

# UNICLIC Locking System Installation Instructions



## PREPARATION

We recommend placing a single order for all cartons required for a commercial flooring project.

We recommend installation being carried out by a professional flooring installer.

**1. STORAGE AND HANDLING:** Always store and transport SPC flooring on a flat surface to avoid distorting the product. Never store cartons upright, in moist areas, near heating and cooling appliances or areas with extreme temperatures. SPC Flooring must be acclimated in the room of installation between 55° - 85°F (13° - 30°C) for 48 hours before installation. These temperatures should be maintained before, during and after the installation is complete.

**\*Installation in enclosed Three Season Rooms:** acclimate product and room at 55° - 85°F (13° - 30°C) for 48-hours prior, during and 48 hours after installation is complete. Maximum installation span for Three Season Rooms is 40' x 40' (12.2m X 12.2m) with a 1/2" (13mm) minimum expansion for the perimeter or all vertical objects.

**2. SUBFLOORS:** The type of subfloor, its quality and preparation will greatly affect the results of the final installation. All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and sound. If the subfloor is not suitable for the installation of SPC flooring, then necessary corrections must be made.

SPC flooring can be installed over existing floor coverings, providing it is sound and securely attached. Existing flooring cannot be soft, damaged or loosely laid. Remove carpet, needle felt, cushion vinyl, floating laminate, floating LVT, perimeter adhered vinyl and floating hardwood. You may install directly over ceramic tiles, PVC, VCT, glued laminate, glued hardwood and fixed wooden boards, provided they are installed over a wooden subfloor. Skim-coat grout lines that exceed 1/8" in width.

**WARNING! DO NOT MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.**

Previously installed resilient floor covering products and the asphaltic or cutback adhesive used to install them may contain either asbestos and/or crystalline silica. The products in this carton DO NOT contain asbestos or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of asbestos or crystalline dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

# UNICLIC Locking System Installation Instructions



**2.1. WOOD SUBFLOOR:** Remove any existing floor covering. Replace any water-damaged, swollen or delaminated subflooring. Ensure the subfloor is level and nail down any loose boards. Repair the wooden subfloor as needed or by installing 1/4" APA underlayment grade panels or leveling compound. Underlayment panels must be fastened in accordance with manufacturer's recommendation. OSB or particleboard subfloors should be covered with a 6-mil poly moisture vapor barrier or 1/4" APA underlayment grade panels to enable the floating installation to move as designed.

- The crawl space under the wood subfloor must be sufficiently ventilated with perimeter venting 1.5 sq. ft. per 100 sq. ft. of crawl space. All exposed soil in the crawl space must be covered with a 6-mil vapor barrier. The moisture content of the wood subfloor must not exceed 12% per 1000 sq. ft. using a pin-type meter. **NOTE: Do not install over wood attached to concrete. Instead remove wood and follow concrete subfloor instructions.**

- Measure subfloor for flatness. Any unevenness greater than 3/16" in a 10' radius (5mm in 3m) must be leveled using a Portland based leveling compound. Level joints more than 1/8" (3mm) deep and 1/4" (6mm) in width with Portland based patching compound.

**2.2. CONCRETE SUBFLOOR:** The moisture content of the concrete subfloor must be less than 80% relative humidity (ASTM F 2170) or less than 5 lbs. moisture vapor emission rate (ASTM F1869). Always measure, record and keep moisture content results.

- A 6-mil poly moisture vapor barrier is required over concrete substrates to protect from substrate moisture.

- Measure subfloor for flatness. Any unevenness greater than 3/16" in a 10' radius (5mm in 3m) must be leveled using a Portland based leveling compound. Level joints more than 1/8" (3mm) deep and 1/4" (6mm) in width with Portland based patching compound.

- Radiant floor heating systems (hydronic or electric) must be embedded into the cement subfloor. Radiant heat system should be in operation a minimum of two weeks prior to installation of SPC flooring to eliminate excess moisture in subfloor. Turn system completely off and allow to cool completely before beginning installation. After SPC flooring has been installed turn the system on to the lowest setting. Increase temperature by 5°F (3°C) every 24 hours until floor surface reaches the desired temperature not to exceed 85°F (30°C). Floor surface temperature should never exceed 85°F (30°C) or it may damage the flooring. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor as well as a separate thermostat for the individual room is required. An outdoor temperature sensor should be used to adjust water temperature according to heat loss. Separate rooms with and without radiant floor heating or rooms with different temperature controllers using a transition profile, following manufacturer's installation guidelines and utilizing a 1/4-inch (6 mm) expansion gap [5/8 inch (16mm) for areas that will be exposed to temperatures greater than 85°F (30°C)] to allow expansion and contraction.

