

*Solcora rigid core LVT floors*

# Professional installation guide

GB

# General guidelines for Solcora

## *National regulations*

When installing Solcora floors, national specifications must always be applied in accordance with the installation standards of floorings as described in BS 8203 in the United Kingdom, VOB Part C, DIN 18365 in Germany and all other relevant European, national and local standards.

## *Suitability*

- Solcora flooring is intended exclusively for residential and project-based use indoors and is suitable as a floating flooring on a screed that is appropriate for your application.
  
- Solcora flooring can be used on a screed with water-based traditional underfloor heating and cooling and/or electric underfloor heating controlled by a thermostat that has been incorporated into the screed or in a levelling layer with a minimum thickness of 9mm. Use with electric floor heating is not advised unless it is incorporated into a 9mm screed or levelling layer or has an on/off switch instead of a continuous system.
  
- Solcora flooring can be installed on a range of hard, flat, non-sprung screeds/sub-floors, such as:
  - Concrete
  - Sand cement
  - Anhydrite
  - Wood, particle board and MDF
  - Ceramic tiles
  - Magnesite
  - MDF underfloor such as Jumpax and Floorfixx

The screed and underfloor must meet the prescribed specifications (see screed preparation).

- Solcora flooring is water-resistant and can be used as a floating floor in damp rooms such as bathrooms, toilets or kitchens. Solcora is not suitable for flooring in a shower, sauna, swimming pool or other wet rooms.
  
- Solcora is intended to be installed as a floating flooring and must be able to expand and contract freely in response to changes in temperature. Solcora must not be glued, nailed or fixed to the screed or to walls or any other part of the building.

### *Technical details*

- Solcora flooring is more dimensionally stable than typical floating wood, laminate or PVC click-in floors.
- Solcora has a lower sensitivity to temperature, and greater rigidity and stability, as a result of which tolerances and external conditions are less critical for the screed.
  
- Solcora flooring is best installed at a comfortable room temperature of 18°C - 23°C. If the conditions at the time of installation are extremely cold, the material will feel hard and rigid and will be more difficult to cut, saw, trim and install. The click system may possibly also be damaged.
  
- If the temperature of Solcora flooring is lower than the optimum processing temperature of 18°C - 23°C or the flooring is stored/transported under strain, the flooring must be left to acclimatise to the room in which it is to be installed for a minimum of 24 hours.
  
- If Solcora is installed in surroundings with a length or width of more than 20 metres, a dilatation profile must be used to divide the floor into two (2) separate sections.
  
- Although Solcora is water-resistant, it is not intended for use as a moisture-inhibiting system or as water-tight flooring.

### *CAUTION*

Only those installation techniques described in this installation guide are covered by the warranty. No warranty is given for customised installations of Solcora flooring, such as 45-degree mitred corners and/or corrugated edges.

Artwork, templates and/or different installation or processing methods that may adversely affect the Solcora flooring are excluded from any warranty.

# Important factors for installation

Evenness tolerances of flooring	Height difference max. 3mm over 1.8 meter or 5mm over 3 metres.
Vapour-tight membrane - 0.20mm	Not required or advisable for floorings that are not dry*.
Sub-floor required	No**
Acclimatisation requirements	Acclimatise in the room in which the flooring is to be installed for a minimum of 24 hours.***
Dilatation requirements in large rooms	Required in rooms larger than 400m <sup>2</sup> or with a length/width greater than 20 metres.
Dilatation requirements for door openings/doorsteps	Required when temperature differences between connecting rooms are greater than 10°C.  Required when connecting rooms together make up an area larger than 200m <sup>2</sup> .
Installation on ceramic tile floors	Suitable if the joins are not broader or deeper than 3mm and no tiles or edges are protruding upwards.
Installation by gluing	Not recommended
Maximum residual moisture permitted as a percentage of the screed	< 0.2% anhydrite with underfloor heating < 0.5% anhydrite without underfloor heating < 1.8% sand cement with underfloor heating < 2.0% sand cement without underfloor heating < 14% wood in MDF
Suitable for underfloor heating	Approved - temperature of the surface of the screed must not be more than 30°C.
3-season/non-climate-controlled environments	Approved
Expansion requirements	5mm around all walls, pipes and objects.
Optimum temperature and relative humidity conditions	During installation: 18°C - 23°C During lifetime: between 6°C and 35°C Relative humidity: between 40% and 70%
Definition of water-resistant	The dimensional stability, rigidity, click connections and thickness must not decrease as a result of contact with moisture/water.

