

# DWELLSCAPE™

## Installation Instructions

### Important Notice

The installation instructions are intended to assist in achieving an optimal installation. DwellScape recommends installation be carried out by a professional installer. Any variation to these instructions by installers or a person installing will adversely affect or void the warranty. Should you require clarification of any instructions, please contact your place of purchase prior to commencement. If you are reading a printed version of these instructions, please know that things change from time to time and that the latest version of this document will be found at [www.dwellscape.com](http://www.dwellscape.com)

- DwellScape Waterproof Wood Floors are to be installed using a floating floor system method and must not be adhered, nailed, or pinned in any way to the subfloor or structure. Finishing trim must have a 0.50mm gap between the bottom of the trim and the top of the floating floor around the entire perimeter of the installation to allow free expansion or contraction of the flooring. Failure to do so could result in open joints, separating planks, cupping, creaking and popping, squeaking, or peaking.
- A thin Silicon (not acrylic) bead may be used to bridge the small gap between finishing trim and the flooring. Note that the 0.50mm gap between the bottom of the trim and the top of the floor must be maintained even if a silicon bead is used. A thick silicon bead or an acrylic bead may inhibit the floor from moving.
- Floating floor installation systems are not advised if any type of load is likely to exceed 400lbs per object. If desired, heavy objects must be installed first and not placed on top of any floating floor installation. The floating floor must be able to move around heavy/fixed objects to avoid open joints, separating planks, cupping, creaking and popping, squeaking, or peaking leading to most cases in floor failure. The perimeter gap must be respected around all heavy/fixed objects. A floating floor installation must ALWAYS stay floating!
- On site acclimation must be undertaken prior to the installation in unopened packs at a temperature range between 60°F to 85°F with relative humidity between 35% to 65%. This temperature and humidity range is to be maintained before, during and after installation within a climate controlled environment. DwellScape Waterproof Wood Flooring is not designed to be exposed to extremes of humidity or temperature and is important to know that floors exposed to such conditions will fail.
- Uneven subfloors will cause the lock system to break and/or the floor to sound drummy, or become noisy, and will cause early deterioration and failure of the floor. Refer to Subfloor Testing and Preparation.
- Most installations will require approximately 5% cutting allowance added to the total square footage of total area. This does not include any extra flooring required for repairs etc.

**NOTE:** It is the installer's responsibility prior to commencing installation to verify that the product and accessories supplied are the correct product, color, pattern and quantity. Prior to installation, each plank must be carefully checked in optimal lighting for any obvious visual defects to the surface or lock system. Never install defective product. If the product is incorrect or has any visual defects or damage, contact your place of purchase. DwellScape will not be responsible for any visible defects after the flooring has been cut and/or installed.

### Site Testing and Conditioning

A moisture test is strongly recommended to determine if high moisture exists in the subfloor. When using a calcium chloride moisture test for concrete subfloors (ASTM F1869), values must be  $\leq 5 \text{ lbs./1000ft}^2/24\text{-hr}$  or  $<80\% \text{ RH}$  with an in-situ probe (ASTM F2170). Moisture readings of wood subfloors must be  $\leq 12\%$ .

Acclimate unopened product before installation. If there is no time for acclimation, there should be no more than a difference of 25° F and 20% relative humidity between the stocking/transportation environment of the flooring and the final installation environment of the flooring.

### Subfloor Testing and Preparation

All subfloors must be clean, dry, flat and structurally sound. All floors must be checked with a straightedge. When the straight edge is placed at rest on the subfloor, no part of the surface shall deviate more than 3/16" from the underside length of the straightedge over a 10' span. Depressions and cracks must be filled using a suitable approved leveling compound in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All irregularities must be leveled and free of old adhesives, contaminants or building debris prior to installation. Timber, plywood, OSB or particleboard subfloors, must be checked for any loose boards/panels or excessive deflection or movement. If loose boards are found or deflection is identified, the subfloor must be repaired and damaged boards replaced, then if required, sanded to a level, smooth and dust free surface. Cross flow ventilation must be uninhibited on all sides of the building within the crawl space under the subfloor and ensure there is no standing or flowing water or damp smells emanating from this space. Flooring can be installed over most existing floor

# DWELLSCAPE™

coverings (e.g. ceramic tiles, linoleum, PVC etc.) provided the floor is flat, dry and in the case of ceramics in a residential installation, grout line tolerances are no more than 3mm wide and 3mm deep. Otherwise grout joins must be filled to the level of the tiles with a suitable leveler. Carpet, any textiles or carpet underlay and/or existing floating floors are not a suitable subfloor.

## Underfloor Heating

DwellScape Waterproof Wood Flooring is suitable for installation with underfloor heating provided the heating system selected is a hydronic in-slab radiant system and is installed and operated as per the heating system manufacturer's installation and operating recommendations. See further pre-laying instructions below.

DwellScape Waterproof Wood Flooring must never be installed over any electrical radiant heating system - the speed of sudden temperature changes having the potential to negatively affect the floor.