# UNICLIC Locking System Installation Instructions



- Make sure that the subfloor is dry, flat, stable, clean and free of adhesive residue, surface contaminants or chemical substances. Remove all debris, sweep and vacuum. Repair surface imperfections and cracks. We recommend removing existing base trim and installing new moldings after installation of SPC flooring is complete.

**3. Tools needed:** utility knife, tape measure, safety glasses, chalk line, speed square, tapping block, circular saw, gloves and a pencil. In addition to the standard tools, we recommend having a pull bar and a carpenter's square available.

**THE USE OF ANY ACCESSORIES OTHER THAN RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES MAY CAUSE DAMAGE TO YOUR SPC FLOORING. IN SUCH CASES, THE WARRANTY PROVIDED WILL BE VOID.**

11. Visually inspect all planks before and throughout installation in optimal lighting. Unacceptable planks should be discarded or, when possible, used as cut pieces to start or finish rows after removing the defective portion of the plank.

## INSTALLATION

### 1. GENERAL:

- During installation, blend the planks by working out of multiple cartons to avoid laying too many identical lighter or darker panels adjacent to one another. For optimal results, it is best to fit the panels in the direction of the longest wall and parallel to the light source in the room. Install plank flooring in a random method with at least a 12-inch (30 cm) stagger.
- Measure the room before you begin installing flooring planks or tiles. Make sure that the last row of panels is at least 3 inches (8 cm) wide when finishing the installation. We recommend snapping a chalk line to ensure a perfectly straight installation.
- SPC flooring has been designed for floating installations in indoor areas including enclosed three season rooms, protected from the elements with ambient temperatures ranging between 0 and 140°F (-17 and 40°C).
- SPC products with pad attached cannot be installed over separate underlayment.

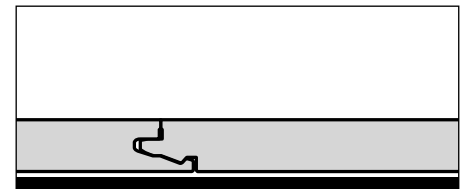
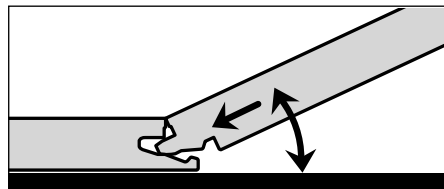
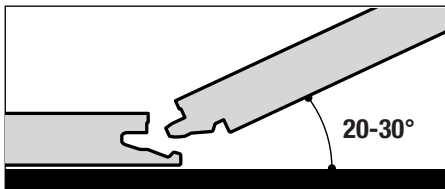
# UNICLIC Locking System Installation Instructions



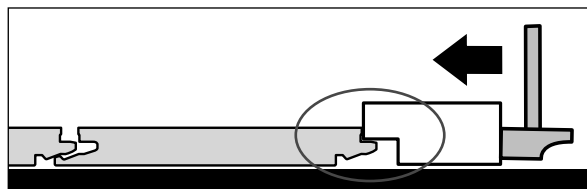
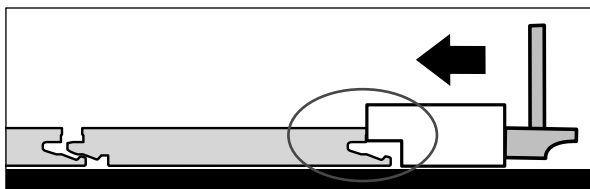
## 2. UNICLIC SYSTEM:

Planks with Uniclic locking system can be installed in two different ways:

**Method A:** Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 to 30° to the panel already installed. Move the panel gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure. The panels will automatically click into place. You can either insert the tongue into the groove, or the groove on to the tongue. The tongue in groove method is the most common and easiest way. See diagram below.

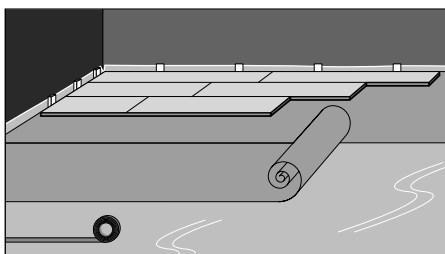


**Method B:** With Uniclic you can also tap the panels into each other without lifting. For this method you must use the special Uniclic tapping block. The planks should not be joined with a single tap. To avoid damaging the panels you must tap them together gradually. See diagram below.



