

**HARD INTERLOCKING TILES****HARD INTERLOCKING TILES INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE GUIDE**

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**GENERAL**

1. Inspect the product in good lighting conditions to ensure it is correct (color, quality and quantity) as ordered. Open boxes cannot be returned. IMPACT INSPIRE® - Hard Interlocking Tiles is for interior use only.
2. Note locking systems listed.
3. Generally, IMPACT INSPIRE® - Hard Interlocking Tiles do not need to be acclimatised. However, if boxes are exposed to extreme temperatures (under 5°C or over 50°C) within the 12 hours prior to installation, unopened boxes should be acclimatised for a minimum of 12 hours at temperature between 18-27°C and a relative humidity between 30- 60%. This temperature and humidity range is to be maintained before, during and after installation.
4. Subfloor must be solid, level (2mm over 1000mm), dry and clean. IMPACT INSPIRE® - Hard Interlocking Tiles can be installed over most existing floor coverings (e.g. ceramic tiles, linoleum, PVC etc.) provided the floor is flat, dry and in the case of ceramics in a residential installation, grout line tolerances are no more than 3mm wide and 3mm deep. Otherwise grout joints should be filled to the level of the tiles with a suitable leveller. Carpet, carpet underlay and/or existing floating floors is not a suitable subfloor.
5. Install a plastic sheet over rough subfloors such as chipboard to ensure the product's backing does not get caught on the rough subfloor.
6. Minimum 6-10mm expansion gaps to be provided at all fixed vertical surfaces (including around cabinetry, island benches and all fixed furniture).
7. Check each board for visual defects and locking system integrity in optimal lighting before and during installation. Clean any debris out of locks before installation. Always use boards from several packs and inspect each board to get the best-balanced visual installation. Never install defective product. Installation is recognized as acceptance of all visual defects.
8. Boards can be cut with the score-and-snap method for straight cuts, and with clippers for complex cuts. If cutting boards using any type of saw, dust extraction and/or respiratory protection must be used.
9. Skirting boards or end caps will be needed to cover the perimeter expansion gap. Alternately, the skirting boards can be undercut. Fixings should be to the wall only, never directly to the floor. Silicone or caulking compound is not recommended. Water resistant accessories to match/ complement the Hard Interlocking Tiles are available.
10. Minimum width of boards for first and last rows is 50mm. End stagger of joins in rows should be minimum 300mm.
11. Ensure that the first 3-4 rows are checked for straightness using a string line. Continue to check for straightness at all stages of the installation.
12. IMPACT INSPIRE® - Hard Interlocking Tiles floors are extremely stable and can be installed in individual rooms up to 30m long and 15m wide. In complex or multi room installation, internal expansion joints at doorways / thresholds are required.

**Please note:**

1. Although IMPACT INSPIRE® - Hard Interlocking Tiles floors are waterproof, it should not be used as a moisture barrier, and should not be installed in areas that have a continual risk of excessive moisture/ flooding such as saunas or outdoor areas. If being installed in a wet area (e.g. bathroom, laundry etc.) please refer to the Wet Area Installation note below.
2. Hard Interlocking Tiles must be installed using a floating floor system – they need to be able to move. Ensure expansion gaps allow for movement, and furniture items exceeding 200kg are not placed on the floor.
3. Insufficient expansion gaps, including in doorways and under trims, will cause a floor to potentially buckle, peak, cup, and/or separate, leading in most cases to floor failure.
4. IMPACT INSPIRE® - Hard Interlocking Tiles should never be installed over any electrical radiant heating system - the speed of sudden temperature changes having the potential to negatively affect the floor. IMPACT INSPIRE® - Hard Interlocking Tiles may, if properly installed, be installed over hydronic underfloor radiant heating systems. Please contact Responsive Industries for detailed installation instructions.
5. Uneven subfloors can cause the locking system to break and/or the floor to sound drummy, or become noisy, and will cause early deterioration and/or failure of the floor.
6. IMPACT INSPIRE® - Hard Interlocking Tiles are not recommended for hairdressing salons.
7. Care and Maintenance Instructions must be followed to maintain the product warranty. Please ensure these instructions are left with the occupier.

