

NEO Design Floor Covering Laying Instructions

You have made a good decision! Congratulations on purchasing this high-quality design floor covering. You will enjoy this wood-polymer product for a long time if you note the following instructions – especially the “General Information” for everyday life.

General Information

- Avoid excessive climate change. A room temperature of 20°C with a 40-60% relative humidity (normal living room climate) is ideal.
- Avoid direct sunlight and any possible related overheating of the surface, since there would otherwise be a floor covering deformation hazard.
- Make sure that the surface temperature is kept at a maximum of 40°C. Higher temperatures can lead to material warping. Ensure sufficient floor shadowing on hot sunny days, e.g. with blinds or an awning, since intensive sunlight can discolour the surface in the long run.
- NEO is not suitable for outdoor use nor for installation in shower cubicles and sanitary facilities with floor drains, saunas and conservatories.
- The existing subsurface must be sufficiently sealed when installing in moist rooms and in a sanitary facility. At this point, use back-ventilated edging mouldings such as kitchen wall mouldings. **MAKE SURE** you note the particularities in Item 5.5!
- NEO is moisture-regulating. This means that it adjusts itself to the room’s climate conditions over time and possibly expands. This is why it is **VERY IMPORTANT** to observe the minimum expansion joint distance described in Item 5.3. Be sure to let your floor installer know as well.
- Do not place any moist plant pots or the like directly on the floor, always use a suitable underlay.
- Avoid continuous liquid impingement – especially standing water. This can lead to irreparable floor damage. Remove standing liquids as soon as possible.

- **IMPORTANT! Never violently strike the plank elements into each other! Do not use a hammer or a tapping block for installation, since the hinge joint can become damaged.**
- Differences in structure and colour are part of this floor covering’s character. Therefore, this does not constitute a reason for complaint. Before installation, the floor planks must be inspected for batch consistence, conformity with the sample material and for defects.
- User traces are part of its characteristic appearance. You can reduce this by using felt gliders under chair, table and furniture legs, by using appropriate dirt-trap and clean walk zones (textile pads etc.) and by using appropriate layers (e.g. PE office chair underlay).
- Interactions with other materials (e.g. discolouration under floor mats or rugs) cannot be ruled out and are not a reason to file a complaint.
- NEO is supplied ready for laying and surface sealed. The floor may never be sanded down or treated with lacquer and/or solvents.

- Do not use any steam cleaners, microfiber cloths or cleaners containing solvents for cleaning and maintaining the floor.

1.0 Warranty

In order to protect your guarantee and warranty claim entitlements, you must keep a copy of these laying instructions along with the proof of purchase of your flooring.

2.0 Before Installation

2.1. Let this floor covering acclimatise in living room conditions with the packaging open 3-4 days before installation (cross-pile at approximately 18°C to 20°C and between 40% and max. 60% relative air humidity). **2.2.** Check all floor elements for recognisable defects before installation. Planks which already have visible defects prior to laying should not be laid. Your specialised dealer will obligingly replace defective material.

3.0. Required Tools and Accessories

3.1. Laying tools: Folding yardstick, pencil, angle bracket, cutter knife.

3.2. Optional: Metal saws for cutting metal rails, mitre saw for cutting mouldings

3.3. Accessories: Distance spacers, NEO-LAY impact sound insulation system with integrated vapour barrier or, alternatively, vapour retarder (PE film) min. 0.2 mm and, separately, a max. 1.5 mm thick impact sound insulation system.

CAUTION: We explicitly recommend using the systemic NEO-LAY Sound Insulation Underlay - specially developed for NEO. These insulation underlays meet the highest ergonomic standards. Furthermore, they are very good at insulating foot step and room sound. NEO LAY provides ideal comfort for the highest standards in a system alliance with the NEO floor covering.

4.0. Properties and Preparation of Subsurface/Subfloor Structure

4.1. The subsurface must be firm, clean, level and dry (Ready for laying pursuant to DIN 18356, DIN 18365, DIN 18202). The moisture content of the new subsurface must be checked and may not exceed 1.8 CM% for cement screed and 0.3 CM% for anhydrite screed and/or floating screed.

