

SCRATCHMASTER^{RF}® INSTALLATION GUIDE - Page 1

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR INSTALLERS

ScratchMaster^{RF}® floor features the 2G click locking system with attached underlayment pad for easy installation and is installed as a glue-less floating floor. The planks lock together to provide a tight water-resistant seam, can be installed over most floor surfaces, and are suitable for both residential and light commercial interior applications.

General Information:

1. This product should be stored in conditions between 63°F and 75°F (17°C and 24°C) and transported and stored in a neatly stacked fashion on a smooth, flat surface.
2. The heating and cooling system must be installed and activated for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation and the rooms to be installed should be between 63°F and 75°F (17°C and 24°C) with a relative humidity between 40% and 65% for a minimum of 5 days prior to delivery of the flooring. The rooms must be maintained at these conditions for the life of the product.
3. This product must be allowed to acclimate to the environment of the installation area. Remove any plastic wrap that may have been used to ship the material and open the ends of the cartons. Leave the closed packages in a horizontal position in the room for at least 48 hours prior to installation. The room temperature must be between 17°C - 24°C (63°F - 75°F) before and during installation, with a relative humidity of 45% - 60%. Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 30% as this may cause gapping.
4. ScratchMaster^{RF}® should only be installed after other trades have finished and the jobsite has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage a finished plank/tile installation.
5. Inspect flooring for damage, defects, or shading issues before installation; claims for visual defects will not be accepted after cutting and/or installation.
6. Mix and install planks from several different cartons during installation to achieve desirable plank variation. Only use one run-number (production lot) on a particular job.
7. Leave a minimum 5/16" (8 mm) for expansion space around the entire perimeter of the flooring up to 50'x50' (15.2m x 15.2m), as well as around all vertical obstructions including cabinetry, stone fireplaces, pipes, heating vents, door frames, doorway transitions etc. For larger residential installations, it's recommended to leave 3/8" (10mm) expansion space. Commercial installations with continuous spans larger than 50' are not recommended.
8. Flooring should be protected from prolonged direct exposure to sunlight.
9. Underfloor heating is possible with warm water heating systems. The temperature of the floor surface must not exceed 85°F at any point in time.
10. This product is not suitable for damp rooms such as saunas, rooms with damp concrete, rooms with floor drains, rooms subject to flooding, or for outdoor use.

Tools and Materials Needed:

1. Utility Knife
2. Straight Edge Saw
3. Measuring Tape
4. 5/16" Inch Spacers
5. Tapping Block and Pull Bar
6. Rubber Mallet or Hammer
7. PPE (goggles, dust masks, etc.)

Hints for Measuring

- Measure the length and width to determine the square footage of the room. Alcoves or offsets should be measured separately. Purchase at least 10% extra to cover waste, trimming, and for future replacement needs.

EASY TO INSTALL - NO GLUE NEEDED

It is the duty of the person installing the floor to inspect all flooring before installation. If during inspection the installer or buyer feels the floor is the wrong color, improperly manufactured, is off-grade, or is the wrong gloss level, he/she should NOT install the flooring. Please immediately contact the retailer from which the flooring was purchased. No claims will be accepted for flooring which is visibly wrong if such flooring is installed. Installed flooring is deemed to be visibly acceptable.

Subfloors General:

Planks and tiles can be installed over a variety of subfloor surfaces including concrete on all grade levels, wood, and many existing hard surface floors. The subfloors must be clean, smooth, flat, solid (no movement), structurally sound and dry. Do not install over floors that are sloped or over expansion joints or other moving joints in the substrate. Any uneven areas greater than 3/16" (4.76mm) in a 10 foot (3.05m) radius (1/8" in a 6 foot radius) must be leveled with a Portland cement based patching compound. ScratchMaster^{RF}® flooring is resistant to water damage but does not prevent the transmission of moisture. Care should be taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of the floor to prevent the growth of unhealthy mold and mildew.

Concrete Subfloors:

ScratchMaster^{RF}® can be installed over concrete of all grade levels if a proper moisture barrier is used. A minimum 6 mil polyethylene moisture barrier must be used with all concrete subfloors. Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 5 lbs./24 hours per 1,000 sq. when tested with the Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Test in accordance with ASTM F 1869 or 80% RH in accordance with ASTM F 2170 Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Slabs using in situ Probes. Any uneven areas greater than 3/16" (4.76mm) in a 10 foot (3.05m) radius (1/8" in a 6 foot radius) should be leveled with a Portland cement based patching compound. Large holes and cracks in the cement should be patched, and expansion joints should be filled with a latex patching compound. Newly poured concrete floors must cure for a minimum of 90 days. Please note it is the person installing the floor and/or the homeowner's responsibility to ensure any moisture or alkalinity issues are resolved prior to installation.

Wood Subfloors:

ScratchMaster^{RF}® can be installed over a smooth, flat, level, wood subfloor, underlayment grade plywood, and any other underlayment recommended by the manufacturer for use with a vinyl plank floor. Subfloor must be flat within 3/16" (4.76mm) in a 10 foot (3.05m) radius (1/8" in a 6 foot radius). Wood subfloors must be suspended at least 18" above the ground. Adequate cross-ventilation must be provided, and the ground surface of the crawl space should be covered with a vapor barrier.