\* A vapour-tight membrane (vapour-tight film) prevents moisture coming into contact with the back of the Solcora flooring. We will not be held responsible for any encroachment of the screed and/or the occurrence of mould. Inform your glue and levelling supplier if structural or design-related moisture problems.

\*\* Solcora Classic: an underlay will increase comfort and for this reason is advisable.

**Requirements underlay:**

CS:

Domestic use: 200 kPa

Commercial use: 400 kPa

CC: 40 kPa

\*\*\* Acclimatisation is important not only to maintain the ideal processing temperature at which Solcora flooring can best be installed, but also to relieve any stress that has developed in the material during transport, storage or installation.

### *Product control*

Solcora flooring must be inspected prior to installation. Check the batch number on the short side of each package and check that all the material for your job has come from the same batch. Minor variations in colour across the same batch number help give Solcora its natural look. To avoid noticeable colour variations, you should not install material from different batch numbers over large surfaces within the same room.

Check the boards for visible breaks during installation. Do not install any boards that have imperfections and get in touch with your Solcora contact person directly.

### *Transport and storage*

Boxes with Solcora flooring must always be stored and/or transported on a flat and firm surface in neat stacks, flat (i.e. not overhanging), and never vertical. Do not stack pallets when storing. The boxes must never be stored in very cold (below 6°C), very warm (above 35°C) or damp rooms. The advised temperature is between 15 and 25 °C.

### *Check and pre-treatment of screed*

Ensure that the (background) information about the composition, construction and quality of the screed is correct. The screed must be kept dry, level and clean, as described in DIN 18365. The screed must also be compression- and tension-resistant. Take advice on the right type of moisture protection, primer, levelling and sub-floors that you need to professionally prepare and install a screed.

### *Evenness of screed*

The screed must be flat and not have any unevenness in excess of 3mm within a radius of 1.8 metres or 5mm within a radius of 3 metres. The screed must not slope down by more than 25mm over 1.8 metres in one or more directions.

### *Recommended sub-floors*

An underlay prevents the gritting caused by gravel or small pebbles and has comfort-enhancing properties as well as reducing impact sound. With Solcora Silence, the sub-floor is already integrated in the product. If transmitted noise reduction is required, you can use a sub-floor that is suitable for Solcora flooring.

Ask your sub-floor supplier for the sub-floors available.

### *Underfloor heating*

Make sure that the ambient temperature and the temperature of the screed are comfortable during acclimatisation (where necessary) and installation. If necessary, lower the water temperature of the underfloor heating by setting the pump thermostat to 20°C. If heating pipes heat the screed to a temperature higher than 30°C, Solcora flooring may discolour from underneath. Prevent this at all times by using a thicker levelling layer, a suitable sub-floor and/or by adjusting the water temperature in the pipes.

### *Temperature conditions before, during and after installation*

It is best to install Solcora at a room temperature between 18°C and 28°C and a floor temperature above 15°C. Installations in places that are colder than recommended have a detrimental effect on the user-friendly installation features of Solcora. The boards and/or tiles are less easy to handle and less flexible, and cutting will be more difficult, making it harder to cut out small pieces. The lower the temperature, the harder they are to handle. For installations in places that are warmer than the recommended temperature conditions, we recommend that you create the correct installation conditions by external means such as fans, blinds, etc.

A constant temperature which does not fluctuate by more than 5°C per day and which is not below the required 18°C or above the required 28°C room temperature or 15°C floor temperature must be maintained for 3 days before, during and for 7 days after completion of installation work.

### *Acclimatisation*

Solcora should be acclimatised in the room where it is to be installed for at least 24 hours prior to installation, or until the product has reached the ambient temperature. This is a temperature not lower than 18°C. Ensure that the packages are laid flat and without stress during acclimatisation. Leave the panels in the packaging in small stacks away from sources of extreme heat or cold. The acclimatisation environment should be between 18 and 28°C during this period and should be maintained within these levels after installation to ensure acceptable product performance.

