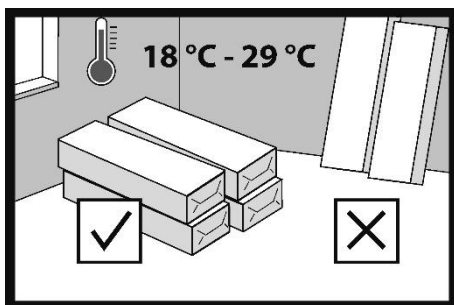


## SPC Installation Instructions with integrated underlay

Important information to consider before deciding  
on choosing an SPC panel installation system



### 1.

Before the flooring is delivered to the installation site, the building must have its entrance doors and windows fitted, and all 'wet' work must be completed, e.g. plastering, partition wall construction, painting, etc. If there are cellars beneath the flooring installation area in the building, they must be dry and well-ventilated. SPC panels can be installed in all residential rooms such as living rooms, bedrooms, kitchens and bathrooms, as well as in most public spaces.

SPC flooring should be used in accordance with its intended purpose as defined by the room usage classes set out in ISO 10874. Information on the suitability of a particular SPC flooring product for a specific room usage class can be found on the product packaging, in the product data sheet and in the product description available at [barlinek.com](http://barlinek.com)

Packages containing SPC floor panels must be handled with care during transport and unloading to avoid any mechanical damage. SPC flooring panels in their original packaging should be stored in a dry place, in a horizontal position, on pallets or wooden beams. A clearance of at least 75 mm must be

ensured between the packages containing the SPC panels and the floor. The flooring should be stored in its original packaging in the room where it is to be laid for at least 24 hours to allow it to acclimatise. The air temperature should be between +18°C and +29°C.

## 2.

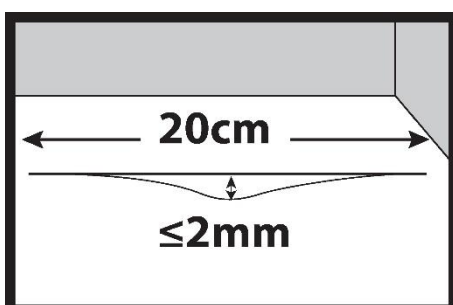
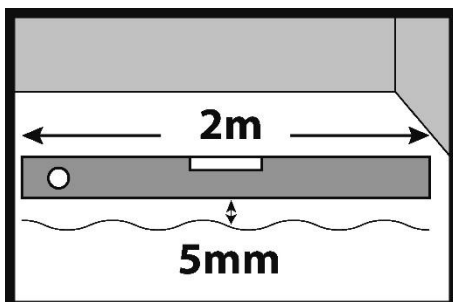
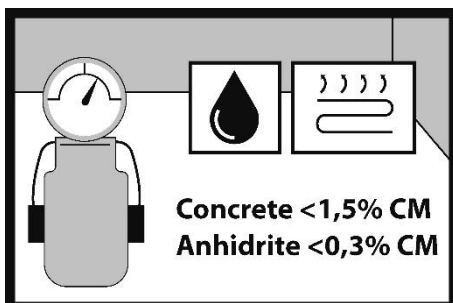
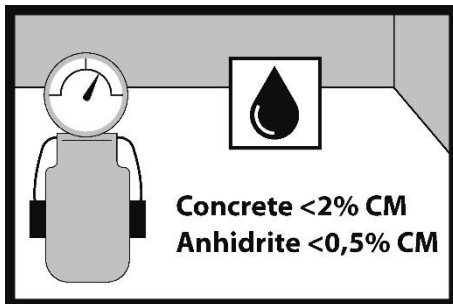
The moisture content of a timber subfloor (or wood-based panels) should not exceed 12%. The moisture content of a concrete subfloor should not exceed 2%, and that of an anhydrite subfloor should not exceed 0.5%. The measurement results should be documented.

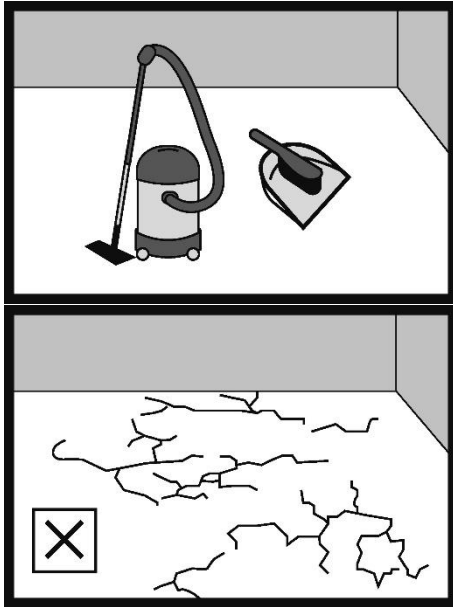
## 3.

