntegraCore in these applications, a transition molding must be placed at egress doorways and when installations span greater than 40' in any direction.**
- When installing VeriCore & IntegraCore in Light Commercial applications a transition molding **must** be placed at egress doorways and be used when installations span greater than 40' in any direction.

## SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

Subfloor Construction	Requirements
All Subfloors	Permanently dry, clean, smooth, and structurally sound
	<p><b>Minimum substrate temperature</b> must be 60°F (15.6 °C). Substrate temperature should be a minimum of 5°F (2.8°C) higher than the ambient temperature and 10°F (5.6°C) higher than the dew point temperature.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Dew point calculators are available online. If your substrate is not 10°F (5.6°C) above the dew point, contact Technical services at (800) 899-8916</b></p>
	<p><b>Residual adhesives</b> should be mechanically removed to trace amounts and encapsulated with an approved cementitious patching compound or encapsulation. Do not use chemical adhesive removers or solvents. Always follow Resilient Floor Covering Institute's (RFCI's) <i>Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floorcoverings</i>.</p> <p><b>Caution: Some resilient flooring and adhesives contain "asbestos fibers" and special handling of this material is required.</b></p>

<p>(All Subfloors Continued)</p>	<p>Flat to within 1/8" in 8' (3.1mm in 2.4m). Any unevenness (humps or dips) must be sanded down or filled with a cement-based patching compound.</p> <p><b>EXAMPLE: Area of the BLUE line below cannot exceed 1/8" (3.1mm)</b></p> 
<p>Existing Flooring</p>	<p><b>Resilient Vinyl</b> floors must be smooth, even, non-cushioned and well-bonded to the substrate.</p> <p><b>Ceramic, Porcelain and Natural Stone</b> tiles must be smooth, even and well-bonded with a grout line depth less than 1/16" (1.6mm). If grout joint depth exceeds the maximum allowable depth, fill with Portland based patching compound following manufacturer's guidelines.</p> <p><b>Strip Wood Hard Wood</b> Floors must be smooth, even, with a maximum gap width between boards of 1/16" (1.6mm)</p>
<p>Wood Substrates</p>	<p><b>Crawl spaces:</b> All suspended wood subfloors must have at least 18" of well-ventilated air space clearance above the ground. The ground under the crawl space shall be covered with 10 mil or thicker polyethylene sheeting to reduce moisture vapor transmission.</p> <p>Wood joist or truss systems spacing must be a maximum of 16" on center. Wood or joist truss systems spacing of 16"-19.2 is acceptable for double wood layer construction</p> <p>Subfloor panels must be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dry, sturdy, smooth and dimensionally stable</li> <li>• 3/4" minimum thickness blocked or tongue and groove plywood or oriented strand board (OSB). <b>NOTE: VeriCore &amp; IntegraCore may be installed over single wood construction in residential applications only</b></li> <li>• good one side and have a fully sanded face with a solid core (no voids).</li> <li>• exterior grade or classified as Exposure I.</li> <li>• panel joints offset by at least 16" so that four corners do not meet</li> <li>• securely fastened to the joists and free from spring or deflection (should not exceed 3/63" [1.1mm] per APA Product Standard 2-10 <i>Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels</i>. If glue-nail procedures are required, use a solvent-free construction adhesive.</li> </ul> <p>Wood subfloors not meeting the above requirements must be covered with 1/4" minimum thickness underlayment grade plywood. Follow all APA and manufacturer's guidelines for installing underlayment grade plywood.</p> <p>Tarkett recommended underlayments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APA Underlayment Grade Plywood A-C, B-C, or C-C Plugged</li> <li>• ACCU-PLY</li> <li>• SurePly</li> <li>• TECPLY</li> <li>• ULAY</li> <li>• C.S.A. (CanPly) and Proboard</li> </ul>
<p>Concrete Substrates</p>	<p>A minimum 6mil polyethylene vapor retarder must be installed over the <b>on- and below-grade</b> concrete prior to installing the finish flooring.</p> <p>Approved for properly constructed and prepared on-grade, above-grade, and below-grade concrete.</p>

