

## Pre-Installation Notes:

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call International Flooring Company support at (855) 432-2353**

### FOR BEST VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF YOUR FLOOR

This flooring replicates the look of a natural product which has natural variations in color, texture, and sheen/gloss. For best visual effect, shuffle planks or tiles from several cartons and do not install similar planks or tiles next to one another.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloor should be dry and level to 3/16" per 10 ft. radius or 1/8" per 6 ft radius for best installation results.

### PRE-INSTALLATION INSPECTION

Flooring material should be inspected prior to installation. Responsibility for the suitability of International Flooring Companies (IFC) flooring and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by IFC, since IFC has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank or tile be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. A replacement will be provided in a timely manner. Carefully examine for finish, sheen, color and quality. If problems are identified, please contact your supplier immediately for a replacement. IFC cannot be held responsible for flooring installed with visible defects, unsatisfactory jobsite or subfloor conditions.

### CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

While CANYON SPC is waterproof, it's not a moisture barrier. It's still a good idea to make sure your concrete is cured and tested for moisture, and that a moisture barrier is installed in the crawl space and even under a CANYON SPC floor over a concrete subfloor. Moisture won't damage CANYON SPC, but it can get in the walls and structure of the home. A couple of extra dollars and a few extra minutes is a small investment for the added protection and peace of mind. CANYON SPC warranty coverage on a concrete subfloor requires a 6 mil poly moisture barrier with joints lapped 6" and sealed with a moisture resistant tape. Concrete should be fully cured, at least 60 days old.

### WOOD SUBFLOORS & CRAWLSPACES

Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" (46 cm) from the ground to the underside of the joists. A ground cover of 6-20 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier with joints lapped 6" (15 cm) and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.

#### **All Subfloors must be:**

Dry  
Structurally sound  
Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris  
Level: Flat to 3/16" per 10-foot radius

Wood subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland Based leveling patch.

### ROOM TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

Room temperature and humidity of installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week before installation of flooring. Maintaining an optimum room temperature of 70° F and a humidity range of 30-50% is recommended.

### EXPANSION GAPS

Homes, adjacent floors, and buildings expand and contract with the seasons and weather conditions. International Flooring Company recommends leaving a 1/4" expansion gap between the perimeter walls and adjacent hardwood floors.

## Getting Started:

### WHAT YOU NEED

#### Installation Tools:

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Chalk line
- Crosscut power saw
- 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape
- Rubber mallet
- ¼" spacers

#### Acceptable subfloor types:

- CDX Underlayment Grade Plywood (at least ½" thick)
- Underlayment grade particleboard
- OSB (at least ¾" thick)
- Concrete slab
- Existing wood or laminate floor
- Ceramic tile
- Resilient tile & sheet vinyl

### PLANNING YOUR LAYOUT

Work from several open boxes of flooring and "dry lay" the floor before permanently laying the floor. This will allow you to select the varying textures, colors, and sheens, and to arrange them in a harmonious pattern. **Remember, it is the installers' responsibility to determine the expectations of what the finished floor will look like with the end user first and then to cull out pieces that do not meet those expectations.**

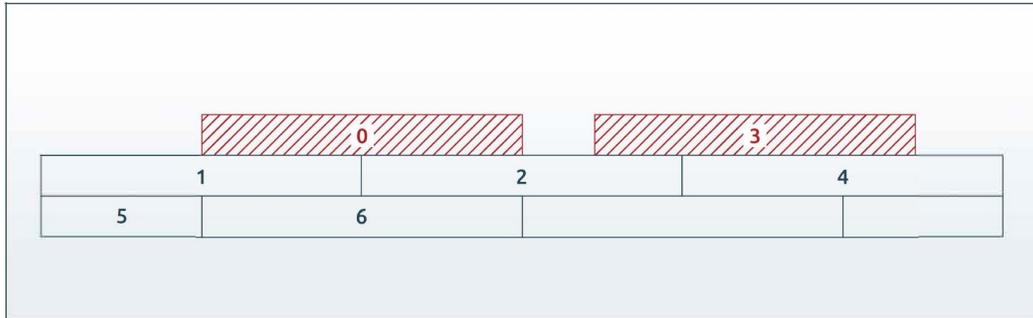
Begin installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks or tiles to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of straight.

You may want to position a few rows before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line. When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 8" (20 cm) for planks. For plank installations, when cutting the last plank in a row to fit, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row. If cut-off end is less than 8", discard it and instead cut a new plank at a random length (at least 8" in length) and use it to start the next row.

### BEFORE LAYING

Measure the room at right angle to the direction of the flooring. For best visual effect, planks or tiles in the final row should be at least at least 1/3 the width of the plank or tile. For this purpose, planks or tiles in the first row can be cut to smaller size. **Shuffle boards in order to obtain a pleasant blend of shades.** Lay boards, preferably following the direction of the main source of light. We recommend laying on wooden floors crossways to the existing floorboards.

### CANYON Drop-Lock Installation:



The installation process outlined here includes the use of 2 planks as an alignment guide (planks 0 & 3 shown above). Make sure plank 0 is centered across planks 1 and 2. Planks end joints should be staggered from row to row by at least 8”.



**Align Installation:** Starting from the left with the tongue-side facing the wall, carefully place the first board in place against the wall (plank 0 shown above).

**Install Plank 1:** Next, take another full length plank, angle it into the middle of the long side of plank 0 and drop. Ensure there are no gaps.



**Install Plank 2:** Take another full length plank and angle it into plank 0. Then slide plank 2 until the short side makes contact with the short side of plank 1.

**Engage the Short Sides:** Drop the short side of plank 2 onto the short side of plank 1. Drop & Lock by pushing down firmly, if necessary, use a hard PVC mallet to tap the joints slightly on the short side to secure. This ensures 3-fold locking.



**Align Installation:** Use a full plank (3) as an alignment guide by placing it against the wall. Angle plank 3 into plank 2.



**Install Plank 4:** Take another full-length plank and angle it into plank 3. Then slide plank 4 until the short side contacts the short side of plank 2. Drop & Lock by pushing the planks firmly down, if necessary, use a hard PVC mallet to tap the joints slightly on the short side to secure. Ensure there are no gaps or height differences.



**Finish Rows 1 & 2:** Start your second row by using half a plank (5) and angle in with plank 1. Make sure the short sides are aligned. Repeat the same steps as above to finish the second row. Ensure there are no gaps or height differences.



**Remove Alignment Planks:** Remove planks 0 and 3 by angling them out.



**Use Spacers and Slide Rows Towards Spacers:** Place the spacers along the walls to create an expansion space of 0.2 inches. Proceed by gently sliding rows 1 and 2 towards the spacers.



**Finalize Installation:** From row 3 onwards, installation does not require a specific laying pattern. To finish the last row, measure the distance from the wall to the last installed row minus 0.2 inches. Remove spacers when installation is complete. Finish up the room by placing any plinths, molding and trim.