When installing SPC panels over under-floor heating, the moisture content of a concrete subfloor should not exceed 1.5%, and that of an anhydrite subfloor 0.3%. The results of the measurements should be documented

## 4.

The maximum permissible unevenness may be up to 5 mm, measured over a length of 2 m. Localised unevenness must not exceed 2 mm over a length of 20 cm.





5.

Before installing SPC panels, the subfloor must be swept or vacuumed. The subfloor should be free from dust, debris, paint, varnish, wax, grease, oils, hardeners, sealants, solvents, sand, adhesive residues, fats and other foreign matter.

6.

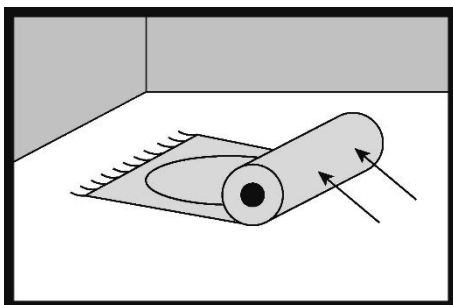
The subfloor should be dry, stable, free from scratches and cracks, and clean with no visible dirt. Cracks and defects in cement or anhydrite subfloors should be filled. Joints wider than 5 mm and deeper than 2 mm must be filled.

Plywood, OSB and chipboard must be structurally sound and installed in accordance with the board manufacturer's recommendations. We recommend installing wood-based boards in two layers, joined with wood screws. The edges of one layer of boards should be laid in a staggered pattern relative to the second layer. The wood-based panel subfloor must provide adequate rigidity and support for the correct installation of the SPC flooring. The joints between the panels should be smooth and should not cause deflection or spring under load.

All screw heads should be slightly countersunk below the surface of the board.

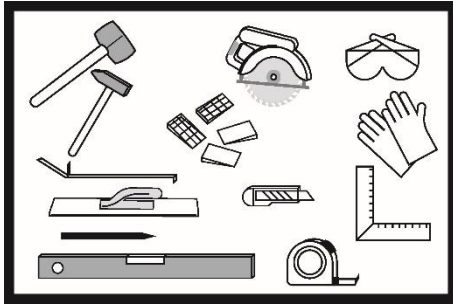
**Important:**

**SPC panels with an integrated underlay must not be installed using an adhesive system.**



7

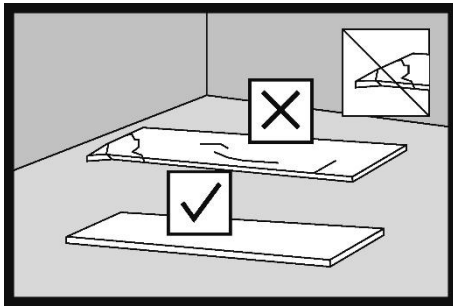
SPC flooring panels must not be installed over existing soft carpet flooring, soft PVC flooring, rugs or other similar materials.



## 8.

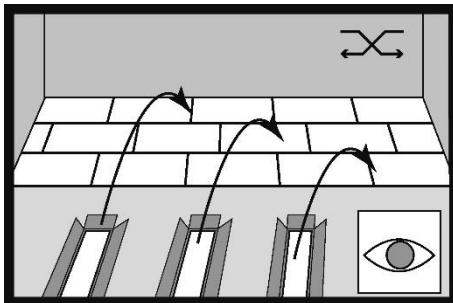
Recommended tools and materials for floor installation:

- Safety goggles
- Vacuum cleaner or broom
- Knee pads
- Protective gloves
- Non-rebound hammer (sand hammer)
- Expansion wedges
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Electric saw
- Spirit level
- Hammer
- Mounting clamp
- Hammer