	<b>Constructed</b> as recommended by the American Concrete Institute's <b>ACI 302.2</b> <i>Guide for Concrete Slabs that Receive Moisture-Sensitive Flooring Materials</i> .
(Concrete Substrates Cont.)	<b>Prepared</b> according to <b>ASTM F710</b> <i>Standard Practice for Preparation of Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring</i> . The slab must be swept, damp mopped and/or vacuumed to remove any dust. Any surface materials present must be removed, such as loose paint, wax, grease, oil, adhesive residues, crayon, pen marking, etc. that may migrate to the surface of the flooring causing discoloration. Fill and level any cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves, or other irregularities with a high-quality, non-shrinking, latex-fortified, cementitious patching compound.
	<b>DO NOT</b> install Tarkett flooring over expansion joints, or other moving joints in the substrate. These joints must be respected and should not be filled with products that are not intended for that purpose. Contact an expansion joint cover manufacturer to meet specific flooring conditions.
	Complete 3 moisture tests for up to 1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (add 1 additional test for every 1,000 after that) Test for moisture in accordance with: <b>ASTM F2170</b> <i>Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must test to within 90% RH</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>-OR-</b></p> <b>ASTM F1869</b> <i>Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must test to within 6 lbs / 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 24 hours</li> </ul> <p>If the moisture test results exceed the limits above, the installation must not proceed until the problem has been corrected. Tarkett does not recommend or warrant any product or procedure for the remediation of high moisture in concrete substrates. There are several companies that manufacture products suitable for moisture remediation. Tarkett recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Moisture Remediation product manufacturer and supply testing results.</li> <li>• Follow the remediation recommendation provided using products that meet <b>ASTM F3010</b> <i>Standard Practice for Two Component Resin Based Membrane-Forming Moisture Mitigation Systems for Use Under Resilient Flooring Systems</i>.</li> <li>• Cap the moisture remediation system with a cementitious-based product per the moisture remediation system manufacturer's recommendations for primer, thickness, drying time, etc.</li> <li>• Install Tarkett flooring over the cementitious-based capping product following our standard installation instructions.</li> </ul>
Gypsum	Refer to <b>ASTM F2419</b> <i>Standard Practice for Installation of Thick Poured Gypsum Concrete Underlayments and Preparation of the Surface to Receive Resilient Flooring</i> for guidelines when pouring gypsum underlayments or preparing for use as an underlayment under Tarkett VeriCore & IntegraCore. Follow the gypsum underlayment manufacturer's recommendations for proper application and preparation.
Radiant Heat	Must be embedded in concrete a minimum of 2" below the surface of the subfloor
	Check the manufacturer of the radiant heat system to ensure it is safe for use with resilient flooring
	Concrete surface must never exceed 85°F (29.4°C)
	<b>24 hours prior to install</b> , lower the thermostat to a minimum of 65°F (18.3°C). Maintain this temperature throughout installation and for 48 hours after completion
	<b>48 hours after installation</b> , gradually increase the thermostat in increments of 5° every twenty-four hours, never exceeding 85°F (29.4°C)

## SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

1. All substrates must be dry, clean, structurally sound, smooth and free from all existing adhesive residues.
2. The substrate must be flat within 1/8" in 8' (3.17 mm in 2.4 m).
3. Fill and level concrete cracks, construction joints, control joints, depressions, grooves and other irregularities. Use a latex fortified, cementitious patching compound. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for preparing.
4. Sweep and vacuum or damp mop substrate to remove all dust and debris.

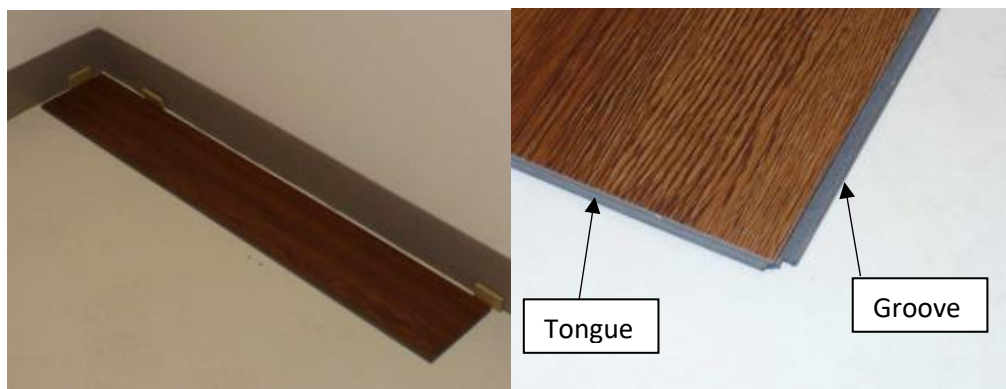
## GETTING STARTED

1. Install product out of multiple cartons from matching batch numbers.
2. Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. During installation, inspect the groove area and remove any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks. Do not install damaged planks. Tarkett will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects.

