INSTALLATION GUIDE

Metro Series

SPC hybrid flooring

5G
LOCKING SYSTEM

A practical guide to preparing, laying and finishing your floating floor with our 5G locking system.

Floating installation
Keep the floor free to move.

Built-in underlay
Pre-attached IXPE.

5G locking system
Angle, slide, then tap.

Before you start

01 Check the product

For indoor Metro Series SPC hybrid flooring with 5G locking. Check the carton labels, colour and quantity. Inspect every plank and locking edge before fitting; set damaged boards aside. Open several cartons and mix boards for a balanced appearance.

02 Prepare the room

Store cartons flat indoors at 18-28°C and 30-60% relative humidity. Keep packs sealed until ready to lay. Routine acclimatisation is not required unless packs experienced extreme heat or cold in the previous 24 hours; let them stabilise before fitting. Shade strong direct sun.

03 Check the subfloor

Provide a clean, dry, sound base with no more than 3 mm variation over 3 m and 1 mm over 300 mm. Grind high spots, fill dips and skim grout lines. Repair loose tiles or timber. For existing timber boards, lay the new floor at 90° to the old boards.

04 Allow for movement

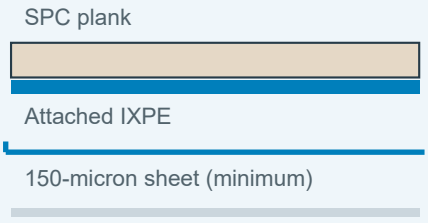
Leave 6-8 mm around walls, pipes, columns, cabinets and all fixed objects. Keep the floating floor free to move; do not nail or glue the planks to the base. The attached IXPE backing provides the underlay for standard residential installation. Ask Floor Trader before adding another layer.

Have these ready

Tape, pencil, square, straightedge, spacers, saw or flooring cutter, clean plank offcut, soft-faced hammer or mallet, moisture-testing equipment and specified barrier materials. Use eye, hearing and respiratory protection and dust extraction for cutting and preparation.

Moisture checks + barrier provision

Measure and record moisture before laying: concrete below 80% RH; timber below 14% moisture content. Where a sheet barrier is specified, use at least 150-micron (0.15 mm) plastic with overlapped, taped joins, or a suitable specified liquid membrane. Have Floor Trader confirm the treatment if test results are unavailable or outside limits.

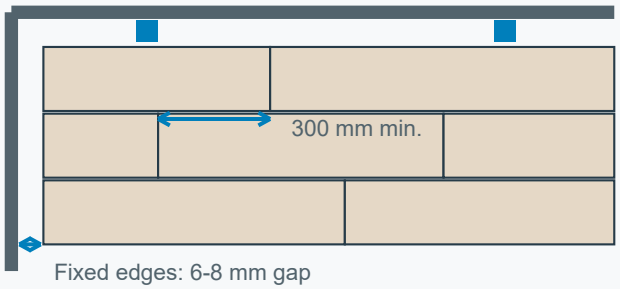


LAYOUT + INSTALLATION

Angle it. Slide it. Tap it.

Engage the long edge first, then align and seat the short-end drop lock.

LAYOUT / TOP VIEW



Fixed edges: 6-8 mm gap

1 Set out the rows

If the last row would be under 50 mm wide, trim the first and last rows equally. Stagger end joints by at least 300 mm between adjacent rows. Dry-lay three rows to check the pattern. Keep 6-8 mm clear at fixed edges.

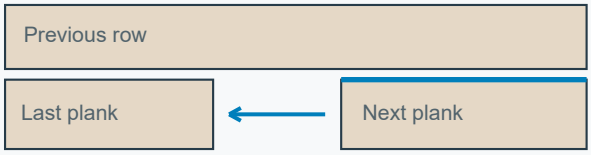
Maximum continuous area: 10 m wide by 20 m long. Add movement breaks for larger areas and adjoining rooms, preferably at doorways or transitions. Plan these before laying.

2 Start straight

Choose a straight starting line and use spacers to maintain the perimeter gap. Align the first-row short ends, lower the joint and seat it through a clean scrap piece as shown in step 4. Keep the rows straight and check every joint before continuing.

3 Engage, then slide

LONG EDGE FIRST / TOP VIEW

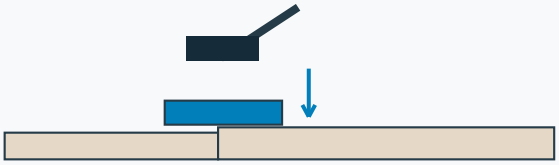


Slide along the engaged long edge

Angle the long edge into the previous row first. Keep it engaged and slide the plank along until the short end lines up with the last plank in the current row.

4 Protect, then tap

SHORT END / VERTICAL TAPPING



Clean scrap piece on top of joint

Lower the aligned short end. Lay a clean, flat plank offcut on top of the joint. Tap down lightly onto the offcut with a soft-faced hammer or mallet until the joint is flush.

Check every joint: the long and short edges must be flush and gap-free. Strike only the protective offcut, never the finished plank or exposed locking edge. If the joint will not seat with light taps, stop and check alignment and debris. Do not force it.

6-8 mm perimeter clearance. Minimum 300 mm end-joint stagger. Diagrams are not to scale.

FINISH + HANDOVER

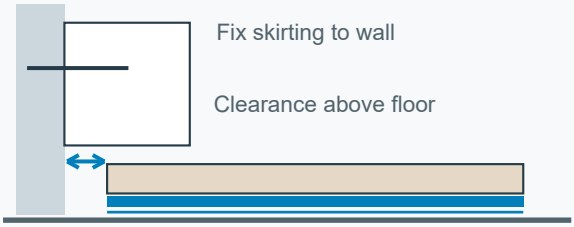
Keep the movement space.

Neat edges matter. The finished floor must still be able to expand and contract.

5 Fit the last row and details

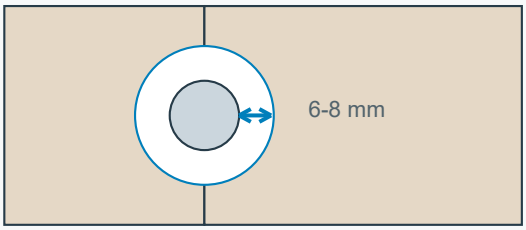
Scribe and cut the final row to follow the wall, retaining the movement gap. Keep 6-8 mm around pipes and beneath door trims. Plan confined areas so the locking joints can engage without force. Keep the floor clear of fixed cabinets and other permanent fixtures.

WALL / SECTION VIEW



6-8 mm gap behind the trim

PIPE / TOP VIEW



Leave space all around the pipe

6 Finish without pinning

Remove spacers. Fix skirting or scotia to the wall, and transition bases to the subfloor, keeping the planks free. Do not fasten through the boards or pack expansion gaps with rigid filler. Contact Floor Trader before installing in wet areas, on stairs or over underfloor heating.

Final checks

- ☐ Moisture checks and barrier treatment recorded.
- ☐ Joints flush; movement gaps clear under trims.
- ☐ Doors move freely; floor is clean and protected.

Care from day one

Sweep or vacuum with a soft head. Use a slightly damp mop and pH-neutral cleaner; wipe spills promptly. Fit felt furniture pads and shade prolonged sun. Avoid steam, wet mopping, abrasives, rubber-backed mats, oil soaps, waxes and harsh solvents.

Need a detail checked? Call Floor Trader.

1300 850 664 | floortrader.com.au
Keep your invoice, carton labels, site measurements and spare boards.

Moisture barriers do not replace moisture assessment or wet-area waterproofing. Drawings are schematic, not to scale.