## 9.

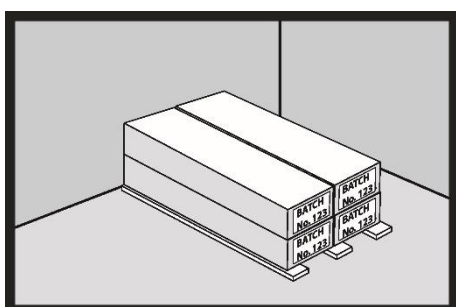
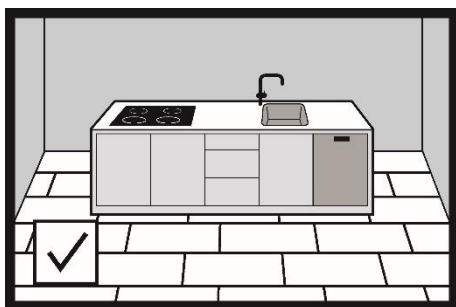
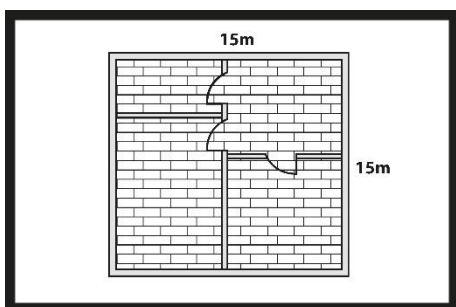
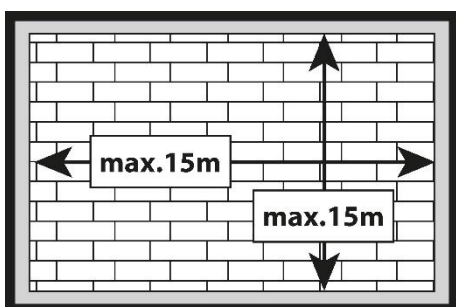
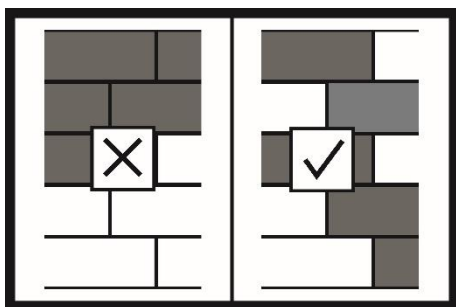
Before installation, the client or fitter should inspect the SPC panels and check that they comply with the order. The panels should be checked for quality, finish, gloss, colour and mechanical damage (information regarding the product type can be found on the label, in the instructions or on the product data sheet). In case of doubt, the client or fitter should not use any SPC panel that they consider unsuitable for installation and should contact the supplier immediately. Installing a damaged SPC panel, one that does not match the order, has visible defects or unacceptable visual characteristics will result in the warranty being voided.



## 10.

During installation, use panels from several packs, matching their colours appropriately to achieve a balanced visual effect on the floor.

When ordering flooring, order approximately 3% more panels than the measured floor area. Where there are many corners in the room or obstacles, or where SPC panels are laid diagonally across the room or at junctions with ceramic tiles, a surplus of approximately 10% may be necessary.



### 11.

The maximum floor plan dimensions of a house or flat for which a floating SPC floor does not require expansion joints at doorways are  $15\text{m} \times 15\text{m}$ . For dimensions up to  $15\text{m} \times 15\text{m}$ , we do not install expansion joints at doorways or transitions to adjoining rooms. We install expansion joints around walls and structural elements such as stairs and columns.

### 12.

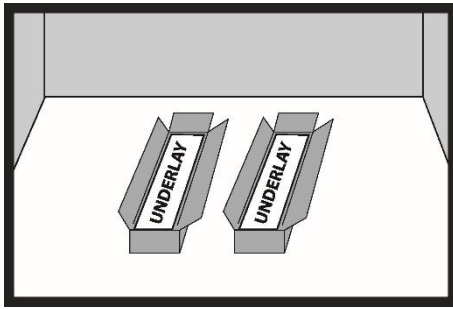
Heavy objects, such as a kitchen island or furniture, can be placed on a floor installed using the floating system without the need for expansion joints around the fixtures. However, a perimeter expansion joint is required around fixed elements running from the floor to the island, e.g. plumbing and drainage systems.

We always install wall-side expansion joints, regardless of the chosen installation system.

### 13.

Before starting installation, check that the colour of the material is consistent. The technology used aims to faithfully reproduce the unique characteristics of natural wood; therefore, slight variations in shade and texture between individual elements are acceptable.

## Installation of SPC panels using the floating system



### 14.

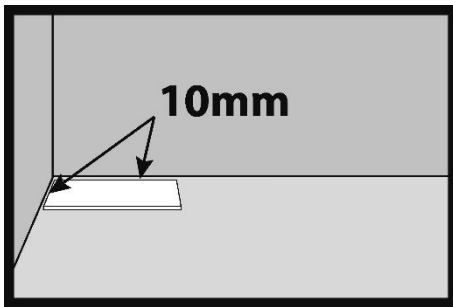
The underside of the SPC panel is bonded with a 1 mm thick XPS foam underlay.

CS underlay parameter – short-term load  $\geq 400$  kPa.

An underlay integrated into the SPC panel with this parameter will withstand various types of loads throughout the floor's service life.

