



**STONE BARN<sup>®</sup>**  
**FLOORS**  
INNOVATION ENGRAINED

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**ATTENTION! READ BEFORE INSTALLING!**

### **FOR BEST VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF YOUR FLOOR**

This flooring replicates the look of a natural product which has natural variations in color, texture, and sheen/gloss. For best visual effect, shuffle planks or tiles from several cartons and do not install similar planks or tiles next to one another.

### **SUBFLOOR PREPARATION**

Subfloor should be dry and level to 3/16" per 10 ft. radius for best installation results.

Installation Instructions for

#### **REALFEEL™ Legacy**

Glue down instructions for dry back LVP and LVT.

#### **REALFEEL™ Vantage**

Floating installations for click/locking LVP and LVT.

#### **REALFEEL™ Select**

Floating instructions for click/locking LVP and LVT on a Wood Plastic Composite (WPC) structure with attached foam insulation.

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION. If the following instructions leave any unanswered questions or if additional information is required, please call Stone Barn® Floors at 602-341-6581.

### FLOORING MATERIAL SHOULD BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Responsibility for the suitability of Stone Barn® flooring and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by Stone Barn® Floors, since Stone Barn® Floors has no control over the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank or tile be doubtful as to appearance or dimension, the installer should not use this piece. Stone Barn® Floors will send a replacement in a timely fashion.

### READ BEFORE INSTALLING

While Stone Barn® Floors are waterproof, it's not a moisture barrier. It's still a good idea to make sure concrete is cured and tested for moisture and that a moisture barrier is installed in the crawl space and even under Stone Barn® Floors placed over a concrete subfloor. Moisture won't damage Stone Barn® Floors, but it can get in the walls and structure of the home. A couple of extra dollars and a few minutes is a small investment for the added protection and peace of mind. Because houses and buildings, as well as adjacent hardwood or laminate floors, expand and contract, Stone Barn® Floors recommends to leave a ¼" expansion gap between the perimeter walls and any adjacent hardwood floor. Do not install Stone Barn® Floors where it will be exposed to temperatures greater than 140° F. Use good common sense installation practices, and you'll have a successful installation that results in a beautiful floor.

### PRE-INSTALLATION JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Stone Barn® Floors cannot be held responsible for site conditions. Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for color, finish, sheen, and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. If flooring is not acceptable, contact your supplier immediately and arrange for a replacement. Stone Barn® Floors cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects. Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these instructions. Stone Barn® Floors is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project. Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" (46 cm) from the ground to the underside of the joists. A ground cover of 6-20 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier. Joints must be lapped 6"(15 cm) and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail. 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 room temperature of 70° F and a humidity range of 30-50% is recommended.

## II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Subfloor must be flat - 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6' radius.

Underlayments - For floating installations an underlayment is generally not required but can be utilized for an even quieter installation. We recommend installing several planks of Stone Barn® Floors in your room and walking on them to determine if the extra step of underlayment meets your needs better."

CAUTION: Some types of nails, such as common steel nails, may cause discoloration of the vinyl floor covering. Recommendations for attaching underlayment panels are not included. Solvent based construction adhesives are known to stain vinyl floor coverings. All responsibility for discoloration problems caused by the use of the above mentioned products is not the responsibility of Stone Barn® Floor, but rests with the installer and the underlayment panel manufacturer.

### A. Wood Subfloors

1. Do not install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.
2. Do not apply sheet plastic over wood subfloors.
3. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist is to be no less than 18" and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
4. All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance.
5. Stone Barn® Floors resilient flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. An additional layer of APA rated 1/4" thick underlayment should be installed.

### B. Concrete Subfloors

1. Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of 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.
2. New concrete slabs must be dry. Maximum moisture level per CaCl test method is 8 lbs. per 1000 in 24 hr. Maximum level for ASTM 2170 In-situ Relative humidity test method - 85%.
3. Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions.
4. Ph level of concrete should be between 5- 9.
5. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.