## Hydronic In-Slab Radiant Underfloor Heating System

Before installing DwellScape Waterproof Wood Flooring with underfloor radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity for a minimum of seven days to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system. Shut down the floor heating at least 48 hours prior to installation. It is recommended that the radiant heat be applied in a gradual manner (no more than 10°F per day) after installing the flooring. After installation, ensure the surface temperature of the subfloor never exceeds 80°F.

## Underlay

DwellScape requires installing the floor over a single layer of underlayment no more than 2.0mm thick with a 6mil poly film underneath. Overlay the film 8". Recommended underlays - Eco Silencer Infinity Premium Acoustical Underlayment; SoundWise PP 3020 Premium Foam Underlayment

## Wet Areas and Waterproofing

DwellScape Waterproof Wood Flooring can be installed in the following wet areas: bathrooms, laundry rooms, and kitchens. Use walk off mats for stepping out of the shower/bath tub or in places where water might splash/fall onto the floor. Damage caused by plumbing events are not covered under the warranty. Please refer to the DwellScape warranty for more details. DwellScape Waterproof Wood Flooring comes with a limited lifetime waterproof warranty. To secure a total product waterproof warranty, a silicon bead must be used at all edges where a molding is used. Furthermore, a silicone layer must be generously applied to all cut ends of flooring that are installed in wet areas. Apply silicone with a brush to ensure sealant covers entire cut edge being careful not to apply sealant to the bottom of the floor.

## Perimeter/Expansion Gaps

DwellScape Waterproof Wood Flooring requires the use of T-moldings in doorways less than 32-inches or if the installation changes directions through the doorway (regardless of doorway size) and in rooms 50 feet or larger in length or width. Floor movement must not be constrained by glue, nails, screws, hardware or other fixed obstructions.

A full perimeter expansion gap of no less than 3/8" must be left against all fixed vertical surfaces (e.g. walls, kick plates, cabinets, sliding doors, island benches, plumbing fixtures etc.) A trim, molding can be used to cover this gap, ensuring the floor is not pinned to the substrate or vertical surfaces. Molding or any finishing trim must have a 0.50mm gap between the bottom of the trim and the top of the floating floor around the entire perimeter of the installation to allow free expansion or contraction of the total floor. A thin silicone bead can be used to hide this gap.

**NOTE:** It is easier to undercut any door frames using an undercut saw or a flexible blade hand saw and an offset of flooring. Removing the bottom of the door frame and approximately 1" of adjoining wall base boards allows the floor to expand freely under the door frame and finish neatly at the floor junction.

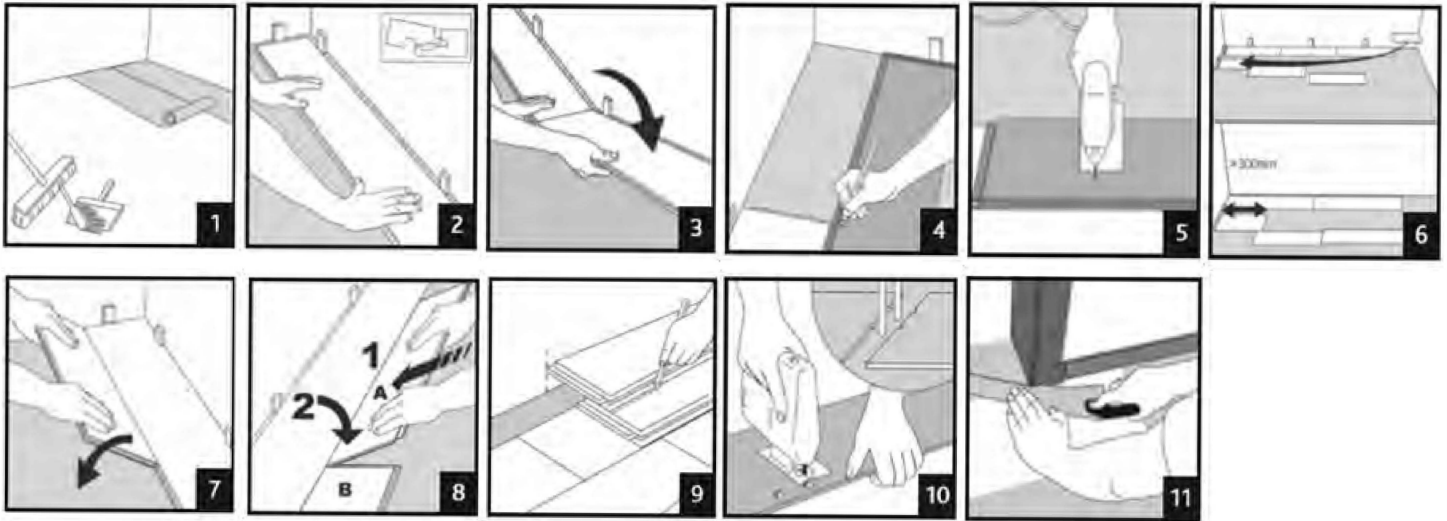
**Tools Required:** Safety glasses, Dust mask, 10mm to 12mm Spacers, Jig Saw, Utility Knife, Straight Edge, T-Square, Pull Bar, Pencil, Tape Measure.