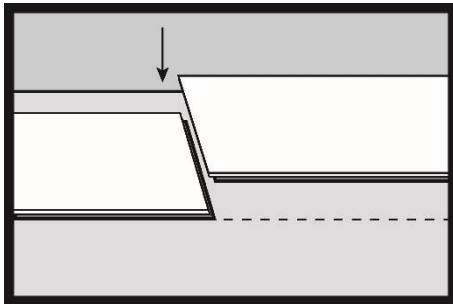
### IMPORTANT:

**No additional underlay is required.**



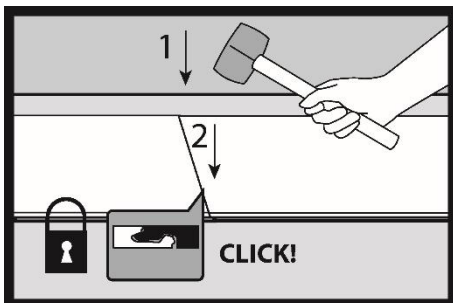
### 15.

Start installation on the left-hand side of the wall and continue towards the right. The expansion gap should be at least 10 mm. Expansion wedges will help to maintain a consistent gap width. An expansion gap should be left around the perimeter of the room and around any other obstacles such as pillars, stairs, ceramic tiles, etc.



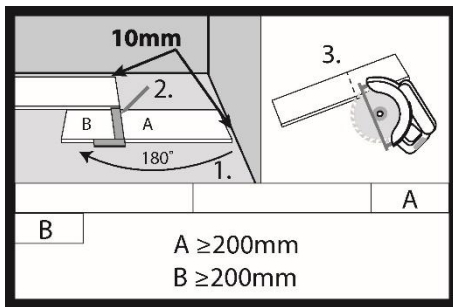
### 16.

Place the short edge of the second SPC panel against the edge of the first one. Ensure that the edges are precisely aligned. The joined panels must be perfectly aligned in a straight line.



### 17.

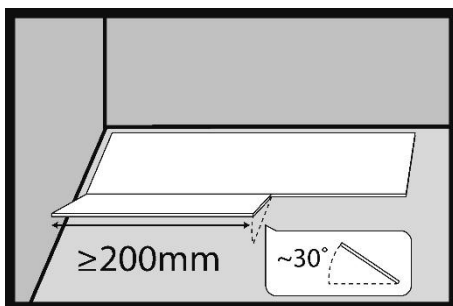
Gently tap the joint with a non-rebounding (sand) hammer and lock the joint in place following the tapping sequence 1 and 2. When the joint is correctly locked, the top surface of the panels should be flush, and there should be no visible difference in level between the joined sections.



### 18.

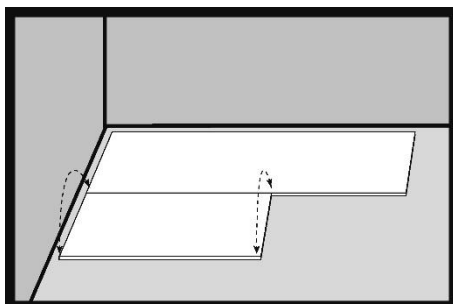
You can use a hand saw or an electric saw to cut the panels. Remember to leave an expansion gap of at least 10 mm after cutting the last panel. The recommended length of the last cut panel (A)

in the first row of flooring should be at least 200 mm. If the cut-off piece (B) is longer than 200 mm, it can be used to start the installation of the second row of flooring. The distance between end joints in two adjacent rows of flooring should be at least 200 mm.



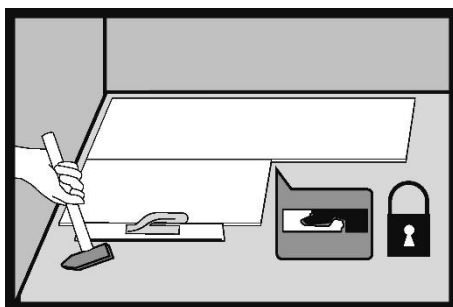
### 19.

Insert the first SPC panel in the second row of flooring at an angle of approx. 30° into the tongue of the panel in the first row of flooring. The recommended length of the SPC panel being installed should be at least 200 mm.



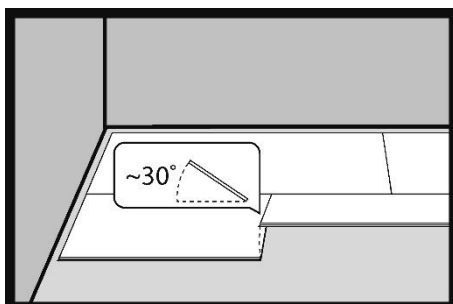
### 20.

If the panel does not slide down freely during installation, tilt it alternately upwards and downwards and press down gently.



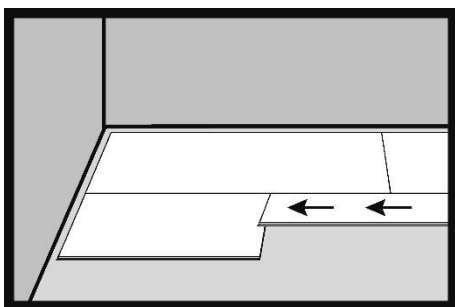
### 21.