### **PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC “CUTBACK” ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.**

These products may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to [www.rfci.com](http://www.rfci.com)

#### **C. Existing Floor Coverings**

6. Stone Barn® Floors can be installed over most existing hard- surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat dry and structurally sound.
7. Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will diminish the products inherent strength in resisting indentations.
8. Installation is NOT allowed over any type of carpet.
9. Do NOT install over wood floors adhered to concrete.
10. 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.

### **III. INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **INSTALLATION TOOLS**

For all installation methods:

- Tape measure • Pencil • Chalk Line • Crosscut Power Saw • 3M Scotch Blue™ 2080 Tape
- ¼” Spacers • Hammer • Tapping Block • Pull Bar

**INSPECTION:** Prior to installation, inspect material in daylight for visible faults/damage. Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied, do not install, and contact your supplier.

#### **Floating Installation:**

Stone Barn® Floors’ REALFEEL™ Vantage and REALFEEL™ Select are designed to be installed utilizing the floating method. While they are waterproof, it is not a vapor barrier. Never secure the planks to the subfloor when using the floating installation method. Do not install cabinets or fixed objects on top of the flooring. Proper expansion space (1/4”) is required. Undercut all doorjamb. Do not fasten wall moldings and or transition strips to the planks.

#### **Glue Down Installation:**

On, above and below grade. Stone Barn® Floors’ REALFEEL™ Legacy are recommended for glue down installation over approved wood and concrete substrates using recommended adhesives. Use a 1/16”x1/16”x 1/16” sq. notch trowel. Follow adhesive label instructions including the required temperature for the adhesive. Maintain ¼” perimeter expansion

space. Moisture testing and limits for glue down - maximum ASTM F-1869 - 5 lbs. or less per CaCl test method ASTM F-2170 – 85% RH or less  
The PH level should be between 5-9

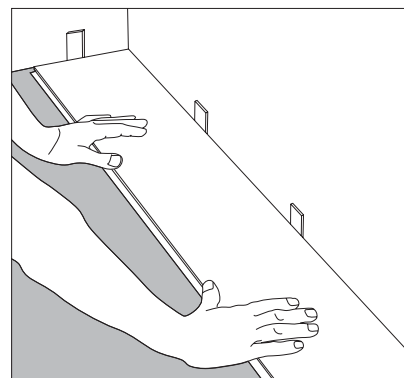
#### **STARTING YOUR INSTALLATION**

Because houses and buildings, as well as adjacent hardwood or laminate floors, expand and contract, Stone Barn® Floors recommends leaving a ¼” expansion gap between the perimeter walls and any adjacent hardwood floor. Work from several open boxes of flooring and “dry lay” the floor before permanently laying the floor. This will allow you to select varying textures, colors, and sheens, and to arrange them in a harmonious pattern. Remember, it is the installers’ responsibility to determine the expectations of what the finished floor will look like with the end user first and then to cull out pieces that do not meet those expectations.

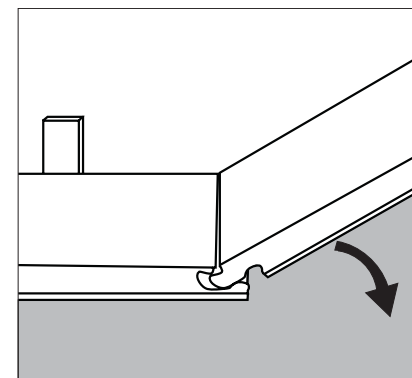
Begin installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank or tile. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks or tiles to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of straight. You may want to position a few rows before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line.

When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to row by at least 8” (20 cm) for planks, and equal to 12” (51 cm or a half piece) for tiles. For plank installations, you can use the cut-off end to begin the next row when cutting the last plank in a row to fit. If cut-off end is less than 8”, discard it and instead cut a new plank at a random length (at least 8” in length) and use it to start the next row. For tile installations, always begin a row with either a full tile or a half tile so that the joints are consistently staggered in a “brick work” type pattern. Always begin each row from the same side of the room.