NOTE: Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection because subfloor movement will telegraph through to the finished installation. Indications of excessive deflection are: subfloor fastener release, squeaking, compromised or sectional contours such as bowing or dipping in floors and uneven flooring material. Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure pieces with excessive vertical movement or deflection prior to installation of the flooring material. Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of substructures.

Existing Flooring:

ScratchMaster^{RF}® can be installed over a variety of finished floors including single layer resilient sheet flooring/tile, ceramic, marble and terrazzo. The surface must be in good condition, free from all surface contaminants (wax, finish etc.) and show no signs of excessive moisture conditions, and the existing flooring must be well bonded to the substrate below. Grout joints must be leveled so they are flush with the flooring surface. Carpet, heavily cushioned vinyl floors, or vinyl floors consisting of multiple layers are NOT a suitable subfloor for installation.

Underpad / Cushion:

DO NOT install this product over an additional underpad or cushion as this may cause excessive deflection and movement in the floor and damage the locking system. Installation over an addition underpad or cushion will void the product’s warranties.

Planning the job:

- First, determine how you want the flooring to run. Typically for plank products, the flooring runs the length of the room. There may be exceptions since it is a matter of preference.
- To avoid narrow plank widths or short plank lengths near the walls/doors, it is important to do some pre-planning. Using the width of the room, calculate how many full pieces will fit into the area and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial planks.
- Lay the first row of planks along a chalk line and trim to fit the wall allowing 5/16” expansion space. If you start the first row with a full width plank, it will be necessary to trim the tongues next to the wall and then place the cut edge next to the wall. If the starting wall is out of square, it will be necessary to scribe the first row to match the wall, allowing the opposite side of the row to present a true square base for the rest of the floor.
- Use expansion gap spacers to keep the ScratchMaster^{RF}® floor a minimum of 5/16” (8 mm) away from the walls. You need to maintain a minimum 5/16” (8 mm) gap around all vertical obstructions including cabinetry, stone fireplaces, pipes, heating vents, door frames, doorway transitions etc. Larger installations require 3/8” (10 mm) expansion gaps.
- Remove wall base and undercut door jambs. Do not secure individual planks to the subfloor as it is designed to be a floating floor. Do not install cabinets or other permanent fixtures on top of ScratchMaster^{RF}® floor. Transition mouldings and baseboards cannot be tight to the floor but must allow the floor to move beneath them. Do not nail, screw or glue transitions or baseboards through floating floor to the subfloor.

Assembly Steps: (see Angle Angle Installation Video at www.nextfloor.net/documents)

Step 1 Making a taping block

Cut a piece of ScratchMaster^{RF}® flooring down to about 3 inches by 4 inches leaving the tongue on one side. The side opposite the tongue should be flat as you will be taping this side with hammer.

Step 2 The First Row

Start by matching the tongue of the short side of a plank with the groove of the short side of another plank. Lock the short end of the plank by inserting the tongue into the groove at an angle and drop it in place. Continue joining the short sides until you have a row of planks for the length of the room.



Step 3 First Piece of the Second Row

You can often use the leftover piece from the end of first row to begin the second row. This piece must be at least 10” long but no more than 38” long. Visually, the installation will look more natural if the starting planks are a variety of lengths. After installing the first row of planks, line up the first plank of the second row, so the outside end is even with the outside end of the plank in the first row. Lock the long side of the second-row plank onto the plank on the first row by inserting the tongue of the second plank into the groove on the first plank while holding the plank at a 20-degree angle from the floor. Press the second plank down flat and the tongue will lock firmly into place.



Step 4 Second and Subsequent Planks and tiles in the Second Row

Working firstly with the short sides, align the tongue of the second plank with the groove of the first plank while keeping the long side about a quarter inch away from the first row. Then angle these two pieces up by about 20 degrees. If needed use a taping block to gently tap the second plank into position three times. First, where the two planks meet, second across from the joint in the previous row and third at the left side of the plank.

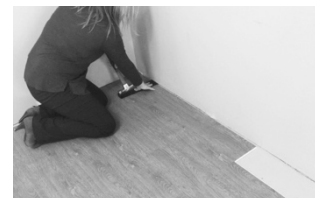


Step 5 Subsequent Rows

Ensure each plank of each subsequent row has at least 10 inches of overlap; that they are fitted brickwork style. This ensures a strong fit.

Step 6 Fitting the Last Row and Doorways

ScratchMaster^{RF}® can also be installed with a pull bar or tapping block and rubber mallet in difficult areas, such as the last row, or when fitting around door trim. Use a pull bar and rubber mallet to lock the joints together in the last row. Always use a pull bar on the cut edge of the plank and always tap gently. Factory edges can be damaged if the pull bar or rubber mallet is used directly against the tongue or groove, or if the planks are tapped/hammered too aggressively.



REPAIRS

In the unlikely event that a plank/tile is damaged for whatever reason, the simplest method is to disconnect the planks carefully (protecting the tongue and groove edges) until the damaged plank/tile can be removed. Then replace the damaged plank with a new one and re-assemble the disconnected planks and tiles.

CAUTION WOOD DUST WARNING: Drilling, sawing, or machining of wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood.