

## INSTALLATION GUIDE



### Waterproof Wood Core Flooring

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## 1. WHERE TO INSTALL

LifeProtect® flooring may be installed in most residential rooms on, above, or below grade. Do not install outdoors, in saunas, or in swimming pool areas. For kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry rooms, follow the Wet Areas instructions. For approved commercial applications, please refer to the warranty document for details on permitted commercial use.

## 2. PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

### 2.1 Safety Caution

#### **Safety for Cutting**

Always wear safety glasses and gloves when cutting this product. Use ear protection when operating saws or other power tools. Cutting, drilling, sawing, sanding, or machining wood products can create wood dust — a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Work in a well-ventilated area, avoid inhaling wood dust, and use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information, visit [www.P65warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65warnings.ca.gov/wood)

#### **Safety for Installing**

Use knee pads to reduce strain and protect knees during installation. Ensure the work area is clean, dry, and free of obstructions. Follow all manufacturer instructions and applicable local building codes. If unsafe conditions or

equipment malfunctions occur at any time, stop work immediately until the issue is resolved. Owner will assume all responsibility for compliance with applicable building codes.

### 2.2 Tools & List of Material

Stage all tools and materials at the jobsite before starting. PPE is required (see 2.1). Choose underlayment/vapor barrier based on subfloor and product (see 3.2, 3.4): use 6-mil poly over concrete; do not add extra pad if the product has a pre-attached pad unless it is a CorkBase (<https://usmills.com/pages/corkbase>) underlay. For kitchens/baths, have backer rod (recommended) + 100% silicone ready (see 5.8).

#### **Tools:**

- Flooring installation kit (tapping block, pull bar, spacers)
- Tape measure, pencil, level, chalk line
- Hammer/rubber mallet
- Circular/table/jig/hand saw with carbide-tipped blades
- Utility knife, drill
- Caulking gun
- Vacuum (final clean)
- PPE: safety glasses, gloves, hearing protection, dust mask/respirator, knee pads

#### **Materials:**

- Extra Underlayment (only if Corkbase)

- 6-mil virgin polyethylene moisture barrier for when installing over concrete
- Expansion spacers 3/8"
- 3/8" PE foam backer rod (for perimeter sealing in wet areas)
- 100% silicone sealant (for perimeter sealing in wet areas)
- Coordinating moldings/trim
- Felt furniture pads

## 2.3 Before Installing

- Read the complete installation instructions from start to finish before beginning.
- Improper installation, failure to meet environmental requirements, or using unapproved methods will void the warranty.
- The floor is designed for **floating installation; do not glue or fasten planks** unless specifically instructed.
- Mix planks from several cartons to achieve a natural color and shade variation.
- Inspect all planks for color, finish, and defects in good lighting before and during installation. Do not install defective planks. **Visual defects are not covered by warranty.**
- Recommended installation direction: generally parallel to the longest wall or in the direction of natural light.
- Maintain required environmental conditions before and during installation:

- Room temperature: **60°F–85°F** (16°C–29°C)
- Relative humidity: **35%–65%**
- Leave proper **expansion space around all vertical structures** as specified in the installation guide.
- Document the install date, site RH, temperature, and subfloor moisture content. For everything to check before you start, use the Jobsite Checklist at the end of this document.

## 2.4 Owner / Installer Responsibility

- Inspect the flooring for color, finish, sheen, size, and visible defects prior to and during installation. Do not install defective planks; **installation constitutes acceptance**. Your flooring supplier cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects.
- Ensure the jobsite and subfloor meet all structural and environmental requirements outlined in the installation guide and is compliant with all local building codes.
- Follow all manufacturer instructions and applicable local building codes.
- Use only materials, accessories, and installation methods recommended in the guide.
- Flooring failures resulting from subfloor deficiencies, site damage, or improper installation will not be covered by the warranty.