Tap the panel along its long side with a tapping block. When installing panels, always tap the interlocking joints along the long side.



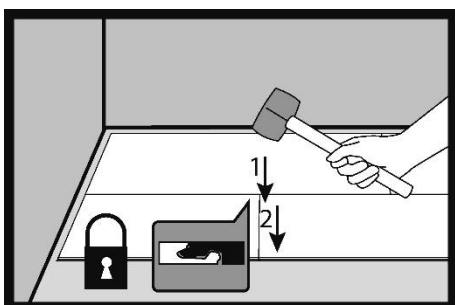
### 22.

Insert the second panel in the second row of flooring at an angle of approx. 30° into the lock of the panel installed in the first row.



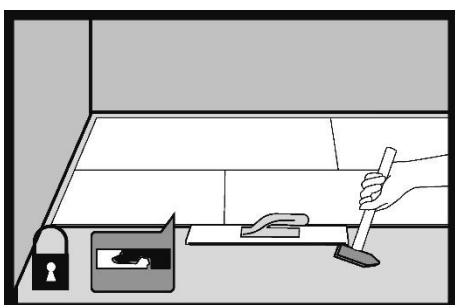
**23.**

Push the panels together so that their short edges are flush.



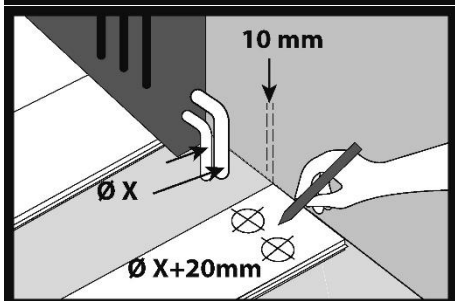
**24.**

Once the panel being fitted is in place, tap the panels together at the short interlocks and secure the interlock in the order of taps 1 and 2.



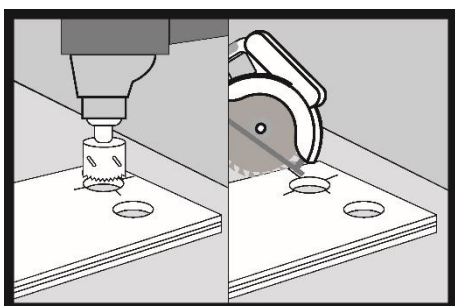
**25.**

Tap the panel along the long side with a tapping tool. When fitting panels, always tap the locks along the long side.



**26.**

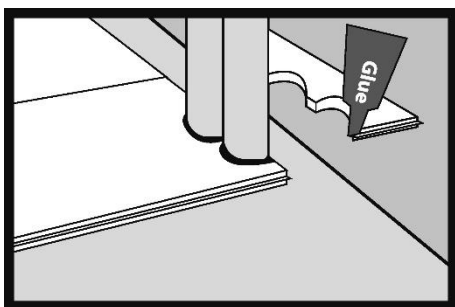
We need to mark out holes in the SPC panel that are 20 mm larger in diameter than the radiator pipes.



**27.**

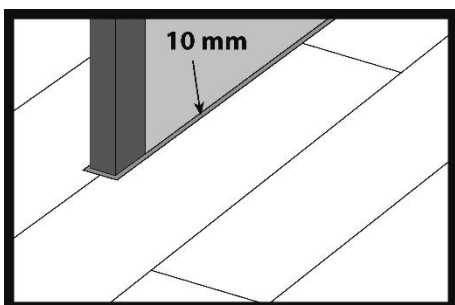
Cut the holes in the SPC panel. Draw a line through the centre of the holes and cut through the panel using a saw.





**28.**

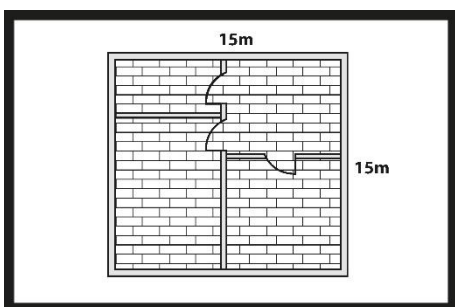
Glue the cut-off piece of the panel back in place using construction adhesive.



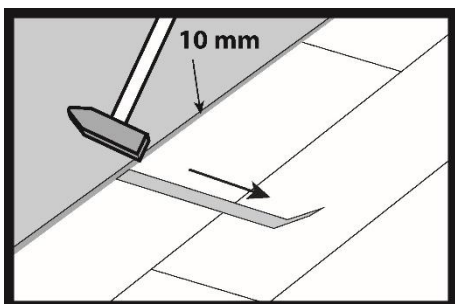
**29.**

**Important:**

There is no need to create an expansion joint where one room meets another. Create one only along walls and other elements permanently built into the building, e.g. stairs, columns and other obstacles.

