

BOARDWALK RIGID PLANK & TILE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

To obtain the best results, we suggest using a professional installer. Improper installation can influence your warranty. It is important to fully understand what is required before installation begins.

Beauflor continuously seeks to make technological advances in product design, installation methods and accessories.

NOTICE

Upon receipt, check that the product received is the correct style and color and to the customer's satisfaction. If there are any doubts, do not install the flooring and contact the retailer. Beauflor[®] will not be held responsible for any costs relating to the installation of unsatisfactory or incorrect product. For warranty coverage product must be installed in accordance with Beauflor installation guidelines using Beauflor installation sundries.

PREPARATION

ACCLIMATION

Boardwalk doesn't require acclimation prior to installation. Installation site condition requirements are between 55°F and 95°F before, during and for at least 48 hours after installation.

If the product was previously stored in a temperature between 55 °F and 95 °F, no acclimation is required. If that is not the case, store the UNOPENED BOXES in the room where the flooring is to be installed for at least 48 hours prior to installation. Heating and air conditioning should be operational and set between 55 °F - 85°F for the acclimation and installation period.

Boardwalk may be installed within enclosed interior areas which do not have permanent HVAC such as vacation homes, cabins or three season rooms. Installation in these areas may require the use of temporary heating/cooling before, during and after installation for at least 48 hours according to the acclimation temperatures above.

SUGGESTED TOOLS

- Safety Glasses
- Utility knife
- Saw /Guillotine
- Pencil
- T-square / Straight Edge
- Tape measure
- Spacers
- Rubber Mallet
- Chalk Line
- Beauflor Moisture Seal 95
- Beauflor Substrate Primer
- Beauflor Isolate

SITE CONDITIONS / SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- Room temperature must be maintained between 55 °F and 85 °F during the installation period.
- Substrate should be free of dust, debris from paint, varnish, wax, oils, curing sealers, solvents and other foreign matter.
- Any adhesive residue from prior installations should be completely removed.

- Any looseness of the substrate should be secured.
- High spots should be levelled and low spots should be filled with a proper material to ensure substrate is flat within 3/16" per 10 foot radius
- All construction seams, expansion joints, and holes should be filled level with the surrounding surface to eliminate telegraphing of such irregularities.
- If you plan to remove old resilient flooring material or any type of old adhesive, please be aware that it may contain asbestos fibers or crystalline silica; therefore, avoid creating dust.
 - Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazards and local regulations may require professional removal.
 - Instructions for the removal of old flooring materials and adhesives may be found in the RFCI Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings. You may contact the Resilient Floor Covering Institute at 706-882-3833 or www.rfci.com.
- Use only cement-based patching and leveling compounds.
 - Check with patching and leveling compound manufacturers for curing times.
 - Check moisture levels before starting installation to ensure moisture levels are within guidelines as outlined in the "Concrete Substrates" paragraph.
 - The contractor or owner is responsible for cure time, moisture content testing, and the structural integrity of any leveling or patching compound used.

SUBFLOOR GUIDELINES

Boardwalk can be installed over many floors. All carpeting and padding need to be removed. Make sure that the surface is clean, dry, structurally sound and flat within 3/16" per 10 foot radius. Supporting floors must be rigid as too much deflection can result in a failed installation. Maximum deflection should not exceed 3/64" (1.1 mm). Boardwalk should not be installed over plank floors, cushioned-backed vinyl flooring, asphalt-based floors, carpet, self-adhering plank or tile, laminate or other floating flooring or structurally-damaged concrete; concrete should be free from dust, solvents, paint, wax, grease, oil, sealing compounds or curing agents. If necessary, apply Beauflor Isolate to cover asphalt adhesive stains in accordance with pail instructions.

As Boardwalk comes with an attached underlayment, additional padding or underlay are not necessary nor permitted.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

Concrete subfloors must be inspected prior to installation and if they do not meet the following requirements, do not install flooring. Concrete shall have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi. Concrete subfloors must be cured for 60 days prior to installation of the flooring, and should be tested for excessive moisture. Use Beauflor Substrate Primer for dusty or porous concrete subfloors in accordance with pail instructions. Concrete subfloors require moisture testing conducted in accordance with ASTM F1869 Calcium Chloride Test or ASTM F2179 Relative Humidity in Concrete Slabs. Calcium Chloride emissions should not exceed 5 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. Relative Humidity In-Situ Probes should not exceed 75% RH. Testing should be performed and documented prior to beginning installation.

For concrete substrates with excess moisture results, apply Beauflor Moisture Seal 95 in accordance with instructions.

WOOD SUBFLOORS

Wood subfloors require no more than 14% moisture content when tested with pin type meter and must have a minimum 18" cross ventilated space between the bottom of the joist and ground. Exposed earth crawl spaces must be sealed with a polyethylene moisture barrier. For wood installed directly over concrete (sleeper construction), remove the wood and proceed with concrete subfloor guidelines.