## 2.5 Preparing the Room

- Remove all moldings; undercut door jambs/casings to allow flooring + pad and the required expansion gap.
- Verify door clearances; plan layout so that the last row is wider than 2" in width (rip the first row if needed).
- Mix planks from multiple cartons to blend color/shade.
- Keep product in packaging while conditioning; maintain 60–85°F and 35–65% RH until installation.

## 2.6 Jobsite Conditions

- Ensure all wet trades (e.g., new concrete, drywall/plaster, plumbing) are completed and fully dry well before installation.
- Keep the space enclosed and climate-controlled. Maintain 60–85°F (18–27°C) and 35–65% RH before, during, and after installation.
- The jobsite and subfloor must be clean, dry, stable, and debris-free prior to installation; thoroughly sweep/vacuum the area.
- Verify the subfloor meets structural and flatness requirements (see 3.2 Concrete and 3.3 Wood; flatness 3/16" per 10 ft).
- Moisture control: Over concrete (on or below grade), plan and install 6-mil virgin polyethylene vapor barrier per 3.2; over wood, do not use a vapor barrier (see 3.4).
- Documentation: Record ambient temperature/RH, subfloor moisture readings (per 3.2/3.3), flatness

checks, and installation date; retain with product labels/receipts.

## 3. SUBFLOOR AND SITE PREPARATION

### 3.1 Concrete Subfloor Requirements

Concrete subfloor must be cured, clean, flat and level (3/16 in for every 10 ft). Minimum moisture barrier is 6 mil (0.006 in) virgin polyethylene sheet with seams overlapping 4"–6" and taped together with a waterproof adhesive tape (minimum density of 0.90 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>.)

Concrete subfloor must have a moisture content of:

- Less than 5% as per Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter or;
- Less than 3 lbs. per 1,000 square feet per 24 hours per Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F-1869) or;
- Less than 2.5% per Calcium Carbide (CM) Test (ASTM D-4944-04 modified).
- Installing over wet or damp concrete should be avoided to prevent mold/mildew.

Floor flatness is essential. Any low spots should be filled with self-leveler and allowed for full curing, and higher spots should be grinded.

### 3.2 Wood Subfloor Requirements

Wood subfloor must be clean, flat and level (3/16 in for every 10 ft). If there are any uneven areas that exceed this, level them out in advance with a leveling paste or sand down high spots. Wood subfloor must have moisture content of less than **12%**. Wood subfloor must be structurally sound. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. Suspended wood subfloors must provide a minimum of 18" of well-ventilated air space above the ground which shall be covered with a suitable vapor barrier.

### 3.3 General Subfloor & Underlayment Requirements

Sound reducing underlayment is required for flooring without attached underlayment. The underlayment will require an integrated moisture barrier or a separate 6 mil virgin polyethylene sheet when installed over concrete when installed on or below grade (if not warranty will be void). Pairing Corkbase underlayment is permitted.

### 3.4 Existing Floor Covering

This flooring may be installed directly on top of sheet vinyl, vinyl composite tiles (VCT), and ceramic or porcelain tile, when these items have been installed on a wooden subfloor (excluding loose lay vinyl). The subfloor and existing covering must be structurally sound and meet all the necessary flatness and moisture requirements. Never use a vapor barrier when installing over a wooden subfloor. If the previously mentioned flooring types have been installed directly on concrete, then a 6-mil vapor barrier must be installed and

overlapped at least 6" along any seams and run up the wall by minimum 1".

In all cases, regardless of subfloor, all types of carpet and padding (including the old glue if applicable) must be removed, and the normal subfloor instructions would then apply. If an existing floor covering is being removed before installation, please consult a specialist regarding the safety of handling and disposal of the existing materials before beginning.

### 3.5 Radiant Heated Floors

This product can be installed over radiant heated floor provided where the heating element is installed into a concrete subfloor. Lower heating system to 60°F for 1 week before installation. After installation, slowly increase the temperature in increments of 10°F per hour. The finished floor surface temperature must not exceed 85°F throughout the service life of the floor.

