

## Storm Deluxe Hybrid Planks

### Installation Guide



Topdeck Flooring

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION.**

#### **Installer/Owner responsibility**

- We urge you, as the final inspector to inspect for proper color, finish, style, and quality PRIOR to installation. Verify that the flooring is the correct material. Care should be taken at this time to remove or repair particular characteristics you do not desire. Manufacturer declines responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been installed.
- The use of stain, filler, or putty stick for the correction of minor defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure. 5% cutting allowance, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed.

**NOTE:** Waterproof Wood Flooring may be installed with a direct glue-down method on approved wooden (or) concrete substrates on or above grade only. For below grade installations, use the floating installation method.

- Do not install Waterproof Wood Flooring as a floating floor where it will be exposed to temperatures greater than 60° C. In areas where the floor may be exposed to direct, intense sunlight resulting in excessive heat to the floor, use the full spread glue down method. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, doing so may result in discoloration. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the drapes or blinds is recommended.

#### **Pre-installation jobsite requirement**

It is the installer/ owners' responsibility to ensure that the jobsite conditions and jobsite subfloor are environmentally and structurally acceptable prior to the installation of any hardwood flooring. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for failures or deficiencies of hardwood flooring resulting from or related to sub-floor, sub-surface, or job-site environmental conditions. All substrates must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound.

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project.
- Install flooring after cabinets have been installed to prevent damage to the flooring.

Room temperature and humidity of installation areas should be consistent with normal, year- round living conditions for at least one week before installation of flooring. Maintaining an optimum yearly room temperature of 20° C and a humidity range of 35-55% is recommended.

## Pre-installation subfloor requirements

Note: All subfloors must be levelled within BCA's Requirement.

### Wood Subfloors

- Do not install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.
- Do not apply sheet plastic over wood subfloors.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry.
- All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.
- Resilient flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood.

### Concrete Subfloors

- Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
- New concrete slabs must be dry. Maximum moisture level per CaCl test method is 5 lbs. per 1000 in 24 hr. Maximum level for ASTM 2170 In-situ Relative humidity test method - 85%.
- Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions.
- Ph level of concrete should be between 7-10.

The final responsibility for determining i

### Existing Floor Coverings

- Waterproof Wood Flooring can be installed over most existing if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.
- hard-surface floor coverings (including ceramic tile) provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat dry and structurally sound.
- Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness.
- Installation is NOT allowed over any type of carpet.
- Do NOT install over wood subfloor or wood floors adhered to concrete.
- Ceramic tile.
- Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.

**Installation:** Waterproof Wood Flooring is engineered to be installed utilizing the floating method. Do not install cabinets or fixed objects atop the flooring. Proper expansion space is required. Undercut all doorjamb. Do not fasten wall moldings and or transition strips to the floor and planks.

#### • Check groove on plank to make sure it is clean and free of debris.

1. Before you start with the installation, it is important to determine the layout of the flooring. Proper planning and layout will prevent having narrow plank widths at wall junctures or very short length pieces at the end of rows.
2. As with all plank products, install the planks parallel to the longest exterior wall.
3. Determine if the starter row will need to be cut. If the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge shows towards the wall.
4. Installation of the product must start from the left side of the room, working to the right when working in front of the planks or facing the starting wall. Use spacers along the walls to maintain proper expansion space (8mm) and align the first plank.
5. Install the second plank in the row by aligning and dropping the end tongue over the end groove of the first plank. Apply light pressure to join the two planks together.
6. If needed use a rubber mallet to fully engage the short side of the plank by lightly tapping the plank to engage and sit flush with the adjacent plank. Maintain an expansion gap of approximately 8mm from the wall. Repeat this process to complete the first row.
7. Start the second row by cutting a plank to the desired length. Keep in mind that the plank must not be shorter than 6" (15cm) to achieve the best appearance.

8. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. This is best done with a low angle of the plank. Maintain light pressure into the side seam as you rotate the plank to the subfloor. Repeat the process with additional planks to complete each row. Very little force is required to seat the tongue into the groove. You should feel the tongue lock into the groove.
9. It is critical to keep the first two rows straight and square, as they are the “foundation” for the rest of the installation. Check for squareness and straightness often.
10. Continue installing planks and make sure to achieve a random appearance with end pieces of minimum 6" - 15cm. Check that all planks are fully engaged; if a slight gapping is found, the gap can be tapped together by using a tapping block and a scrap of flooring to cover the tapping block in order to avoid damages on the planks.
11. To fully engage the short end, apply light pressure and press down to engage the end joint. If the end is raised use a non-marking rubber mallet to lightly tap the end (tongue side) about 25mm from the seam. Do NOT tap directly on the seam.
12. When fitting under door casings, if necessary, a flat pull bar may be used to assist in locking the planks.
13. When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, planks can be cut easily and cleanly using a utility knife with a sharp blade. It is often beneficial to make a cardboard template of the area and transfer this pattern to the plank.
14. Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall moulding and/or transition strips. Make sure that no plank will be secured in any way to the sub floor.
15. For wet areas such as bathrooms caulk the perimeter of the floor with a silicone caulk.
16. Protect the finished flooring from exposure to direct sunlight to reduce fading and thermal expansion.

### **Completing the job -all installations**

- Sweep or vacuum floor.
- Clean the floor with semi dry mop is recommended.
- Install transition pieces -i.e. – thresholds, t-mouldings, base boards and quarter round. Nail mouldings to wall, not the floor.
- Inspect final floor for nicks and or minor gaps – fill with appropriate color wood putty.
- Unused material should be left with owner and stored in a dry place in case of future repairs are needed.
- Use plywood or hardboard when moving heavy appliances or furniture across floor.

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