## 2. INSTALLING THE FLOOR

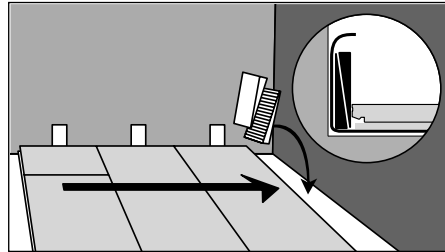
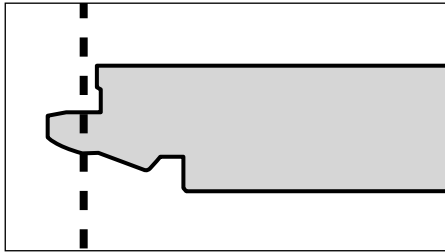
- First install the underlayment (if have), per width and gradually as you progress. If the underlayment is pre-mounted on the panels, then only use the damp-proof 150 μ Screen membrane with adhesive tape as provided. Let the membrane run up the wall a bit before cutting to size. A molding will be attached to this later. See diagram below.



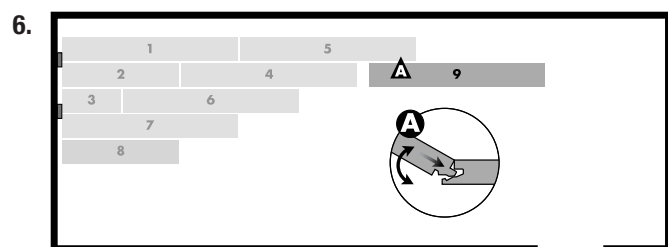
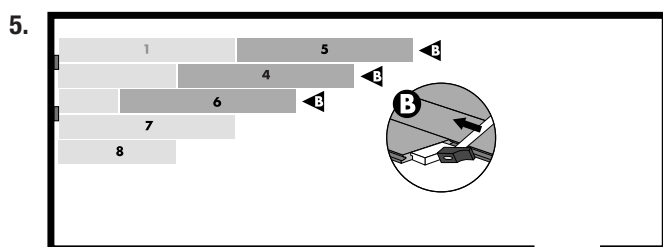
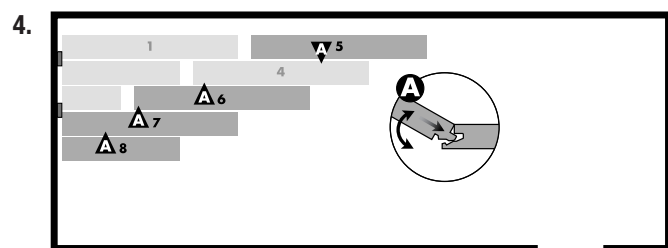
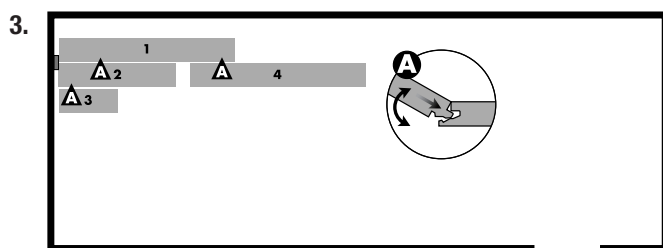
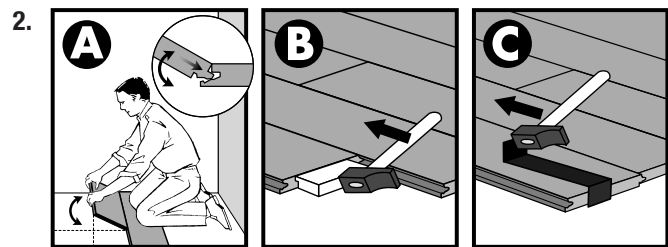
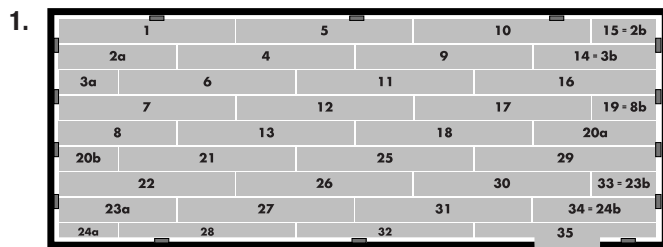
# UNICLIC Locking System Installation Instructions