### *REMARKS*

PVC floors may expand and shrink under the influence of temperature or climatic conditions. If the PVC is not properly acclimatised or if the temperature fluctuates by more than 10 degrees over 12 hours, open or raised joints may occur in the PVC floor which can cause irreparable damage. This can be prevented by following the installation instructions correctly.

# Installation for Solcora

## *Direction of installation*

Solcora is easiest to install when laid from left to right. Reverse-lay is of course also possible, this just requires greater skill and attention to correct closure of the click connection.

## *Proportionate distribution left and right*

Calculate the width of the (main) room to get an even distribution of fitted strips left and right. This may mean that you will need to reduce the width of the first row of strips.

## *Recommended tools*

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Carpenter's square
- Flooring knife
- Handsaw and/or jigsaw and/or laminate cutter
- Core drill
- Rubber hammer
- Stop block or small self-made stop block made from left-over pieces of product with the right click connection
- Crowbar for the last row
- Adjustable spacers to compensate an uneven wall

## *Spacers*

Place adjustable spacers along the long wall and on the front ends of the first rows during installation. Ensure a minimum clearance of 5mm around all walls, window frames and objects to allow stress-free installation. Also use spacers if you want to provide extra stabilisation for the floor through a door opening or object. This will prevent the rows coming under stress and the click connection working loose.

## *Cutting, sawing or trimming Solcora flooring*

- The strips can be cut to measure using a flooring knife.  
Cut the Solcora flooring several times along a guide, thus creating a deep score mark and carefully break the strip along the cutting line.
- The strips can be sawn using a handsaw or electric saw. Draw the saw cut with a pencil or pen and carefully saw along the line.
- The strips can be trimmed using a laminate or PVC cutter. Using a pencil or pen, draw the cutting line and cut the strip precisely to measure.
- A hole, required for stress-free installation around heating pipes, can be drilled using a core drill.

A combination of different methods for shortening strips is usually required when installing them around any objects and heating pipes.

### *Edge finishing at skirtings*

After installation, a minimum clearance of 5mm must be incorporated around the floor and around all objects. To this end, choose a skirting board at your discretion and install it according to the specifications given by the manufacturer in question.

Skirtings must be mounted on the wall so that the Solcora flooring can move freely underneath it.

Cover mouldings are fixed on Solcora flooring so that they can move together with the floor.

**Never use silicone putty or other flexible pastes or putties to fill the 5mm minimum clearance.**

### *Installation*

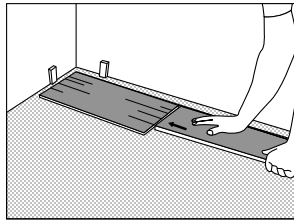
After the preparatory work such as checking the screed and materials, you can install the Solcora. If you are using a sub-floor or underlay, install this according to the installation instructions from the respective supplier.

### *Important*

**Installation can only take place once the contractor responsible has assessed and approved the screed, the (external) conditions and the product to be installed.**

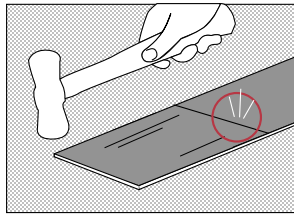


# Installation

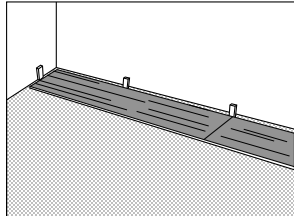


## *First row:*

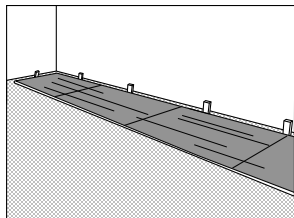
1. Install the first panel with its tongue side against the wall.
2. Place a spacer on the short side and two spacers spread over the long side.
3. Place the second panel with the front side against the first panel, position the click connection exactly parallel one above the other.



