

## 1. Before starting

Before starting with the installation, it is important you read all instructions. By starting with the installation, you are declaring that you have read and understood all installation requirements and responsibilities and that you are aware that failure to comply with these indications could result in the product warranty being void. SmartCore floorings are suitable for floating installation in indoor spaces with windows and doors. The flooring must be installed only after all operators have finished their work and when all object that may damage the product have been cleared from the site.

**Attention!** It is the installer and/or owner's responsibility to check the installation requirements. In the event that any anomaly or fault are detected in the product or in the subfloor, you must not proceed with the installation, and you should immediately contact the supplier for assistance. The product, once installed, is considered inspected, approved and accepted. The flooring is suitable for indoor installation with residential or commercial usage that respect the required temperature range, do not install it outdoors. When calculating the necessary quantities, we advise you to consider an extra 10% for cuts, waste and defects. If the installation takes place during periods of the year with external temperatures below 10°C or above 30°C, the flooring must be taken on site at least 24 hours before. During this period the planks must remain in their cartons and on a flat surface. The temperature of the room must be kept between 18-25 °C. The possible use of expansion gaps must be evaluated on the basis of the environmental conditions, exposure to direct sunlight and the dimensions of the surface to be covered. The maximum surface area to avoid the use of expansion joints is 18x18m, in environments with a constant temperature between 18-25 °C and without conditions that hinder the natural movement and settling of the floating floor or that could aggravate its expansion. The installed flooring must have expansion space free from obstruction and silicone along all of the perimeter and around all fixed and/or heavy furniture (such as libraries, bar counters, shelving); in the case of exposure to heat or light sources, expansion joints must be used. The feet of the kitchens could not allow normal floor settling; therefore, it is recommended to make slots around the feet or to cut the floor just before the feet in order to install an expansion joint or to interrupt the flooring under the kitchen plinth. Skirting boards, profiles, door frames or furniture should not be fixed to the floor but should be lifted from it.

**Subfloor conditions** Please ensure that the laying surface is smooth, levelled, dry and solid. Any kind of residue must be eliminated from the installation area. The surface must be smooth within a tolerance of 2 mm over a length of 1,2 m, otherwise it must be leveled or filled to achieve this. Holes and irregularities on the surface could make it difficult for the click to close properly or could compromise its durability resulting in the board breakage. Although SmartCore is waterproof, it should not be considered a moisture barrier. A steam brake must be used in situations where there is a risk of moisture. Installation in humid areas such as bathroom and kitchens is allowed but SmartCore can't be installed in wet or outdoor spaces such as showers, saunas, pools or environments where inks or dyes are used, since these could stain the surface. The screed must fall within the humidity parameters determined by the norm, therefore within 2% in the case of traditional cementitious screed and 1.7% with radiant screed. The moisture of the screed must be checked using a carbide hygrometer and documented. The installation subfloor must be protected from any rising moisture and from the environment. Installation on soft surfaces, such as carpets or any additional or unsuitable underlay, is not permitted.

**Attention!** SmartCore planks coming from different batches may sometimes have slight color variations. Before installing we therefore suggest that you check the production batch on the box labels, and if they are different then you should mix planks from different boxes to give the flooring a natural effect.

## 2. Installation method

For a correct installation please remember to read the above requirements for the subfloor.

Measure the width of the room; divide this number by the width of the plank in order to start the installation of the first row with a correct width that will assure you that the last row will have a width greater or equal to half of the plank. Position the starting row with the groove towards the wall by leaving approx. 8 mm of space on all sides. This space allows for small floor movements due to temperature changes. Join the boards of the second row by inserting the long side first at an angle of approx. 25 degrees and then lower them into place. Use a soft rubber hammer to ensure that the 5G head joints lock properly in the short sides. When starting the second row, use the leftover cut off from the last boards of the first row if it is longer than 30 cm; otherwise cut a new plank in half and proceed. It is important to guarantee the structure integrity of your floor to always offset the joints of the short side of each row by at least 20 cm. Do not use excessive force to lock the planks because the click can be damaged easily. Sometimes transport stress can cause the loss of the black 5G pin from the head click; to ensure proper functionality, make sure that the pin is properly inserted. When you have finished the installation remove all spacers and clean the flooring immediately.

## 3. Laying on floor heating systems

SmartCore floors can be used on heating system floors following the above instructions above, only if the subfloor temperature does not exceed 27 °C. We advise you to consult with the supplier of the heating system to ensure that it is compatible with the floor. Be careful not to expose your floor to extreme temperature fluctuations as this may compromise its stability.

## 4. Care and maintenance

Clean using a vacuum cleaner or broom with soft bristles. Dry any spilled liquids. Moisten the cloth and use the recommended products for cleaning without waxes (no wax; neutral detergents, we recommend the use of the cleaner Smart Cleaner). Ensure that castor chairs are equipped with rubber type W wheels as per UNI EN 425. Protect the floor from direct exposure to the sun without appropriate curtains. Use protections, such as felt pads under furniture and a doormat at the entrance of the house. In the case of pets, make sure that their nails are regularly cut. Do not use abrasive, ammonia or wax cleaners for floor maintenance. Do not pull or slide heavy objects along the floor. Store the leftover slats for any future need in a cool and dry place.