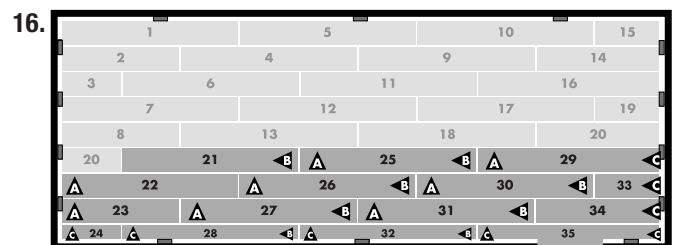
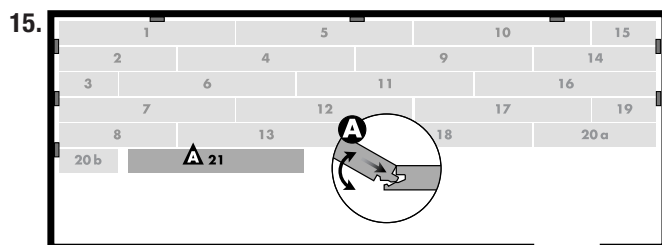
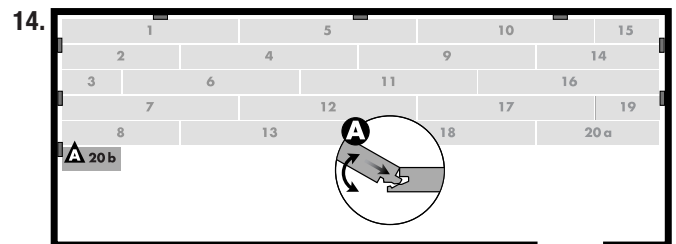
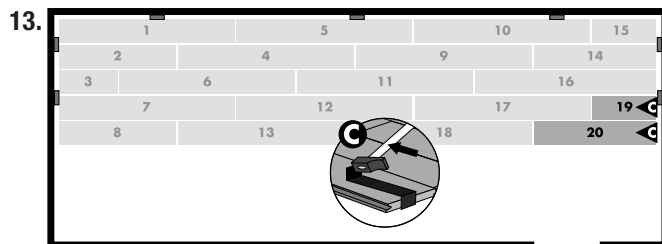
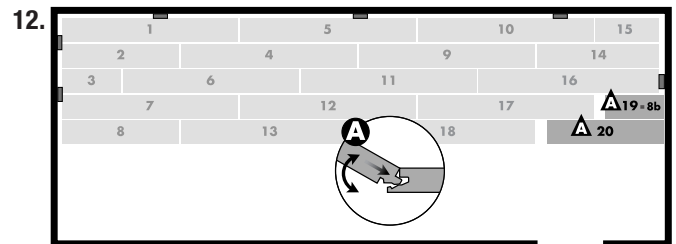
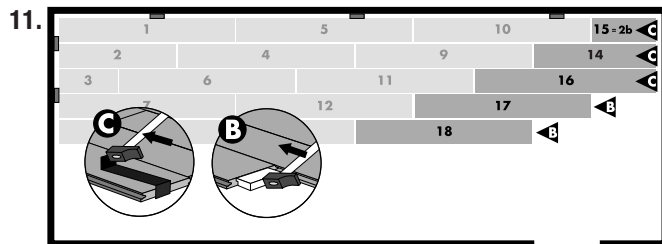
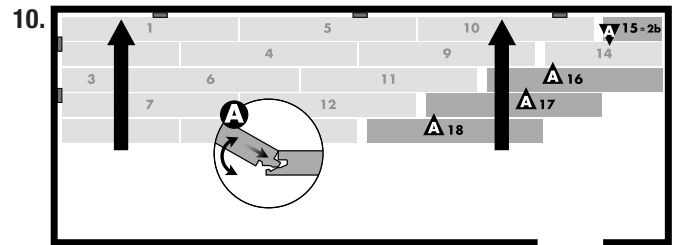
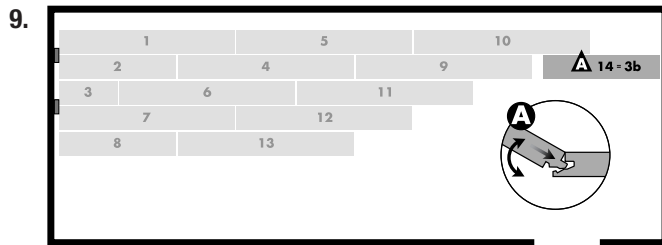
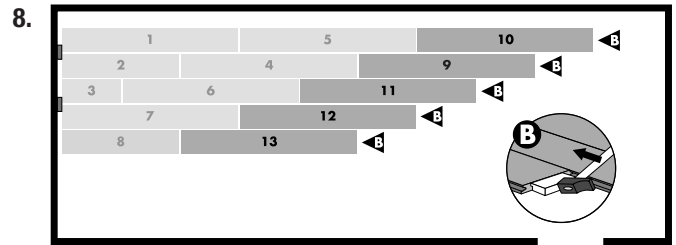
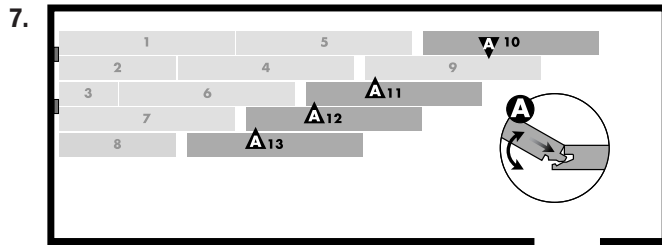
- Begin the first row with a full-length plank. First cut off the tongue on both the long and the short sides. Put the plank with sawn off sides against the walls. Make sure that you leave an expansion space of 1/4 inch (6 mm) [5/8 inch (16mm)] for areas that will be exposed to temperatures greater than 85°F (30°C)] between the plank and the wall, using spacers as needed. See diagrams below.