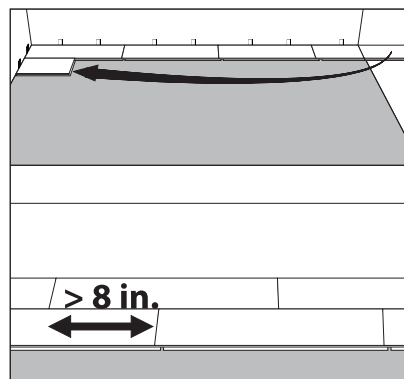
1. Before you start with the installation, it is important to determine the layout of the flooring. Proper planning and layout will prevent having narrow plank widths at wall junctures or very short length pieces at the end of rows.
2. As with all plank products, install the planks parallel to the longest 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 (1/4") 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 1/4" 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" or 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 1" from the seam. Do NOT tap directly on the seam.
12. When fitting under door casings a flat pull bar may be used "if necessary" 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 molding 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.



Step 1: Begin installation working from left to right. Insert spacers at ends and edges where planks meet wall.

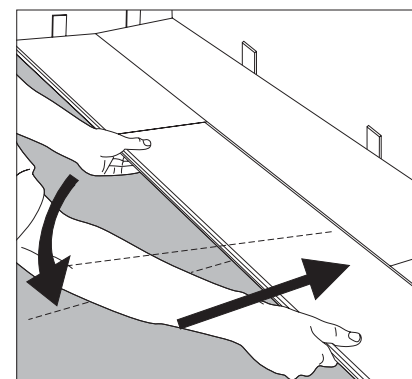


Step 2: Lock short end of plank by inserting tongue into groove at an angle and drop in place. Continue to end of as starter for second row. There must be at least 8" between plank end joints on adjacent rows.

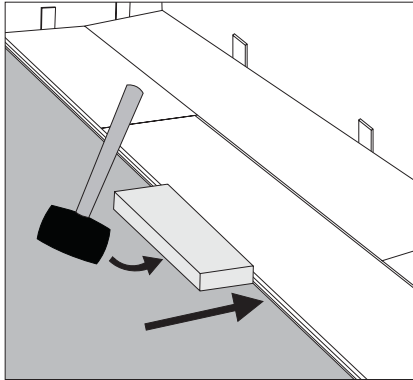


Step 3: Use leftover plank from first row as starter for second row. There must be at least 8" between plank end joints on adjacent rows.

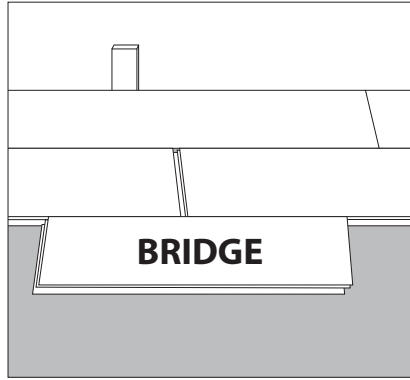
FOR TILE INSTALLATIONS: The distance between end joints should be equal to 12" for proper appearance.



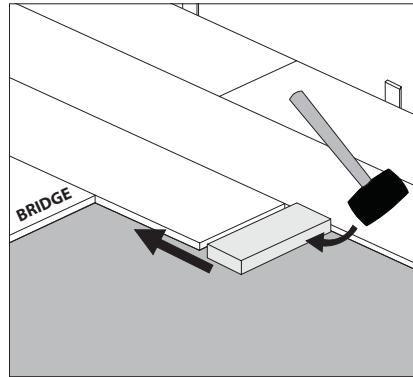
Step 4: Lock long edge of plank by inserting tongue into groove at an angle and drop in place. Slide plank toward end of previously installed plank until the tongue just touches the groove.



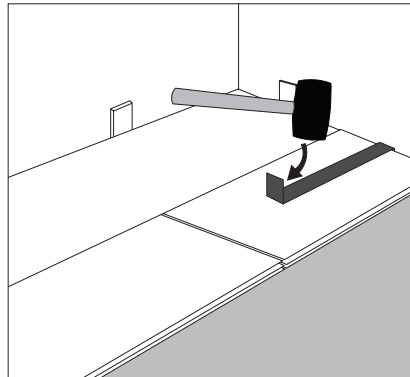
Step 5: **IMPORTANT!** Use hammer and tapping block to tap long edge of plank to ensure a tight fit. **ANY GAPPING CAN COMPROMISE THE LOCKING SYSTEM!**