Wood subfloors should be a minimum of 3/4" thick, APA approved grade tongue and groove plywood or 23/32" OSB, with a smooth finish, free from spring and deflection. If the wooden subfloor is not an APA approved flooring grade underlayment, a minimum of 1/4" approved wood underlayment must be adhered to the existing substrate. Make sure that the surface is clean, dry, structurally sound and flat within 3/16" per 10 foot radius. All fastener indentations and joints should be level and smooth using appropriate patching compounds. Deflection should not exceed 3/64".

EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORS

When installing Boardwalk over existing resilient flooring, ensure that the existing product is in good condition, that it was installed in the full spread glue method and is properly secured. Boardwalk can be installed over one layer of non-cushioned sheet flooring. Existing tile or sheet resilient floorings should be stripped using a product that is an appropriate stripper for vinyl to remove wax or other contamination, rinsed with clear water and allowed to dry.

When installing over an existing resilient flooring material, an embossing leveler may be required to prevent the existing material pattern from telegraphing through the new material.

GYP SUM FLOORS

Boardwalk can be installed as floating floor over flooring grade gypsum subfloors when properly installed over a subfloor that is structurally sound and flat within 3/16" per 10 foot radius.

MARBLE, QUARRY TILE, TERRAZZO, CERAMIC TILE

Properly cleanse substrate using a commercial degreasing/dewaxing solution. Grind or abrade any highly polished or irregular surfaces. Fill any low areas, chips and grout joints that may telegraph through the new flooring.

The joints of Boardwalk should never align with underlying tile joints. Tile joints in excess of 1/4" width should be filled with latex fortified Portland based filler.

RADIANT HEAT FLOORS

Boardwalk can be installed over embedded radiant-heated floors provided the operating temperature never exceeds 80°F. The radiant system should be in operation for three (3) weeks prior to installation of the flooring. For 48 hours prior to and during installation, the system should be kept at 60°F. Once the installation is completed, the heat should be gradually increased by a maximum of 5°F per day until the desired setting is reached. Do not use radiant heat systems that expose the flooring to wide variations in temperature, such as a wire induction mat system. The installation area of the flooring shall not contain heated and non-heated areas, unless expansion joints separate them. Keep in mind that loose rugs or carpets may accidentally function as heat insulators and raise the temperature to more than the tolerated maximum surface temperature of 80°F.

PRE-INSTALLATION INSPECTION

- Cartons should be stored horizontally at all times.
- Protect carton corners from damage.
- Do not install cabinets or kitchen island on your floating floors.
- Inspect all planks/tiles for visible defects and damage before and during installation.
 - Do not install damaged planks/tiles. Beauflor will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with visible defects.
 - During installation, inspect the groove area and remove any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks/tiles.
- Boardwalk is production-run sensitive. Beauflor cannot guarantee that any future replacement or additional installation will match the originally-installed product. The production run number is listed on the short side of the carton.

- Ensure that all boxes are of the correct product and when installing, open several boxes at a time and mix planks/tiles from different boxes for best results and overall look.
- Room temperature should be no less than 55 °F for 48 hours before, during and after installation.
- Remove all existing moldings.
- Undercut doorway moldings to the thickness of the flooring.
- Boardwalk is a floating floor and should never be nailed down to the substrate.
- Boardwalk is intended for indoor use only.
- Determine in which direction the planks/tiles will be installed. It is recommended that the flooring be installed running parallel to the longest wall.
- Carefully measure the room to determine the width of the last row of planks/tiles. If the width is less than 2", excluding the tongue, the width of the first row of planks/tiles will have to be cut accordingly.
- Installation of transitions and expansion space requirements are determined by installation type.
 - **RESIDENTIAL INSTALLATIONS**
 - Transitions are not required across residential installation spans.
 - A 3/16" expansion space is required around wall perimeter and all fixed or vertical objects.
 - **RESIDENTIAL THREE SEASON ROOMS**
 - Transitions are required in all doorways and for installation spans in excess of 40 ft. in any direction.
 - A 1/2" expansion space is required around wall perimeter and all fixed or vertical objects.
 - **LIGHT COMMERCIAL**
 - *NOTICE: All commercial installations require approval by a Beauflor sales representative.*
 - Transitions are required in all doorways and for installation spans in excess of 40 ft. in any direction.
 - A 3/16" expansion space is required around wall perimeter and all fixed or vertical objects.