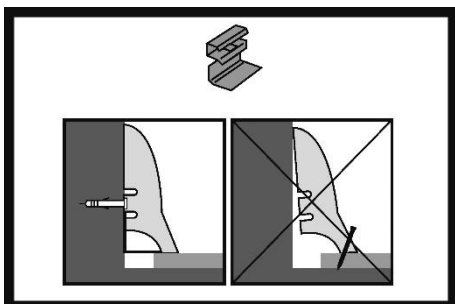


The maximum floor plan dimensions of a house or flat for which an SPC floor laid as a floating floor does not require expansion joints at doorways are 15×15 m.



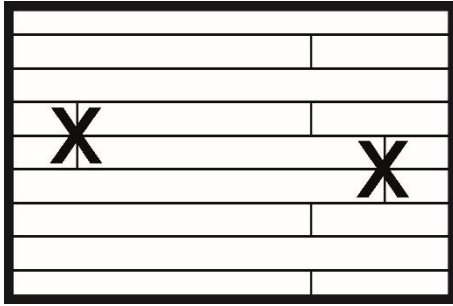
**30.**

We tap the final row of SPC panels into place using a metal hammer.



**31.**

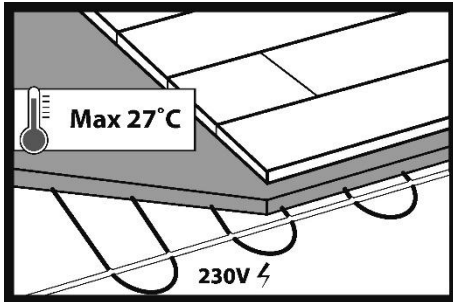
Once the entire floor surface has been installed, fit the decorative skirting boards. Fix the skirting boards exclusively to the walls, using fixing clips or installation adhesive.



### 32.

A natural floor pattern is achieved by mixing boards of different lengths in a single floor strip. The minimum recommended offset between joints on the short edges of SPC panels in adjacent floor strips must be greater than 200 mm.

## Installation of SPC panels over underfloor heating

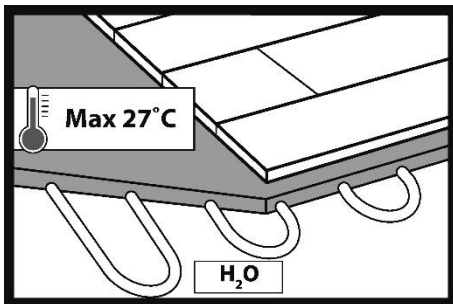


### 33.

SPC flooring with an integrated underlay can be installed over a water-based or electric underfloor heating system using a floating installation method.

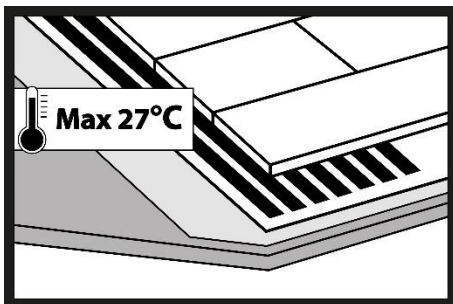
### IMPORTANT:

**Installation on heating films (infrared mats) may only be carried out using panels without an integrated underlay.**



### Important

A prerequisite for laying panels over underfloor heating is to carry out the screed curing process and draw up a curing report – this applies only to new, uncured screeds.



Information on screed curing and the report are available at [barlinek.com](http://barlinek.com). The screed curing process must also be carried out during the summer.

The maximum temperature at which the underfloor heating should be set is 27°C at the surface of the panels.

The moisture content of the screed when installed over underfloor heating should not exceed: 1.5% CM for in cement-based screeds and 0.3% CM for anhydrite screeds.

To prevent uneven performance of the panel core, the entire floor surface should be heated. If there are two or more heating loops in a single room, the set temperature difference between the loops must not exceed 5 °C. This also ensures maximum comfort of use (no colder spots on the floor).

Installing SPC flooring on underfloor-heated surfaces using a floating installation method requires the use of isolation expansion joints between the heated areas and those without underfloor heating. The underfloor heating system should not be switched on until at least 48 hours after the SPC flooring has been installed. When using SPC flooring on underfloor-heated surfaces, bear in mind that any liquids spilled on the floor may evaporate more quickly. Therefore, any stains caused by liquids such as wine, urine, milk, etc., should be removed from the floor surface as soon as possible, as allowing them to dry on the surface of the SPC panels may cause permanent discolouration of the floor. The thickness of the screed above the heating elements should be at least 20 mm.