- The diagrams indicate where the Uniclic panels are clicked together by angling up and down or where they are tapped together flat. Follow the diagrams precisely.



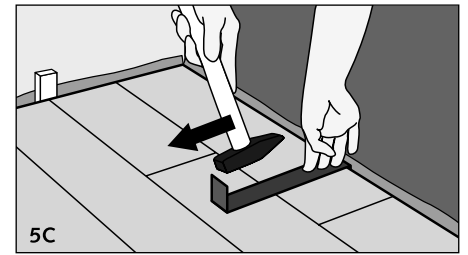
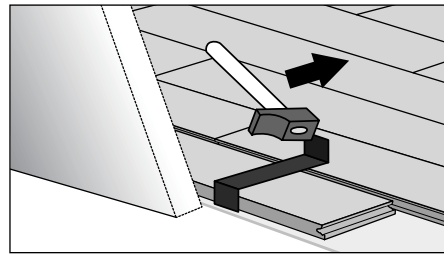
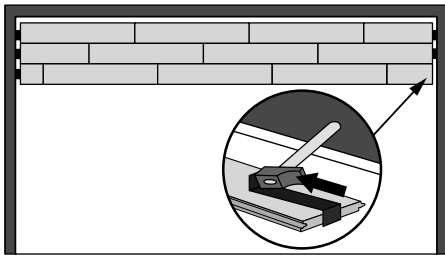
# UNICLIC Locking System Installation Instructions



# UNICLIC Locking System Installation Instructions



- In places where it is too difficult to install the Uniclic planks with the tapping block (e.g. against the wall), you can tap them together using the crowbar and a hammer. See diagrams.



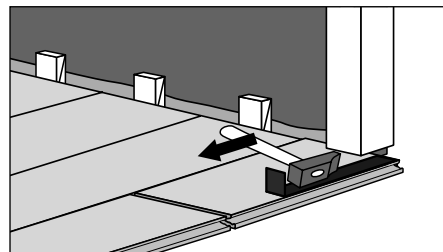
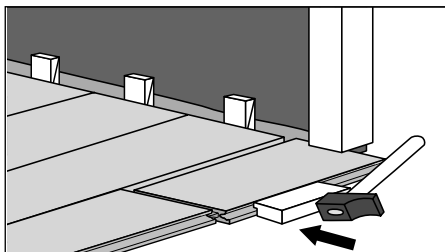
**An expansion space of 1/4 inch (6 mm) [5/8 inch (16mm) for areas that will be exposed to temperatures greater than 85°F (30°C)] around the room perimeter and all vertical objects must be maintained; this same expansion space should be maintained when using transition moldings. Otherwise, there is no need for additional expansion space within or between rooms.**

## FINISHING

You may walk on your new SPC floor immediately after installation.

**1. BASE MOLDING:** Inspect the final surface of the installed floor. Remove all spacers. Install base molding to the wall. Never attach the base to the floor itself. In places where profiles or base cannot be installed, seal (do not fill) the expansion space with silicone.