3. Room temperature shall be between 65°F and 85°F (18.3°C -29.4°C) for 48 hours before, during and after installation. VeriCore & IntegraCore do not require acclimation to the jobsite conditions prior to installation.
4. Remove quarter round, baseboard molding, or cove base.
5. Undercut doorway moldings to the thickness of the flooring.
6. Prepare your layout to determine direction and orientation of planks. No transitions are required when installing in Residential applications. **NOTE: When installing VeriCore & IntegraCore in Light Commercial applications or in fully-enclosed spaces that do not have permanent heating and cooling systems in operation, a transition molding must be placed at egress doorways and when installations span greater than 40' in any direction.**
7. Cartons must be stored horizontally at all times.
8. Protect carton corners from damage.
9. VeriCore & IntegraCore floors are floating floors and should not be adhered or nailed to the substrate. The only exception is when installing on stairs.
10. Tarkett floors are intended for indoor use only.
11. Determine in which direction the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger or if installing in very small rooms or hallways, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension.
12. Do not install permanent, fixed cabinets on planks.
13. Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and also to determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row of planks is less than 2" (50 mm), excluding the tongue, the width of first row of planks will have to be cut accordingly. If the length of any cut piece at the end of any row less than 8" (20.32 cm), the first plank in the row will need to be cut accordingly.
14. A minimum 1/4" (6.3 mm) expansion space is required around all walls and vertical objects. Allow a 1/2" (12.7 mm) space for installations over wood substrates that may be affected by moisture or external temperature and humidity fluctuations (i.e., crawlspaces, mobile homes) or when installing in areas without permanent HVAC controls (3 season rooms, seasonal vacation homes and cabins).
15. Although the use of a tapping block and hammer is not required it may help with assembly on the long joints of both plank and stone designs. Make sure that the chosen tapping block is suitable for vinyl and rigid core products. Be careful not to over-tap as this can cause damage to the locking mechanisms.

## INSTALLATION

1. Begin laying planks from the left side of the starting wall and work to the right side. The tongue side of the plank shall face the starting wall. The Tongue portion is inserted into the Groove portion of the plank. **NOTE: If you have had to adjust the width of your starting row to accommodate that the width of your ending row will be a minimum of 2", you may not be starting with a full plank**



2. Place 1/4" (6.3 mm) spacers between the short and long side of the planks and the wall, use 1/2" (12.7 mm) spacers for installations over wood substrates that may be affected by moisture or external temperature and humidity fluctuations (i.e., crawlspaces, mobile homes) or when installing in areas without permanent HVAC controls (3 season rooms, seasonal vacation homes and cabins).



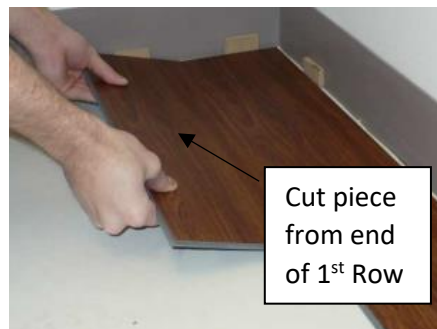
3. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side of the previous plank at a **natural angle**. Gradually lower the plank down flat until the end joint closes, ensuring that the planks are perfectly aligned. Install remaining full planks in the first row.



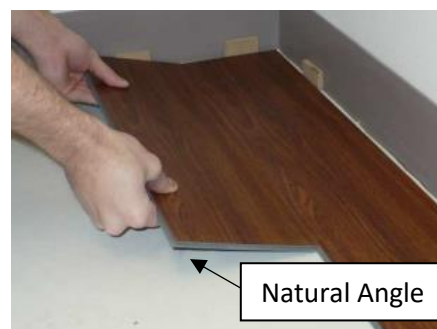
4. The last plank in the first row will need to be cut. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank. Subtract 1/4" (6.3 mm) or 1/2" (12.7 mm), depending on the size of the spacer used, from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 8" (20.3 cm), the length of first plank in the row must be cut. This will allow for a longer plank at the end of the row. The first and last plank in each row must be at least 8" (20.32 cm) in length. Planks are cut using a sharp utility knife and straight edge/carpenter's square. Score the surface of the plank with a utility knife, and then snap the plank at the score line.