### 3.6 Wet Areas

- Indoor use only. Do not install in saunas, swimming-pool areas, or outdoors.
- Kitchens, bathrooms, laundries, mudrooms: a watertight perimeter is required. Use the method in 5.8
- (Installation in Kitchens & Bathrooms 3/8" PE backer rod + 100% silicone at the entire perimeter), and seal around all fixed objects and door frames before installing moldings.



- Standing water: wipe up promptly; do not flood the floor. Where no molding is possible, fill the expansion gap with 100% silicone so the floor remains unrestrained and sealed.
- Exterior doors & toilet flanges: ensure perimeter gaps are fully sealed with 100% silicone after installing the floor.
- Allow sealants to cure per manufacturer guidance (~24 h before routine wet use).

## 4. MATERIAL CONDITIONING

### 4.1 Acclimation & Storage

Store the flooring in the room where they are to be installed for a **minimum of 48 hours**, still in their packaging, and at normal living conditions, i.e., room temperature of **60°F-85°F** and relative humidity (RH) level of **35%-65%**, prior to beginning installation work. Store **horizontally** and well away from the walls. If acclimation time is not available, it may be skipped provided the difference between the storage or transport conditions and the installation site does not exceed 20°F in temperature and 15% in relative humidity

### 4.2 Expansion Gaps

Room and house humidity and temperature will change throughout the year with buildings expanding and contracting between seasons, therefore;

- Allow **expansion gap of 3/8" around the perimeter of the floor and all vertical structures**

(walls, door jambs, kitchen islands, fire places, floor vents, pipes, thresholds, etc.). Floors spanning greater than 45 ft, length or width might require expansion T-molding or larger expansion gaps. Wall openings, with or without door, might require expansion T-molding. Door frames require special care as 3/8" expansion gaps also need to be applied around door frames.

- A T-molding is required for lengths over 40ft if installed in long and narrow hallways.
- Certain pieces of heavy furniture (bookcases, pianos, ...) can hinder the expansion and contraction of the flooring. In this case consider leaving a larger expansion gap to be later covered with a thicker base board or shoe molding. T-molding is also required when the installation changes direction through the doorway.
- To avoid damaging the flooring, do not screw directly through it when installing kitchen cabinets, appliances, barn doors, or other objects. Instead, secure the objects to the subfloor or wall studs, ensuring that the flooring remains floating, unobstructed and unperforated. This approach prevents potential issues like buckling, warping, or voiding the warranty of the floor.
- **Trim Clearance**. Never fasten trim to the floor but only to the wall or baseboard and do not restrict or pinch the flooring's movement under the molding or baseboards but allow it to "float" freely. Slip a thin shim (1/16") like a business card or washer under the quarter round or baseboards while

nailing and then remove them to ensure the trim doesn't clamp the floor.

## 5. INSTALLATION PROCESS

### 5.1 Helpful Considerations

- Work in a well-lit area.
- Remove all existing moldings.
- Install flooring perpendicular to the direction of the floor joists. If possible, install the boards parallel to the direction of the light entering the room.
- Install the underlayment in the same direction that the flooring is to be installed. Tape all seams.
- Stagger end joints but avoid stair-stepping appearance by varying stagger distances between adjacent rows.
- Minimum stagger distance is 12". Starter and end pieces need to be minimum 10" in length.
- Check door clearances, making necessary adjustments before laying the floor.

### 5.2 Installation Method

Flooring can be both installed using the Angle-Tap (A.) or Angle-Angle (B.) installation method.