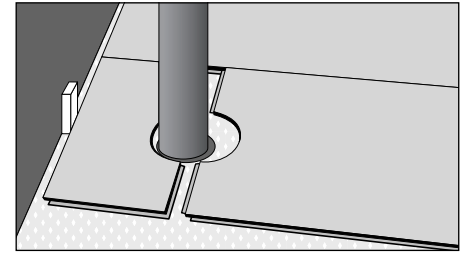
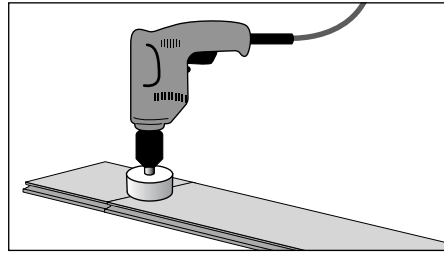
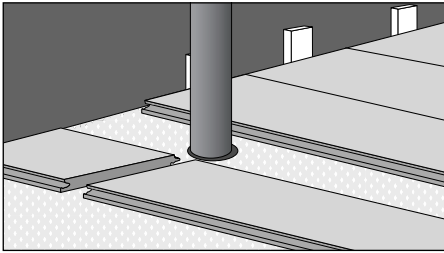
**2. UNDER DOORFRAMES:** When the new flooring meets a threshold or a doorway, we recommend undercutting the door jamb. To secure the right cut, turn a plank upside down and place it on the floor up to the door frame. Then place a handsaw flat against the plank and simply cut through the frame. Remove the cut-out piece and vacuum away debris. You can now secure the plank on the long side at the side of the door jamb. Use an installation tool pull bar to securely join the long and short joints.



# UNICLIC Locking System Installation Instructions



**3. PIPES:** In rows where there is a pipe, make sure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two planks. Select a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe plus 1/2 inch (13 mm). Click the planks together on the short side and drill a hole centered on the joint between the two planks. Then install the planks.



For a double pipe, drill a hole equivalent to the diameter of the pipe plus 1/2 inch (13 mm) at each of the marked points. If located on the long side of the plank, make a 45° cut from each hole to the edge of the plank.

Apply Sealer along the cut edges of the piece you cut out, seal the piece in place. Be sure no sealer comes between the cut-out piece and the subfloor.

## MAINTENANCE

- Use a vacuum cleaner suitable for hard surface flooring (with no moving parts and without rotary beater bars) to clean your SPC floor. Care for your SPC floor by using luxury vinyl floor Cleaner and a microfiber mop.
- Never use a steam cleaner on your SPC floor.
- Remove spills from the floor immediately.
- Protect the floor from furniture and chair legs by using felt pads or coaster protectors. Ensure chairs with casters have suitable soft neoprene wheels. Replace hard or plastic casters with soft wheels designed for a vinyl floor and/or use a suitable desk mat.
- Never drag heavy items of furniture over the floor, always lift instead. Make sure furniture legs have a large surface area in contact with the floor and are affixed with non-staining floorprotectors. The taller and wider the furniture feet are, the greater the disbursement of weight, which helps avoid damage to the floor.
- Ensure the interior room temperature is always maintained between 55°F - 85°F (13°-30°C). Three Season Rooms can be maintained between 0°F - 140°F (-17 and 40°C).



# UNICLIC Locking System Installation Instructions



Place transition mats at all exterior entrances. Exterior mats should be constructed of dual fibers: soft fibers capable of absorbing moisture and coarse fibers to remove dirt and grime from shoe soles. Begin by purchasing two sets of exterior mats for each exterior entrance. Place one mat into service at all exterior entrances to reduce the amount of dirt, grit and moisture tracked into the interior. During routine cleaning remove the first mat for cleaning and replace with the second mat. Routine cleaning of exterior mats prevents them from becoming a secondary soil source.

Place interior mats at all interior entrances to capture any residual dirt, grit or moisture not removed by exterior mats. They should be constructed of breathable, non-staining back with an absorbent fiber. Remember to routinely clean the face and underneath interior mats so they don't become a secondary source of soil and allow soil and grit to become embedded underneath the mat and abrade the finish of your flooring.

A more frequent spot cleaning schedule is recommended when de-icers are being used.

Do not allow cigarettes, matches or other very hot items to contact the floor as this may cause permanent damage. Also, prolonged contact with items made from rubber can cause a permanent stain on the floor.