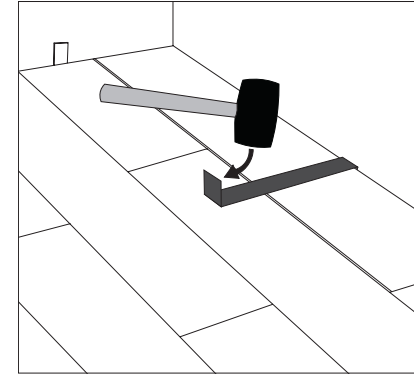
Step 6: Attach a scrap piece of floor to bridge gap between ends of planks.



Step 7: Tap end of plank with hammer and tapping block to lock ends of planks together. Remove bridge and continue towards wall until installing the final plank in the row. **BE SURE TO TAP ON EDGE OF VINYL SO AS NOT TO DAMAGE LOCKING PROFILE.**

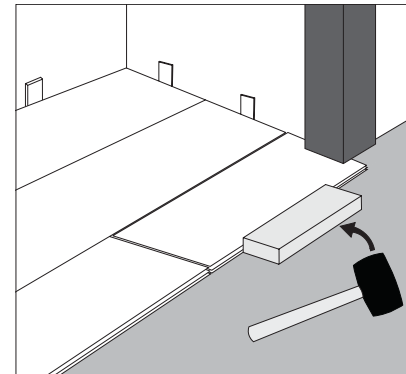


Step 8: Use hammer to pull bar to lock final piece in row. Insert spacer at end of row. Continue installation to final row.

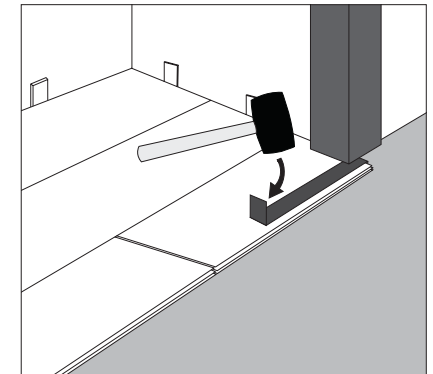


Step 9: Use hammer and pull bar to lock long edges of plans on final row.

#### INSTALLING UNDER DOOR JAMBS:



Step 1: Undercut space under door jamb to allow plank to slide freely. Tap long edge with hammer and tapping block to lock long edge.



Step 2: Use hammer and pull bar to lock short end of plank.

### **In-floor Radiant Heat:**

Stone Barn® Floors can be installed over radiant heat using the floating or glue down method. When gluing floor, use only Stone Barn® Floors recommended adhesive over manufacturer's recommended substrate.

- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors
- Floor temperature must not exceed 85°F (30°C).
- Failure to strictly follow adhesive manufacturer's guidelines may result in failure and void the warranty.

Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath Stone Barn® Floors. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath Stone Barn® Floors could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install Stone Barn® Floors over embedded radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the guidelines listed above. warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install Stone Barn® Floors over embedded radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the guidelines listed above.

### **AFTER INSTALLATION**

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup and turnover to the owner, use rosin paper and only use 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape to hold the rosin paper to the floor (other blue tapes may damage the finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. DO NOT USE plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.
- Dust-mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- It is suggested that you clean the floor using a recommended ph neutral cleaner.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, etc.).

## **Protection and Maintenance of Your Floor**

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.

- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Floor covering subjected to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Use appropriate precautions to minimize potential effects on the floor covering.
- Do not expose REALFEEL™ Select floors to temperature exceeding 140° F.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile-oil drips onto the vinyl floor covering.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Protective mats are required under office chairs.
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the floor.
- Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do NOT use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- Use floor protectors under furniture.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Do NOT use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off.
- Do NOT use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Damp mop as needed using clean water and a diluted floor cleaner. Do NOT use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor. Do NOT use abrasive scrubbing tools. Do NOT use detergents, abrasive cleaners or "mop and shine" products.
- Vinyl flooring, like other types of smooth floors, may become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after cleaning. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substances or wet feet.



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