#### A. Angle-tap Installation Method

### 5.3 Installing the First Row

- a. Begin installation from the straightest wall. If possible, install the floor perpendicular to the floor joists.
- b. Use a carbide-tipped circular saw blade to remove both the short and long side tongues from the plank to allow room for spacers. Do not trim the groove sides. (Figure 1) Always cut the flooring boards with the décor or face side down.
- c. Before starting installation measure the width of the room and divide by the width of the plank. If the last row would be less than 2.5" wide, trim this first row so the final row will be minimum 2.5" wide.
- d. Trim the long side tongue from each plank needed to complete the first row. Install the planks from left to right. Place 3/8 in spacers between the wall and the cut edge of the planks to ensure a 3/8 in space along the perimeter. (Figure 2)
- e. Adjoin the planks by using a tapping block as shown and gently tap until the planks are joined. Position the notched edge of the tapping block so it rests securely against the laminate surface and not directly on the HDF profile or locking system. Continue this process until the final plank for the row is needed. (Figure 3)

### 5.4 Completing a Row

- a. When cutting a plank used for completing a row be sure to allow for the proper 3/8 in gap once the plank is installed. (Figure 4)
- b. Use a pull bar—not a tapping block—to close any remaining gap between the two planks and



complete the row (Figure 5). If the off-cut from the last plank is at least 10" long, use it to start the next row.

## 5.5 Installing the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Remaining Rows

- a. Begin installing the second row by angling the plank to allow the tongue to slip into the groove of the plank in row 1. (Figure 6) Maintain inward pressure (towards the previous row) while gently moving the plank up and down as you slowly push the plank to the floor. (Figures 6A & 6B) Do not force the plank to the floor if the tongue is only partially inserted into the groove. (Figure 6C)
- b. Install the next plank by placing it near the previous plank in the row and laying it flat to the floor while leaving a small gap (2-3 mm) between the short ends of planks D and C. (Figure 7)
- c. Once the plank is flat, use the tapping block to tap the end into a locked position. Then, placing the tapping block no closer than 8 in from either end, tap lightly along the long side to ensure the joint is fully seated and no gaps exist. (Figure 8) Note: Uneven tapping or use of excessive force may damage the joint.
- d. Continue laying the floor from left to right, as described in the previous steps. (Figure 9) Remove the short side tongue from any full planks used in starting a new row.
- e. Trim the planks to be used in the final row to the desired width while taking into consideration the

necessary gap of 3/8 in needed between the planks and the wall. Install the final row as described in the previous steps. (Figure 10)

## 5.5 Installing the Last Row

Use the pull bar to draw the last row to fit tightly to the previous row. Where angling of the plank is impossible the plank can be laid flat on the subfloor and tapped in horizontally on the long side (as on the short side).

## 5.7 Finishing the Installation

- Remove all spacers (Figure 11)
- Make sure when installing the moldings not to obstruct the flooring from being able to expand or contract.
- Never nail moldings into your floor or have the floor touch the sides of the moldings. Any caulking must be done with silicone caulking and never hard caulk moldings to the laminate flooring planks.
- For a clean, finished look around pipes, install rosettes (escutcheons) or apply a bead of flexible 100% silicone around the penetration.
- Where profiles/moldings can't be used, fill the expansion gap with flexible 100% silicone so the floor can still move.

## 5.8 Installation in Kitchens & Bathrooms

- Create a watertight seal by first filling the entire expansion perimeter, T-molding spaces, and other open areas with 3/8" in compressible PE foam backer rod (recommended).
- Next cover the backer rod and any remaining gaps with 100% silicone sealant. DO NOT use acrylic sealants.
- Prior to installing the moldings, apply silicone sealant to the portion of the molding or transition that will contact directly with the laminate flooring surface.
- Install moldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant.
- Apply silicone sealant at connections to door frames, T-joint moldings, or any other fixed objects
- Make sure when installing the moldings **not to obstruct the flooring from being able to expand or contract**. Never nail moldings into your floor or have the floor touch the sides of the moldings.

## 5.9 Installation Around Pipes

- When the layout includes plumbing or other round penetrations, plan the run so the opening falls at a short-end seam. This keeps the expansion clearance controlled and avoids weakening a single plank.
- Align the layout so the pipe lands on a short-end joint between two planks.
- Dry-fit and lock the two planks together at the short end; mark the pipe center on the seam.