INSTALLATION

1. Begin laying planks/tiles from the left side of the starting wall and work to the right side. The tongue of the plank should face the starting wall.
2. Place 1/4" (6.35 mm) spacers between the short and long side of the planks/tiles and the wall. Always position one spacer between the wall and where the planks/tiles join.
3. The end joints of the planks/tiles in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side of the previous plank/tile at a low angle. Gradually lower the plank/tile down flat until the end joint closes, ensuring that the planks/tiles are perfectly aligned. Install remaining full planks/tiles in the first row.
4. The last plank/tile in the first row will need to be cut. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank/tile. Subtract 1/4" (6.35 mm) from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 8" (20 cm), the first plank/tile in the row should be cut. The first and last plank/tile in each row should be at least 8" (20 cm) in length. Planks/tiles are cut using a sharp utility knife and a square. Score the surface of the plank/tile with the knife and snap the plank/tile at the score line.
5. The remaining piece cut off from the last plank/tile in the first row may serve as the first plank/tile in the second row provided it is at least 8" (20 cm) long. Always stagger end joints from row to row a minimum of 8" (20 cm) apart.
6. Install the long side of the first plank/tile of the second row. Place a 1/4" (6.35 mm) spacer between the wall and the short side of the plank/tile. Insert the tongue side into the groove side of the plank/tile from the previous row at a low angle and lower flat to the substrate.
7. Install the second plank/tile of the second row. Position the long side of the plank/tile with the tongue side, fully engage into the receiver of the first row of product. Lower the plank/tile with firm pressure to the floor, ensuring that the end joint is overlapping and perfectly aligned; push the end joint downward till the end of the plank/tile snaps in place.
 - a. Note: This may require the use of a rubber mallet for it to completely lock in place.

8. Continue installing planks/tiles in the second row. It is important to make sure that the first two rows are straight and square as they can affect the entire installation.
9. Continue working from left to right, row by row.
10. Be sure to maintain a 1/4" (6.35 mm) space around all walls and vertical objects.
11. To maintain a random appearance, remember to offset end joints a minimum of 8".

FINISHING INSTALLATION

1. After all planks/tiles have been installed, remove spacers from perimeter of room.
2. Do not fasten any moldings through the flooring.
3. Install quarter-round or baseboard molding. Molding should be of sufficient size to cover the 1/4" (6.35 mm) space and should be fastened to the wall, not to the flooring.

INSTALLATION ILLUSTRATIONS

How to engage

1. Start by engaging the plank on the long side (angle-system).



2. Slide the plank until it reaches the short side of the next plank and drop gently.



3. Press with your thumb on both ends of the short side.



4. Continue pressing until you hear the "click" sound of the one piece Drop Lock system.



5. Hit gently with a soft-faced hammer on both sides of the short-end.



6. Planks are now fully locked.



MAINTENANCE AND CARE

GENERAL

- Use plywood to cover the top of the flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
- Use floor protectors under the legs of furniture and chairs.
- Heavy furnishing loads placed on the floor can pin the product down to the substrate which may prevent the product from expanding and contracting evenly, causing side or end separation, peaking or gapping.
- Do not nail, glue or otherwise adhere Boardwalk
- Boardwalk is intended for indoor use only.
- Boardwalk is warranted a floor covering only.
- Post-installation temperature should be maintained between -4 °F and 122 °F (-20 °C - 50 °C). Relative humidity should be maintained between 40% and 70%.
- To keep your floor in good condition, it is important to place non-rubber backed doormats at all entrances, to prevent dirt or grit on your floor. Placing doormats will eliminate abrasive particles driven by footwear and will reduce damage. Do not use rubber-backed mats, as long-lasting contact with rubber can cause permanent discoloration. Never place doormats on a wet floor.
- Rolling office chairs, casters, furniture legs, fitness appliances, etc. should be fitted with soft, non-rubber casters, to avoid permanent damage to your floor. Use a suitable desk mat.
- You should use felt pads or protective feet for items that contain rubber, such as chair legs, furniture legs, fitness appliances, etc.

Follow the Beauflor Care and Maintenance instructions to properly care for your flooring.

HOMEOWNER OBLIGATIONS

To maintain warranty coverage and ensure fast and easy warranty service, the homeowner is responsible for the following:

- Keep five (5) planks/tiles of the product after installation for testing purposes.
- Keep and be able to provide the original sales receipt or documentation illustrating proof of purchase and installation date of the product.
- Make sure the flooring is installed according to Beauflor Installation Instructions.
- Keep a list of cleaners used to maintain the flooring.

BEAUFLO USA, LLC

This document presents general installation instructions, and is not intended to replace the professional installation expertise of a professional installer. As all installation situations are unique, professional installation is advised.

To ensure the best possible installation, and to ensure the validity of the warranty, these instructions should be followed carefully. Please visit our website at www.beauflor.us for the most up-to-date version of this document, and for additional care and maintenance, and warranty information.