4. Carefully and in a controlled manner, tap backwards and forwards along the front edge of both panels with a rubber hammer, which will cause the panel to close in its click profile like a zip fastener. Please use a stop block or left over piece to tap on to protect the click profile.

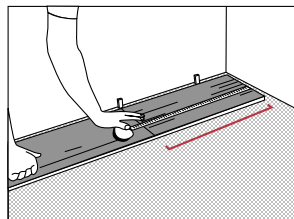


5. Place spacer 2 downstream of the transition between panel 1 and 2 and place spacer 3 along the long side. Turn the adjustable rotary knob to stabilise the disparity of the wall.

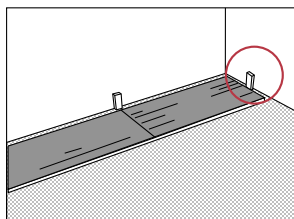


6. Position panel 3 and all other complete panels of the first row in the same way.

*The last panel of the first row must be measured and cut/sawn/trimmed to size.*



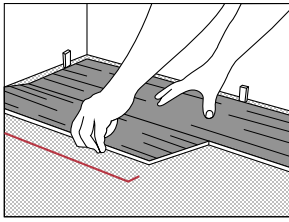
7. Measure the correct dimensions of the last panel so that after positioning in place a clearance of 5mm is maintained between the wall and the panel.
8. Cut, saw or trim the panel to the correct dimensions.
9. Carefully position the panel and install it in the same way as the previous panels.



10. Place a spacer on the front side between the wall and the shortened side of the panel and adjust it until it stabilises the disparity of the wall.

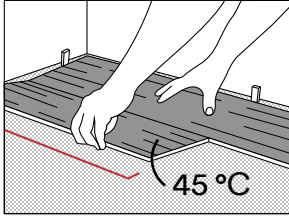
## **Door posts and heating pipes**

These must be cut out separately. Always cut, saw or trim the panel to the correct length first. Then place it next to the object and draw the correct shape. Cut, saw or use a core drill to create the drawn shape. Wooden posts can be sawn if necessary so that the floor can be laid underneath them. Always observe the minimum expansion joint around the floor.

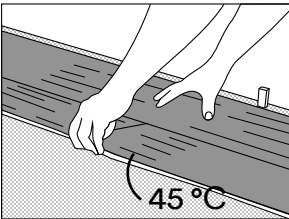


### Second row:

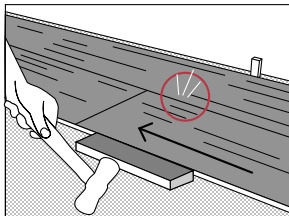
11. Use roughly half the length of the first panel for the second row.
12. Cut, saw or trim the panel to the correct dimensions.



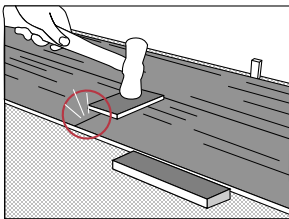
13. Position the measured panel under an angle of approximately 45 degrees and slide in the click connection of the long side.
14. Slide the panel to the left so that it is positioned at a distance of at least 5mm from the wall.
15. Allow the panel to drop under slight stress/pressure so that it lies flat.
16. Using a rubber hammer and a small stop block or left-over pieces of product (from the correct click edge, tap the length of the click connection tight.
17. Place a spacer on the front side between the wall and the panel and stabilise the disparity of the wall.



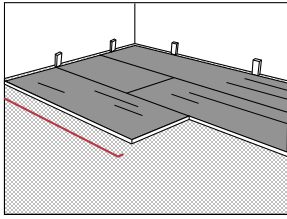
18. Position the second panel under an angle of approximately 45 degrees and slide in the click connection of the long side.
19. Slide the panel to the left so that it is perfectly positioned and the click connection of the front sides of panels 1 and 2 are exactly parallel one above the other.
20. Allow the panel to drop under slight stress/pressure so that it lies flat.



21. Tap gently with a rubber hammer and a stop block from right to left over the long side to completely close the click connection.