- Drill a clearance hole = pipe diameter + 3/4" centered on the joint to maintain expansion.
- Set the assembled pair back in place over the pipe and continue installation. Use a trim escutcheon to cover the opening; in wet areas, seal per 5.8.
- Where angling of the plank is impossible the plank can be laid flat on the subfloor and tapped in horizontally on the long side (as on the short side).

## 5.10 Installation Under Door Frames

- Maintain clearance at doors. Leave an expansion gap  $\geq 3/8$  in beneath door leaves/frames. Where angling of the plank is impossible the plank can be laid flat on the subfloor and tapped in horizontally on the long side (as on the short side).
- If the joint still can't be closed due to moldings/jambs: modify the profile on the installed-row plank by removing a small portion of the groove (plane or sand). Apply a small bead of PVA wood adhesive to the tongue of the next plank and slide it into place on the flat. Wipe excess glue with a damp cloth/warm water and tape the joint until the adhesive sets.

## B. Angle-angle Installation Method

The steps above in angle-tap installation remain the same except for the way the planks are interlocked.

When using the angle-angle method, hold the new plank at 20-30° angle to the row already in place. Engage the

long tongue into the groove of the previous row and lower the board until it clicks. Keep the new plank slightly lifted and angle it into the end of the adjacent plank in the same row. Once both the long and short sides are engaged, press or tap the plank down until the joints are fully closed.

## 6. POST INSTALLATION

### 6.1 After Installation

- Vacuum/dust mop to remove all installation dust/debris.
- Retain product label, subfloor moisture readings, and receipt for records.
- Install coordinating moldings where required (without restraining the floating floor).

### 6.2 Precautions

- Use felt or soft rubber caps under furniture and chair legs; use soft rubber casters or a protective mat under rolling chairs
- Place solid-backed entry mats at exterior doors to limit dirt, water, and grit.
- Maintain indoor humidity **35–65% RH** (use humidifier/dehumidifier as needed).