5. The remaining piece cut from the last plank in the first row may serve as the first plank in the second row provided it is at least 8" (20.32 cm) long. Always stagger end joints from row to row a minimum of 8" (20.32 cm).



6. Install the long side of the first plank of the second row. Remember to place a 1/4" (6.3 mm) or 1/2" (12.7 mm) spacer between the wall and the short side of the plank. Insert the tongue side into the groove side of the previous row at a natural angle and rotate downward until plank is flat with the substrate. You should only have to lift the plank high enough to get your fingers underneath to achieve this natural angle





- To install the second plank in the second row, insert the tongue side end joint into the groove side end joint of the previous plank at a natural angle. Position the long side of the plank with the tongue side slightly overlapping the groove area of the planks in the previous row. Lift the plank upward and working from the left side of the plank to the right, gently push forward until the entire plank engages into the previous row. **NOTE: Use caution when installing the long side of the planks. Do not push on the planks too hard as this may distort or deform the groove. See item 15 in Getting Started to refer to the use of a tapping block and hammer.** Rotate plank downward until plank is flat with the substrate. Continue installing remaining planks in the row. It is important to make sure that the first two rows are straight and square as they can affect the entire installation.



- Continue working from left to right maintaining the random appearance. Planks may be installed row by row or by working multiple rows using the stair step method. Be sure to maintain proper spacing at walls and vertical obstructions
- In some cases the flexibility of VeriCore & IntegraCore will allow for easy positioning of the planks under door moldings and casings. In the event this cannot be done, it is necessary to remove the lip on the groove edge of the planks you are fitting to using a sharp utility knife and straight edge. This will allow you to install the plank lying flat. After the lip has been trimmed off on the planks you are fitting to, lay the plank flat on the floor. Apply a thin bead of PVA glue on top of the tongue and push the plank into position. **Immediately wipe off any excess glue with a damp cloth.**
- When installing in front of a tub/shower place Tarkett S 860 along the front of the tub/shower. A bead of flexible, mildew-resistant, 100% silicone caulk should be used to seal the top of the VeriCore & IntegraCore.

## FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

- After all planks have been installed, remove spacers from perimeter of room.
- Install transition moldings. Do not fasten any moldings through the VeriCore & IntegraCore. You can drill pilot holes or cut V-shaped notches out of the flooring to ensure that transition fasteners do not go through the material.
- Pre-drill and install quarter round or baseboard molding. Molding must be sufficient size to cover the 1/4" (6.3 mm) or 1/2" (12.7 mm) expansion space. Do not fasten moldings through the flooring. Fasten into the wall.
- Use plywood to cover the top of the flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
- Use proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture.
- Post installation site conditions do not require the control of temperature or humidity.

## PLANK REPLACEMENT

Refer to complete Rigid Core Plank Replacement instructions for further information.

- Using a straight edge, clearly mark the damaged plank at the center approximately one inch from the edge of the adjoining planks.
- Using a circular saw, set the blade to the thickness of the plank. Use attic stock to determine this depth.
- Carefully, cut the plank along the mark. Take care not to damage the adjacent plank. **CAUTION: wear the appropriate eye protection, respiratory equipment, and be certain that the safety guards on your saw are in place and operational.**
- Carefully remove the center of the damaged plank.
- Using a power drill with an 1/8" bit, drill from each corner back to the inside edge. [space the holes approximately 1/16"]
- Using a sharp chisel or linoleum knife cut through the drill holes
- Carefully remove the edges of the cut plank. Do not damage adjoining planks.
- Prepare the replacement plank by removing the tongue and groove on each short side and by removing the groove on the long side.
- Using Tarkett S 875 Floating Seam Tape™, place a piece so it is centered under each adjoining plank.
- Remove the release liner on the tape on all sides.
- Place a bead of PVA adhesive (such as Elmer's Glue All) on the top of the tongue of the adjacent plank, long and short side. Wipe of the excess with a damp rag
- Position the replacement plank by inserting the tongue of the long side into the groove of the adjoining plank.
- Rotate the plank downward into position.
- Roll seam edges with a hand roller to ensure proper contact with floating seam tape.
- Wipe off any remaining PVA adhesive with a rag dampened with water.

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