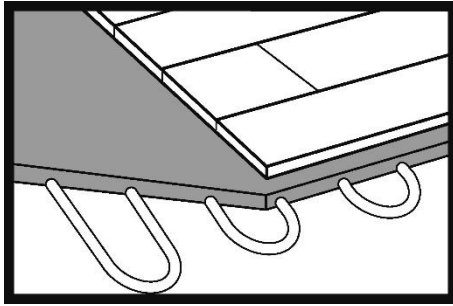
Installation on heating films – infrared mats:

- Underlay beneath the heating mat – minimum 4 mm thick, with good insulating properties – typically XPS with a compressive strength (CS) of  $\geq 400$  kPa; the thickness of the underlay must allow for the installation of connectors and cables;
- heating film;
- vapour barrier or building membrane;
- SPC flooring

Controllers and floor temperature sensors must be used. For installers – the use of thermal seals is recommended.

Furniture placed on top of underfloor heating, e.g. sofas, should have legs at least 10 cm high.

### Installation of SPC panels on underfloor cooling systems



### 34.

It is very important that underfloor cooling systems are fitted with appropriate control systems to prevent water vapour from condensing on the floor surface. To prevent this, the temperature of the cold water in the pipes should not fall below a specified value. In every room with an underfloor cooling system, a sensor should be installed that calculates the relationship between relative humidity and the temperature on the surface of the floorboards, and cuts off the cold water supply before the so-called dew point is reached – that is, before water vapour condenses on the surface of the panels.

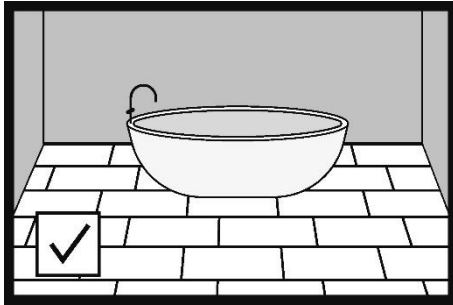
Room thermostats should not be set to a temperature lower than 23°C. Furthermore, the difference between the thermostat setting and the room temperature should not exceed 5°C. Example: room temperature 30°C, thermostat set to at least 25°C.

The underfloor cooling system should be protected against the water temperature in the system falling below +18°C.

- The underfloor cooling system must be switched off 48 hours before the floor is laid. Once the floor has been laid, the system can be switched on again after 48 hours.
- The moisture content of a cement screed should not exceed 1.8%, and that of an anhydrite screed should not exceed 0.3%. Measurements should be carried out using the carbide method, known as the CM method.
- The remaining installation and usage are in accordance
- with the installation instructions, conditions of use and care guidelines for SPC flooring. Further information is available at [barlinek.com](http://barlinek.com)
- The decision on whether underfloor cooling can be used requires a heat balance to be drawn up, which should be done at the

design stage. Omitting this stage may lead to the incorrect selection of equipment and the inadequate performance of the entire cooling system.

### Installation of SPC panels in a damp room



#### 35.

SPC panels with an integrated underlay can be installed in bathrooms and other rooms where water spills may occur, using a floating installation system.

In a floating installation system, it is essential to provide an expansion joint within the door frame opening, with a minimum width of 5 mm (adapted to the type of expansion joint cover strip).

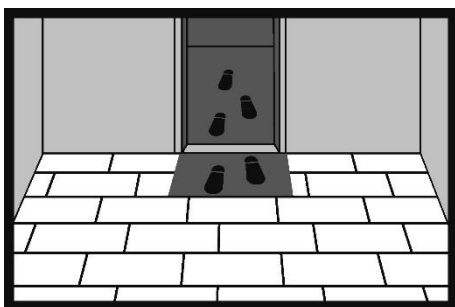
The expansion joint can be filled with a flexible sealant. With a floating installation system, we always create a 5 mm wide perimeter expansion joint.

In a bathroom fitted with underfloor heating, an expansion joint must be provided within the door frame, separating the bathroom from the other rooms. It is essential to provide expansion joints around walls, shower tray surrounds, baths, toilet bowls and other obstacles permanently fixed to the subfloor.