22. Carefully and in a controlled manner, tap backwards and forwards along the front edge of both panels with a rubber hammer, which will cause the panel to close in its click profile like a zip fastener. Please use a stop block or left over piece to tap on to protect the click profile.
23. Position panel 3 and all other panels of the second row in the same way.
24. Measure the correct dimensions of the last panel so that after positioning in place a clearance of 5mm is maintained between the wall and the panel.
25. Cut, saw or trim the panel to the correct dimensions.
26. Carefully position the panel and install it in the same way as the previous panels.
27. Place a spacer on the front side between the wall and the shortened side of the panel and adjust it until it stabilises the disparity of the wall.



### *Third and all subsequent rows:*

- 28.** Determine the length of the first panel of the third row. The minimum distance from the previous front edge is the width of the panel. Of course, this can be more.

### *NOTE:*

Prevent a discernible gap between the front edges of boards or tiles. Therefore, never use the residue of the last panel of row 1 for the first panel of row 2 etc.

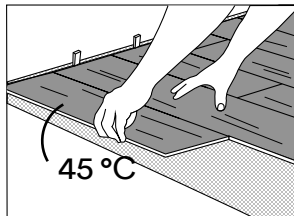
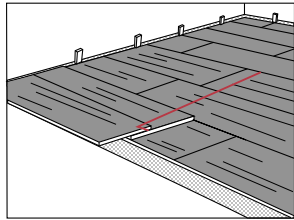
- 29.** Follow steps 12 to 27 inclusive for the second row.

### *Last row:*

- 30.** To be able to install the last row of panels, you will need to make them smaller in most cases. To this end, we use an extra panel to draw the underlying panel so that it can be cut exactly to size, taking account of the 5mm clearance all around the panel.

- 31.** Do this as follows:

- Determine the length of the first panel of the last row in the same way as the previous rows.
- Place the first panel of the last row on top of the first panel of the previous row.
- Place another panel over the first panel of the last row, but in this case against the wall and half overlapping the first panel of the last row.
- Draw a pencil line along the edge of the top panel so that the width of the first panel of the last row is drawn.
- Cut, saw or trim the panel to the correct dimensions.



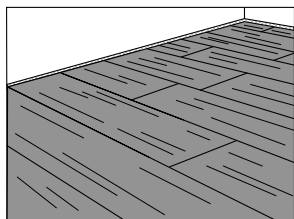
- 32.** Position the measured panel under an angle of approximately 45 degrees and slide in the click connection of the long sides.

- 33.** Slide the panel to the left so that it is positioned at a distance of at least 5mm from the wall.

- 34.** Allow the panel to drop under slight stress/pressure so that it lies flat.

- 35.** Use a crowbar to tap down the click connection over the long side starting from the wall side and allow it to close fully.

- 36.** Cut, saw or trim all subsequent panels to size and install them in the same way as the previous panel and rows.



### *Use of (adjustable) spacers*

Use the spacers for the first three rows and for an opening such as a door. Place a spacer on the front side and on each transition between two panels of the first three rows to stabilise the disparity of the wall.

In the case of one-day installation, remove the spacers once installation is complete. For installation over several days or when installing a large surface area, remove the spacers at the end of the day or after approximately 100m<sup>2</sup>. This is to prevent any expansion of the whole floor produced by heavy fluctuations in temperature being stopped by the spacers.

# General care and maintenance

## *Preventive measures*

Prevention is better than cure. Prevent usage scratches in the top layer of Solcora flooring caused by sliding furniture lacking protective furniture gliders. Protective caps such as “Scratch No More” prevent abrasive materials such as road dirt or sand scratching your flooring. Install the right entrance mat with a backing that is resistant to softening agents. This will provide protection against road dirt and moisture that will unnecessarily damage or soil the floor. This in turn will mean that you do not have to clean the Solcora floor as often and its lifetime will be extended.

## *Prevention of discolouration*

All flooring discolours following exposure to sunlight, whether it is made from wood, PVC or carpet. This is caused by the ultraviolet rays in the sunlight. To prevent discolouration of your floor, it is important to use effective blinds.