### 6.3 Maintenance

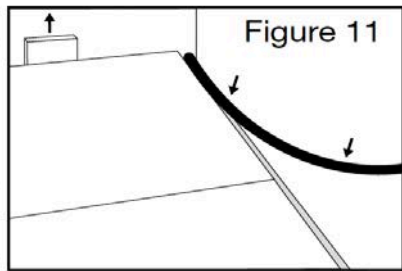
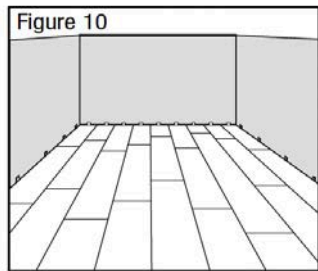
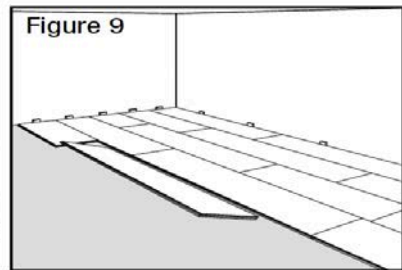
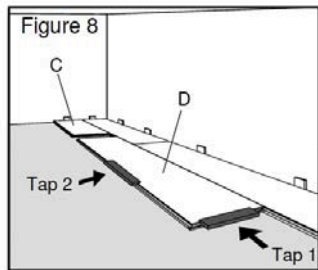
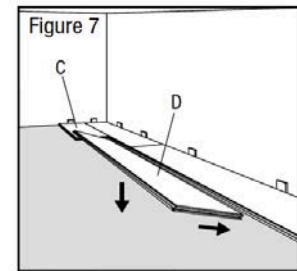
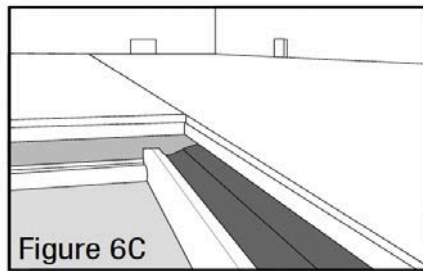
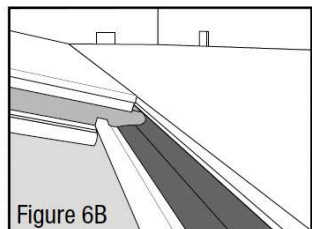
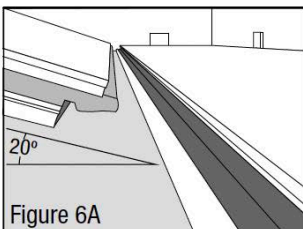
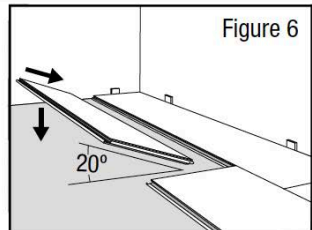
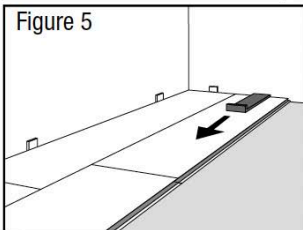
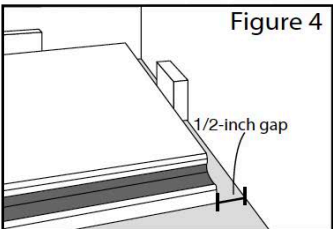
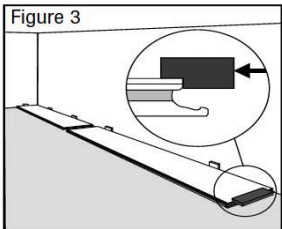
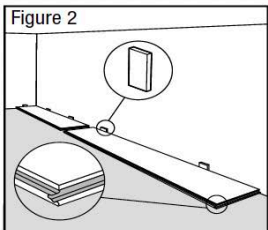
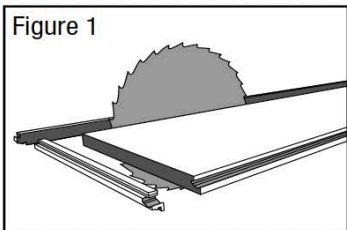
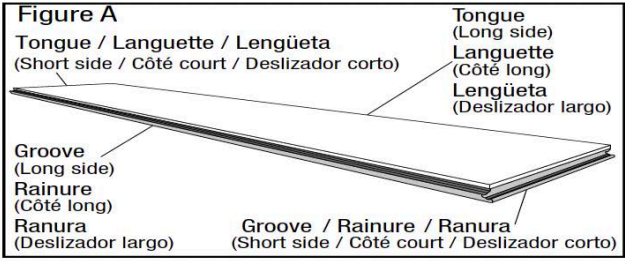
- Dry care: dust mop or vacuum with a soft-bristle tool; no beater bars or spinning heads.

- Damp care: use an approved laminate cleaner or plain water applied lightly to a cloth/mop; never put moisture directly on the floor; dry thoroughly after cleaning.
- Do not use: wax, polish, oils, soaps, detergents, shine restorers, or non-residential steam cleaners.
- Steam mop (allowed – residential use): Permitted when used correctly. Use a microfiber pad and the lowest steam setting; keep the mop in continuous motion (no stationary steaming), avoid concentrating steam at plank edges, joints, trims, or transitions, and do not allow moisture to pool. Wipe any visible moisture and dry the surface immediately after. Approved LifeProtect® cleaning product information available on [Lifeprotectflooring.com](http://Lifeprotectflooring.com)

### 6.4 Repair

- Minor damage: fill small chips/scratches with a color-matched filler/touch-up kit.
- Board replacement (2 options):
  - Disassemble back to the damaged area, replace the plank, and re-assemble the floor;
  - Cut-and-remove: if the damaged plank is in the middle and cannot be removed easily it can be removed by partially cutting it and removing the pieces. (Consult an experienced installer if you need help replacing a plank in the middle of your room). Specialized tools are available to help with the replacement of these boards.

- Keep spare planks on hand for future repairs.





## CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE



### Waterproof Wood Core Flooring



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## 1. QUICK CARE RULES

- Keep it dry first: vacuum or sweep daily; damp-clean only when needed.
- Never flood the floor. Remove spills immediately and keep moisture exposure brief and surface-only.
- Use only neutral pH cleaners ( $\approx 6.5$ – $7.5$ ). Avoid vinegar, bleach, ammonia, oil soaps, waxes, and abrasive cleaners.
- Use microfiber mops or soft cotton cloths; avoid abrasive pads and steel wool.
- Use hard-floor vacuum setting (no beater bar or power head).
- Maintain indoor relative humidity between 40%–65% and a stable temperature year-round.
- Use quality entry mats and install felt pads/chair mats under furniture; lift, do not drag.
- Do not apply polishes, shine agents, or recoating systems; replace damaged planks instead.
- Tip: In high-traffic zones, add walk-off mats and runners to extend finish life.

## 2. ROUTINE CLEANING

- Daily Cleaning: Vacuum or sweep with a soft brush or microfiber mop to remove dirt and grit.
- Weekly Cleaning: Light damp-mop using a neutral, manufacturer-approved cleaner. Wring mop thoroughly and dry any excess moisture immediately.
- After Renovation or Construction: Remove debris dry first, then perform a light damp clean with a neutral cleaner.

## 3. AFTER INSTALLATION / INITIAL CLEAN

Perform a gentle initial clean using a slightly damp microfiber mop; avoid heavy mopping for the first 48 hours.

If factory residue is present, use a lightly damp cloth; rubbing alcohol may be used for residue removal. Wipe afterward with a clean damp cloth.

## 4. SPILLS, MOISTURE & WET CLEANING LIMITS

- Promptly remove all liquid spills. Never allow standing water.
- Damp mopping is allowed with a slightly damp mop, not wet; always dry the surface after cleaning.
- Never flood the floor; prolonged moisture exposure can cause edge swelling.
- For leaks (dishwashers, fridges, plumbing), stop the source immediately, dry thoroughly, and inspect plank edges; replace planks if swelling occurs.
- Do not use in rooms with continuous moisture or flooding risk (e.g. indoor spas, steam showers).

## 5. STEAM & POWER EQUIPMENT

Steam-equipment: Steam-based cleaners designed for use on hard surface floors and for residential use only are approved.

- Use only low-heat steam mops operated in continuous motion, never leaving a steam unit

stationary. Always use the lowest steam setting, ensure microfiber pads are clean, and avoid prolonged exposure to high heat or standing moisture.

- Steam cleaning is not recommended for commercial environments.
- Steam cleaning is allowed only for dry rooms, not bathrooms with steam showers or wet zones.

Power equipment: Avoid mechanical floor scrubbers, buffers, or any abrasive tools (including steel wool). These can scratch or dull the surface finish.

## 6. APPROVED CLEANERS & RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Approved cleaners:

- Use neutral pH hard-surface cleaners or water-damp microfiber cloths. Acetone may be used for stubborn spots (applied carefully on a white cloth), followed by a damp wipe and immediate drying.
- Avoid vinegar or acidic DIY mixes, bleach, ammonia, oil soaps, waxes, polishes, abrasive powders, or products that leave residue. Always dry the surface after cleaning; never leave stagnant moisture.

Recommended products (Everyday vs. Deep Cleaning):

- Bona Stone, Tile & Laminate Floor Cleaner: pH-neutral, streak-free, and water-based.
- Zep Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner: Stronger formula for occasional use in high-traffic areas; use sparingly and dry promptly.
- Better Life Naturally Dirt-Destroying Floor Cleaner: Plant-based, non-toxic, and biodegradable.

- Use Bona as your main cleaner, Zep for heavier soil, and Better Life as a sustainable option. Always apply with a slightly damp microfiber mop and avoid over-application.

## 7. SPOT & STAIN REMOVAL

Everyday spots: For oil, marker, ink, tar, heel scuffs, or gum, use an acetone-based cleaner on a white cloth. Rub gently, follow with a damp wipe, and dry immediately.