#### **Important:**

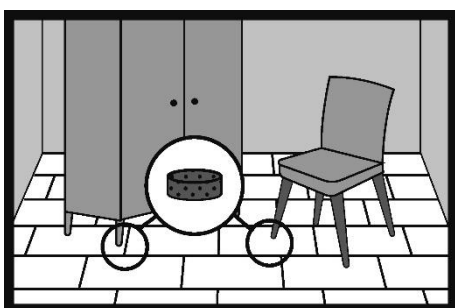
**SPC panels must not be installed in shower trays, baths, saunas, swimming pools and other similar areas.**

### Care and use of SPC panels



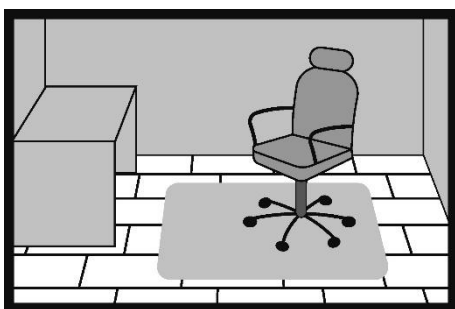
**36.**

Doormats should be placed at the entrances to the flat to effectively prevent sand, soil and water from being tracked in on footwear. Protect the floor by using mats outside and/or inside all entrances. The mats will collect dirt, sand, pebbles and other solid particles brought in, and will absorb moisture. Keep the mats clean. Do not use mats with a latex or rubber backing on SPC flooring, as certain compounds in these materials may permanently stain or damage the panels. Mats intended for use on SPC panels should be labelled 'non-staining'.



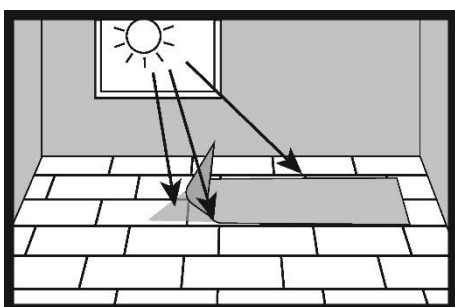
**37.**

All furniture and other items that come into contact with the floor should be fitted with protective pads, e.g. felt pads, which should be replaced regularly.



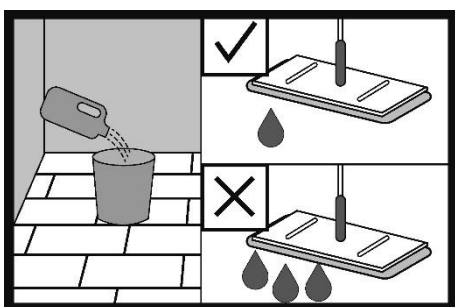
**38.**

Armchairs and other furniture fitted with hard plastic castors should be used on protective plastic mats. If protective mats are not used, the castors should be replaced with those designed for hard W-type floors.



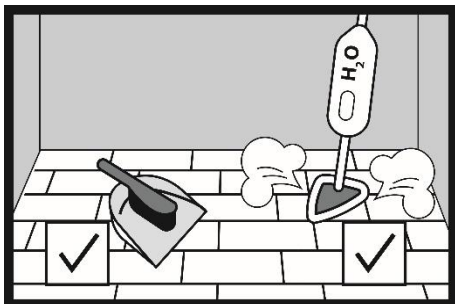
**39.**

Flooring exposed to sunlight (UV light) will change its original colour.

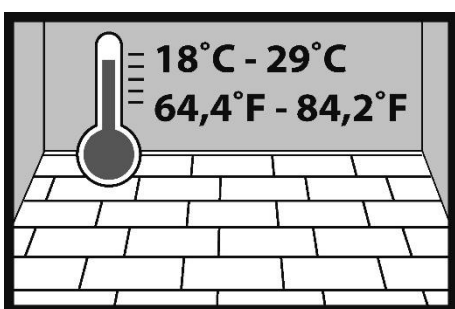


**40.**

The floor is factory-finished and ready for use immediately after installation. Floor maintenance should only be carried out using products intended for this purpose. Instructions for maintaining SPC floors can be found at [barlinek.com](http://barlinek.com)



- Never use vacuum cleaners with a brush attachment, as this could damage the floor.
- Wipe up any spills immediately.
- Vacuum or sweep the floor to remove any particles that could scratch it.
- You may use a damp cloth, with or without the recommended floor care product. Do not leave wet marks on the floor after cleaning.
- Do not use high-pressure washers to clean the floor.
- Trim your pets' claws to prevent damage to the floor.
- Do not drag heavy furniture or equipment across the floor.
- The use of floor care products other than those recommended by Barlinek may cause damage to the varnish layer, changes in colour and gloss, and the formation of stains.
- Do not use products containing wax, paraffin or silicone.
- For daily care, we recommend dry cleaning (vacuuming, sweeping).
- Clean the floor with a mop, moving along the length of the planks.



#### 41.

Whilst the floor is in use, the room temperature should be between +18°C and +29°C.

#### Important

The [barlinek.com](http://barlinek.com) website contains the Terms of Use and Care for SPC Flooring and the SPC Flooring Warranty Terms.

**barlinek.com**

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25 June 2026