## *Avoid contact with rubber*

Contact between rubber and vinyl must be avoided as much as possible. Long-lasting contact between vinyl and rubber may cause lasting, dark-brown discolouration (examples might include a rubber ring underneath a rubbish bin, rubber protective mats, place mats, etc.) Rubber caps under furniture can cause streaks due to friction. We therefore advise you to check all your furniture and utensils for rubber caps and fit the, with protection (see [www.scratchnomore.com](http://www.scratchnomore.com)).

## *Points to be aware of*

- Use protective mats with a backing that is resistant to softening agents at all entrances and exits.
- Avoid contact between vinyl and rubber (unless the vinyl is protected with PU Anticolor coating).
- Do not slide any heavy objects over the floor and always fit furniture on gliders with the appropriate protection.
- Replace any castors underneath office chairs with soft casters that are suitable for smooth vinyl flooring.
- Remove spilt liquids as quickly as possible:
- Do not use any vinegar, polishing agents, wax, oil-based soap, abrasives or caustic detergents or solvents.
- Prevent lasting exposure to direct and intense sunlight.
- Do not use any steam cleaners on Solcora flooring.

## *Maintenance*

Solcora does not require maintenance in the same way as parquet or linoleum. The standard PU protective layer applied in production will protect your floor against the ingress of dirt and moisture and will protect the decor against normal use.

## *Cleaning and maintenance advice*

The Solcora vinyl strips and tiles are extremely wear-resistant thanks to the advanced production process and can be cleaned easily thanks to the exclusive use of high-quality materials. However, no floor is ever free from scratches or maintenance-free, including Solcora. To make sure that you continue to get maximum benefit from your floor, we advise you to follow the maintenance advice given below.

## *Cleaning and maintenance*

Daily routine each week

Solcora flooring is easy to clean.

- Remove loose dirt by sweeping, dust-mopping or vacuuming.
- Remove stains with a damp cloth, mop or flat mop.
- Leave the floor as dry as possible. Never use more than the prescribed quantity of detergent.
- Leave the detergent solution to take effect on stubborn, dried-on dirt for 5 minutes and then remove with a cloth or flat mop.

### **Periodically once a year**

If the Solcora flooring does not appear completely clean after daily cleaning, you can carry out a periodic clean. Use more water for this, and an appropriate neutral floor cleaner (Dr. Schutz products recommended) to loosen and pick up the dirt. This can be done manually with a scrubber, a broom or brush with a medium hardness, or with a machine brush.

Do not use any general cleaners, household soap or aggressive media such as chlorine or anti-limescale agents to clean the flooring.

## *Project-based cleaning*

Whenever necessary, you can give the Solcora flooring a deep clean. This can be done with a soft or hard brush, a buffer and a white 3M pad or a cleaning machine using a white 3M pad. Use an appropriate neutral detergent that does not leave any residue, such as Dr. Schutz PU cleaner or similar. Do not use any soap suds, general cleaner, laminate cleaner, Green Soap, chlorine, WC cleaner or other alkaline or chemical products. Ask your Solcora flooring supplier, professional cleaning service or Dr.Schutz for comprehensive advice.

## *NOTE*

A large quantity of diluted dirt and detergent will be left on floors that remain wet long after they have been cleaned. The floor seems as if it gets dirty again very quickly because the previous dirt was not properly removed.

- A floor can be slippery when wet.
- Do not place any carpets or other impervious materials on the wet flooring. These can cause discolouration or condensation in the top layer.

## *Preventive protection*

Although Solcora flooring is fitted with PU protection in production, it is possible that as a preventive measure you might want to protect your floor with an extra layer of hard protective PU or apply a PU Anticolor coating. We advise this in every case for applications such as industrial rooms, laboratories, showrooms for rubber tyred vehicles (cars, motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, etc.), also hairdressing salons and all other applications where chemical spillage can discolour the top layer.

## *Manufacture or extra protection*

If you want to apply an extra protective layer as a preventive measure (to help your floor last longer), we advise that you use products from Dr. Schutz. For more information about these maintenance products, please contact Dr. Schutz.

If in any doubt, always contact your Solcora flooring supplier or Dr. Schutz for full advice.

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Version 2

This document replaces all printed and electronic installation and technical guides previously distributed for Solcora.