# DWELLSCAPE™

## Installation

- Plan the direction of the area to be installed to maximize the visual appearance once installed. The direction of the plank grain should be confirmed, and the installation should be balanced from the center of the area to minimize waste. To minimize shade variation, mix and install product from several different cartons alternating your selection. After laying a small quantity of product, view from a distance that allows you to clearly see the overall effect. If there is any doubt cease installation immediately and contact your place of purchase.
  - Measure the room and estimate the number of rows required. If the last row is not at least 2” wide, the first row should be cut so that the first and last rows are similar in width.
1. Install the first row of 6mil poly and/or underlay as required (Fig 1). Firstly, remove the short and long side tongue of the first board followed by only the long side tongue of the remaining first row boards then install the first row to the wall to assess the straightness of the starting wall. If the starting wall is undulating or uneven, square this row off to the other side of the room using a tape measure and scribe the first row of boards to cater for the undulations while accommodating a uniform 3/8” expansion gap. (Fig 1).  
From the left corner of the room put the first plank in place using spacer blocks against the wall to maintain a uniform expansion gap so both the end and side seam grooves are facing outwards. Planks are to be installed from left to right. To assist in laying the first row straight, the use of blue tape across each short side locking system is recommended. Continue this for the first two rows and remove after completion of installation. (Fig 2).
  2. Install the second plank in the first row by angling at 20 to 30° and laying the short-side tongue onto the previously installed plank short-side groove. Care must be taken to properly line up the end join and NEVER force the join to lock while out of alignment, otherwise this could result in permanent damage to the end groove or surface finish. A tapping block can be used to help tighten up the seams (Fig 3).
  3. Continue in this manner for the rest of the first row. The last plank in the row must be cut to length while maintaining the recommended expansion gap along the perimeter of the room or all vertical surfaces. (Fig 4).
  4. Use the offcut from the last board in the first row (min length 12-15”) or cut a plank that is at least 12-15” shorter than the first plank to start the second row. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the long side groove of the plank in the first row at a 20 to 30° angle to the installed plank. Then lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure toward the installed plank. Use a tapping block to gently engage the short side lock if required. The planks should fit snugly together and lay flat maintaining the appropriate expansion gap along the perimeter of the room or all vertical surfaces. (Fig 5-6).
  5. To install the remaining planks in the second row, first align the long edge tongue into the long edge groove of the previous row at an angle. Slide the plank to the left until it meets the previously installed plank. Lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure towards the installed piece. Use a tapping block to gently engage the short side lock if required. As it flattens itself to the floor, press gently or tap the top of the short end of the plank until it's flat. The planks should fit snugly together and lay flat maintaining the appropriate expansion gap along the perimeter of the room or all vertical surfaces. (Fig 6, 7, 8)
  6. Work across the length of the room installing all planks in the second row. It is critical to keep these first two rows straight and square, as they are the “foundation” for the rest of the installation. Check often for squareness and straightness while installing the floor as failure to do so can result in gapping.
  7. Continue installing, being certain to maintain a random pattern repeat, assisted by offsetting end joints by at least 15” while maintaining the appropriate expansion gap against all vertical surfaces.
  8. The last row (possibly the first row) plank width must be no less than 2” on the long side. Remember to allow for the appropriate expansion gap to the wall. Use a crosslinked PVA glue when fitting last row to secure the end join. Additionally, under door jambs remove the tongue on the plank and apply glue before installing. Use of the pull bar may be necessary to ensure a good join. (Fig 9-11)
  9. Install wall moldings and door floor transition moldings last. Be sure that all moldings are fastened directly to the wall or subfloor; do not place any fasteners through the floating flooring. Care must be taken when fitting wall or floor moldings that they do not push down on the floor surface as this will affect the floors ability to have free movement and may lead to product failure and visual defects

# DWELLSCAPE™



## Post Installation

It is possible to remove or replace planks that have been laid as a floating floor without causing any damage. First release the whole row along the long side by angling it up to free it from the locking mechanism. The planks can then be disengaged by sliding apart carefully or fold up slightly on the short side to release.

If construction works are still underway, the floor must be protected from all site debris, dirt, soil, traffic etc. by use of a protective surface (e.g. sheet plastic, hard boards).

Please be careful to ensure no condensation occurs and any adhesive tape or protective material does not affect the aesthetics of the finished installation. Use window coverings to protect the floor from heat and fading under direct sunlight. Dramatic temperature fluctuation of the floor will cause joints to lip or gaps to occur.

These instructions are intended to assist in achieving an optimum installation. Any variation to the recommendations above may affect any warranties. For further information, please contact your local DwelScape dealer.