UNIQUE
BY V-LINE

# Installation Guide
# UNIQUE STONE SPC Flooring with Click System

## 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES (MANDATORY)

UNIQUE STONE SPC flooring is a floating floor designed to work freely over the subfloor. To ensure proper performance and durability, the following basic principles must be strictly observed:

- The flooring must always remain floating.
- Do not glue, nail, screw, or fix the flooring to the subfloor under any circumstances.
- Do not seal joints or perimeters with silicone, adhesives, fillers, or similar products.
- Do not install fixed furniture or heavy elements (kitchens, islands, built-in wardrobes, counters, partitions, etc.) on top of the flooring.
- Any restriction of the floor prevents natural expansion and automatically voids the warranty.

## 2. PRODUCT ACCLIMATIZATION

Before installation, the flooring must adapt to the environmental conditions of the room:

- Planks must be acclimatized for a minimum of 48 hours in the room where they will be installed.
- During acclimatization, installation, and at least 48 hours afterward, the following conditions must be maintained:
- Ambient temperature: between 15°C and 25°C.
- Relative air humidity: between 30% and 50%.
- Boxes must be stored horizontally, unopened, protected from direct sunlight and away from sources of heat or extreme cold.

Incorrect acclimatization may cause later expansion, contraction, or deformation of the flooring, which is not considered a product defect.

## 3. SUITABLE SUBFLOORS AND PREPARATION

**3.1 General subfloor requirements**

The subfloor is a key element for the correct performance of UNIQUE STONE SPC flooring. The flooring does not correct defects in the existing subfloor; therefore, it must strictly meet the following conditions:

- It must be clean, dry, firm, stable, and continuous.
- It must be free from dust, construction debris, paint, grease, wax, or any element that could affect floor stability.
- Installation on soft, unstable, or moving subfloors is not permitted.

**Maximum permitted flatness: 1 mm per linear meter.**
No level differences, waves, or irregularities exceeding this value are allowed, measured with an appropriate straightedge or level.

- Any irregularity exceeding this tolerance must be corrected beforehand using self-leveling compounds or other compatible systems.
- Joints, fissures, cracks, or cuts in the subfloor must be properly sealed and stabilized prior to installation.
- Visual inspection alone is not sufficient; appropriate measuring tools must be used.

Failure to properly prepare the subfloor may cause joint opening, damage to the click system, noise, movement, or deformation of the flooring. These effects are not considered product defects and are excluded from the warranty.

### 3.2 Subfloor moisture

- Cement screeds.
- Minimum drying time: 60 days.
- Maximum permitted moisture: < 3%.
- Moisture must be checked using appropriate measuring instruments prior to installation.

Excessive moisture may cause lifting, deformation, or irreversible damage, which is not covered by the warranty.

## 4. VAPOR BARRIER

The use of a vapor barrier is mandatory in:

- Ground-floor installations.
- Subfloors susceptible to rising damp.
- The vapor barrier must be installed continuously, with overlaps properly sealed.
- Material selection and correct installation are the responsibility of the installer.
- Maximum permitted thickness: 0.5 mm.

The absence of a vapor barrier in these situations may cause moisture damage not covered by the warranty.
The vapor barrier does not compensate for subfloor irregularities; the subfloor must strictly meet the flatness and stability requirements indicated in this guide.

## 5. UNDERLAY

- UNIQUE STONE SPC flooring incorporates an integrated underlay specifically designed for its technical characteristics.
- The use of additional mats, foams, or underlays is not permitted.
- The use of unauthorized underlays may cause joint separation, floor instability, and will void the warranty.

## 6. INSTALLATION

Installation of UNIQUE STONE SPC flooring must be carried out carefully following the steps below. Incorrect installation may cause product damage and void the warranty.

- Check all planks before and during installation to ensure they are in good condition.
- Defective or damaged planks must never be used.
- Once a plank is installed, it is considered accepted and no subsequent claims will be accepted.
- Start installation in a corner, placing the first plank with the male side of the click system facing the wall.
- Use spacers along the first row to maintain a perimeter expansion gap of 5–8 mm.

**IMPORTANT:**
- Do not fix the flooring to the subfloor using screws, adhesives, or any fastening systems.
- The floor must remain floating and must not be in contact with pipes, door frames, columns, or other obstacles.
- Failure to comply with this rule will void the warranty.

- To install the next plank, insert the tongue into the groove of the adjacent plank at an angle of approximately 15–20 degrees, then gently lower the plank until it clicks into place.
- Continue connecting planks to complete the first row.
- To fit the last plank in a row, rotate it 180°, measure, and mark the required length.
- Planks may be cut using a utility knife and metal ruler (scoring lightly until it snaps), or preferably with a jigsaw or circular saw suitable for plastics.
- Start each new row using the remaining piece from the previous row, provided it is at least 30–40 cm long, to ensure overall stability.
- Continue assembling the planks row by row until the room is completed.

- To finish the last row, place the planks face down, mark, cut, and fit them while always respecting the expansion gap.
- Door frames and other obstacles must be cut or adjusted to allow the flooring to remain free, without being trapped or blocked.

## 7. EXPANSION JOINTS AND MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS

Expansion joints are essential to allow natural movement of UNIQUE STONE SPC flooring and prevent restrictions.

- Continuous installation without intermediate joints is limited to a maximum of 12 m × 12 m.
- These dimensions apply only when installation is carried out in a single square or rectangular room.
- The 12 m × 12 m criterion must not be applied to a set of rooms connected by corridors, doorways, or transition areas.

If you have any doubts regarding this section, consult your distributor before starting installation.

**Solar radiation and heat accumulation**

In rooms with large glazed areas or prolonged exposure to direct sunlight:

- The surface temperature of the flooring must not exceed 45°C.
- In such cases, extra precautions must be taken and the need for additional expansion joints or installation zoning should be assessed.

## 8. HEAVY OBJECTS, FURNITURE, AND CHAIRS WITH CASTORS

- Fixed loads exceeding 100 kg/m² are not permitted.
- Suitable protectors must be used on all furniture legs (felt, soft rubber, or equivalent systems).
- Recommended minimum leg diameter: ⩾ 3 cm.
- Chairs and elements with castors.
- Chairs and mobile elements with castors must be fitted exclusively with soft castors suitable for resilient flooring.
- The use of hard, metal, unsuitable nylon, or damaged castors is not permitted.
- In high-use areas (offices, workstations), the use of floor mats or protective mats is mandatory.
- Damage resulting from unsuitable castors or lack of protection is not considered a product defect.

## 9. UNDERFLOOR HEATING

- UNIQUE STONE SPC flooring is suitable only for water-based underfloor heating.
- Maximum surface temperature of the flooring: 33°C.
- Start-up must be gradual.
- Installation over electric underfloor heating is not permitted.

**Mandatory for installations with water-based underfloor heating:**

- Install a suitable and continuous vapor barrier.
- Provide an expansion joint in each room; continuous installations between connected rooms are not permitted.

## 10. UNSUITABLE AREAS

UNIQUE STONE SPC flooring must not be installed in:

- Outdoor areas or areas in direct contact with the exterior.
- Saunas, spas, or areas with permanent heat and humidity.
- Solariums, terraces, or open porches.
- Nursing homes, geriatric centers, hospitals, and healthcare environments with continuous traffic from wheelchairs or assisted mobility devices.

## 11. CLEANING, CARE, AND MAINTENANCE

The surface of SPC UNIQUE STONE FLOORING is durable, compact, and resistant, and therefore does not require additional treatments. It must not be polished, varnished, buffed, or waxed.

**Routine cleaning**

- Clean regularly with a dry mop or a slightly damp mop, always well wrung out.
- Damp mopping may be carried out regularly, avoiding excessive water.
- Use neutral-pH detergents specifically intended for vinyl or SPC flooring.
- Do not leave standing liquids on the surface for prolonged periods.
- Clean up spills immediately.

**Cleaning products**
- Do not use steam cleaners, rotary machines, or water-injection cleaning systems.
- Do not use abrasive products, waxes, solvents, or cleaners containing ammonia or acids.

**Environmental conditions**
- Maintain indoor relative humidity between 30% and 50% throughout the year.

**Use and preservation**
- Avoid contact with dirt, sand, dust, oils, asphalt, or other abrasive substances.
- Avoid cutting or puncturing the surface with sharp objects.
- Improper use or inadequate maintenance may cause damage not covered by the warranty.

**Additional recommendations**
- It is recommended to keep some boxes as spare material.
- Plank replacement should be carried out by a professional.

## 12. INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

The installer is responsible for verifying and documenting in advance:

- Subfloor flatness.
- Moisture levels.
- Structural stability.
- Subfloor cleanliness.

Installation implies express acceptance that the subfloor meets the required conditions.

## 13. PRODUCT NATURE

UNIQUE STONE SPC flooring is a technical product with its own behavior.
Visible micro-joints, slight dimensional variations, and seasonal changes are part of its natural behavior and are not considered product defects.