Paint & ink: Use acetone or nail-polish remover on a cloth; wipe and dry immediately.

Pet accidents: Clean promptly with a mild neutral cleaner; never allow moisture to penetrate joints.

Disinfection: Use only neutral pH products; avoid bleach, ammonia, or acidic solutions.

Heavy stains or build-up: Use a manufacturer-approved neutral cleaner and repeat as needed until clean.

## 8. FURNITURE, MATS & SURFACE PROTECTION

- Install non-staining felt pads on all furniture legs; use chair mats under rolling chairs.
- Lift heavy items or use sliders or protective panels, never drag.
- Use breathable rug pads (felt or mesh). Avoid rubber-backed mats that may discolor the floor.

- Place entry mats at exterior doors and clean them regularly to limit grit and moisture.

## 9. CLIMATE CONTROL (HUMIDITY & TEMPERATURE)

- Maintain indoor RH 40%-65% to reduce expansion, contraction, and static buildup.
- Keep a stable indoor temperature consistent with normal living conditions.
- For radiant-heat installations, follow LifeProtect's guidelines and do not exceed system limits.

## 10. SUNLIGHT & APPEARANCE

- Use window coverings to reduce direct UV exposure and maintain color consistency.
- Do not apply wax, polish, or shine agents; maintain the natural matte finish.

## 11. HEAVY LOADS & MOVING APPLIANCES

- Place dense felt or plastic pads beneath heavy or vibrating objects (pianos, appliances).
- When moving appliances, lift or roll over protective panels, never dragging directly on the floor.

## 12. REPAIRS

- For minor surface scratches, use a color-matched repair kit or touch-up pen.
- For deep gouges or severe damage, replace the affected plank following LifeProtect instructions.
- Wood core surfaces cannot be refinished; replace damaged planks instead.

## 13. NOISE, HOLLOW SOUNDS & SQUEAKS

- Floating floors may sound different from glued floors. Proper underlayment and subfloor flatness help reduce hollow sounds.
- Temporary squeaks may occur if moisture enters joints; allow complete drying and stabilize humidity.

## 14. SPECIAL SCENARIOS

- New installations: Only light dry cleaning for the first 48 hours; no water immersion or heavy mopping.
- Commercial or high-traffic areas: Increase cleaning frequency and maintain neutral-pH cleaning.
- Allergen control: Vacuum and dry clean regularly to reduce dust.
- Vacancy or seasonal homes: Keep climate control active to maintain RH 40%-65%.
- Robot vacuums: Dry-clean models with soft wheels are permitted; ensure no wet function is active.
- LifeProtect is not recommended for high-humidity rooms such as saunas or indoor pools.

## 15. ENVIRONMENTAL & END-OF-LIFE

- Follow LifeProtect's floating floor replacement procedure for plank swaps.
- Recycle or dispose of planks per local regulations for wood-based products.

## 16. LONG-TERM CARE SUMMARY

- Clean regularly with dry methods; use damp cleaning only when necessary with neutral cleaners.
- Control humidity (40%-65%) and temperature to prevent movement and noise.
- Use pads and mats for protection against scratches and impact.
- Avoid flooding, waxes, polishes, or harsh cleaners.
- Replace planks if permanently damaged as Wood core floors cannot be refinished.

## 17. DO'S AND DON'TS

### Do:

- Use soft pads and mats to protect surfaces.
- Clean spills immediately.
- Vacuum or sweep regularly.
- Use neutral pH cleaners and microfiber tools.
- Maintain proper humidity and temperature.

### Don't:

- Use wax, polish, oil soap, or abrasive cleaners.
- Use steam mops incorrectly (never let steam rest in one spot).

- Drag heavy furniture or appliances.
- Allow standing water or moisture to remain.
- Expose the floor to direct, concentrated heat or open flame.

This guide summarizes LifeProtect's official care and maintenance recommendations based on industry best practices. Following these steps will help preserve your floor's appearance and performance for years to come.