**DETAILED DRAWINGS**

1. Perform preparation works including (but not limited to) any levelling, undercutting of door jambs and/or skirting boards.
2. Hard Interlocking Tiles are normally installed adjacent to the longest run where possible. Plan your installation, refer to note 8 below, which may necessitate trimming the first row.
3. Start in the left corner, install the first row. Leave a minimum expansion gap of 6-10mm at ends and sides. The amount of expansion is dictated by the expected temperature fluctuations in the building. As a general rule, leave as much expansion as possible to allow for excessive temperature fluctuations.
4. Install the second row: Use the off-cut from the first row to start the second row. It must be >300mm, and not closer than 300mm from the end join in the previous row.
5. a) Tap Fold-down (Unipush™): Long side first, then fold down and gently tap the end- join ensuring it is properly aligned.
6. Continue laying the floor. Place wedges/packers to ensure the required expansion gap is respected.

7. At doorways, trim the male part of the end click so the board can slide under the architrave. Use a PVC glue for the trimmed join, engage the long side of the board and use a tapping block to engage the short end of the board.
8. At other fixed points, such as heater vents or fixed pipes, leave an expansion gap.
9. The final row must be a minimum 50mm in width. Glue the last rows end joins with PVC glue.
10. Internal expansion gaps are required at doorways/ thresholds and rooms exceeding 30m x 15m.
11. Remove spacers/wedges from around the room and install skirting boards and/or finishing trims. Never fix any trims directly to the floor and ensure fixing does not compromise expansion gaps. Silicone or caulking compound is not recommended.

### **WET AREA INSTALLATION**

If your IMPACT INSPIRE® - Hard Interlocking Tiles are being installed in a wet area:

- Check to ensure product suitability compliance with your local building code.
- Free standing bathtubs should not be installed on Hard Interlocking Tiles as it needs to float.
- If a floor waste is installed in the area of Hard Interlocking Tiles, it is not suitable as the tiles needs to float.
- Following the instructions set out in the Installation Procedure above separate/isolate the wet area from the balance of the floor area with a t-mold / end cap or similar at the doorway or other adjoining areas and seal the perimeter of the wet area floor using a bathroom grade soft silicone to prevent moisture seeping under the floor.
- Please contact Responsive Industries for detailed installation instructions. Do not allow water to pool on the floor for any long periods of time. Wet towels or bathmats should never be left on the floor to dry.

### **MAINTENANCE GUIDE**

You have just installed your flooring which was produced with the highest quality standards and will provide you with years of enjoyment. Although your new flooring is one of the easiest floors to maintain, please follow the recommendations in this guide to retain the product's fresh look and protect the factory finish.

After installing the floor, we recommend a first cleaning or remove any loose dirt or debris that may have been introduced during the installation process. Ensure that furniture feet have felt or plastic caps. Avoid bringing dirt, water and sand from outside by placing mats at all entrances. Use only soft roller wheels that are suitable for flooring. Please test any new

cleaning agents on a small test patch of the floor in an inconspicuous area, and avoid using harsh cleaners, vinegar or alcohol, ammonia-based cleaning products.

First, sweep and vacuum the floor surface to ensure removal of all loose dust, dirt, and debris. Using a mop, scrub the flooring surface. Using warm, clean water, rinse several times as needed and allow drying.

Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. During peak sunlight hours, use drapes or blinds to minimize direct sunlight. To avoid an uneven appearance, relocate area rugs from time to time. Excessive temperatures may damage floor. Ventilation or intermittent air conditioning in vacant homes is recommended.

Regular household dirt can be cleaned with Single Step cleaner applied as indicated on the label. Some hand wiping may be required to remove tough spots and spills. Always sweep or vacuum your flooring before cleaning so that all loose dirt and particles are removed. For best results, do not use combination cleaner/finish products.

**DO NOT WAX YOUR FLOOR!** The surface of your floor is very dense and non-porous, which prevents wax from penetrating causing wax build-up. The same non-porous feature also provides all the protection against wear and staining that you will need.

If your floor has been exposed to excessive amounts of water due to flooding, do not panic, your flooring is highly resistant to water.

Simply remove the water as quickly as possible. A dehumidifier should be installed in the room. If water has reached between your flooring and its substrate, your flooring must be removed and the substrate should be dried and cleaned before re-installing your flooring.