4.2. NEO must generally be installed on mineral subsurface with a vapour barrier, min. 0.2 mm PE film. This step is not necessary when using the NEO LAY sound insulation underlay since the NEO LAY underlay is already equipped with an integrated vapour barrier. **4.3. For subsurface that border the soil - such as rooms without cellars or above crawlspaces/vaulted cellars – a vapour barrier made of a film that is at least 1.2 mm thick (e.g. a PVC-free EPDM pond film) must be additionally installed. This vapour barrier must also be additionally installed if you have decided to purchase the NEO LAY sound insulation underlay.**

4.4. The vapour barrier is hoisted onto the walls like a basin. The hem of the film sheets overlap by approximately 10 cm and are sealed with the appropriate adhesive tape. The edges of the film also need to be adhered with the appropriate adhesive tape along the walls in a waterproof manner for moist and sanitary rooms.

5. Laying the Floor

IMPORTANT!

Never violently strike the plank elements into each other! Do not use a hammer or a tapping block for installation, since the hinge joint can become damaged.

- Maintain a 15 mm distance as a movement/expansion joint all around from the halls and from all fixed objects such as steps, heating pipes etc. (please note item 5.3 and special laying instructions for moist rooms under item 5.5)

- The first and last laying row should have a plank width of at least 10 cm.

- The offset of the gap clearance (transverse joints) to each other must be at least 40 cm.

5.1. Simple Laying Without Glue

- The new, glue-free “megaloc” quick laying system makes laying NEO quick and easy. Through the use of the laying technique describe below, you will get a profile connection that is especially easy on the material.

5.1.1. Laying the First Row

Place the first plank – tongue side always facing the wall. Place the head end of the plank to be connected and the foot of the already-laid plank on top of each other. Now snap the plank ends into the connection chamfer simply by pressing down with your hand. Align it flush with the edges simply by pushing it horizontally into the head connection. Do the same for the additional planks.

Mark the required lengths of each last plank of a laid row with the help of an angle bracket. Using the cutter knife, deeply scratch along the marking twice on the decorative side. Split it at the nominal breakage points using a straight edge (table edge or similar).

5.1.2. Laying Subsequent Rows

To lay subsequent rows, simply place the planks into the longitudinal grooves of the already-laid front row at an angle of approximately 30° and lower them. The head side is finished after lowering, as already written above.

5.2. Removing Individual Elements

To pick up the floor, first lift the entire row from the hinge joint, then pull apart the individual plank parts by horizontally pulling them apart at the head connections. Do not lift the head connection while doing so! This leads to irreparable damage.

Only by properly rotating the profile elements and correctly removing them ensures that the floor can be laid multiple times.

5.3. Expansion Joints

Since NEO can expand or shrink in fluctuating climates, expansion joints of at least 15 mm are to be provided for all on-site borders and also at transitions to other floor coverings and angular rooms. **This Minimum Distance Must Be Observed!** Please shorten door elements and frames enough so that an impact sound insulation system can be pushed underneath. If the frames cannot be shortened, lay the floor planks at an interval of 15 mm and place a silicone joint of the appropriate colour around the frame. Alternatively, additional expansion joints are to be provided for in case of rooms with lengths and/or widths exceeding 8 metres or the existing expansion joints can be expanded by at least 2 mm per additional length/width running meter. For laying in sanitary facilities, the expansion joints must be expanded from 4 metres length/width by 4 mm each per additional length/width running meter.

5.4. Laying with Warm Water Under floor Heating

Before laying on floors with warm water under floor heating, a vapour barrier consisting of a 0.2 mm thick PE film must be installed. Furthermore, these measurements must be taken when using the NEO LAY sound insulation underlay. Moreover, a heating up and cooling down protocol based on DIN 4725 must be created.

PLEASE NOTE It is generally not recommended to install on electric under floor heating. Contact temperature to the floor covering may reach a maximum of 27°C.

5.5. Laying the Floor in Moist Rooms and Sanitary Facilities

An expansion joint with a minimum distance of 15 mm to the wall **MUST** be observed.

For laying in moist and sanitary facilities, the expansion joints must be expanded from 4 metres length/width by 4 mm each per additional length/width running meter.

To prevent water from getting UNDER the floor covering via the expansion joint, close the expansion joint all around using back-ventilated wall edging mouldings (e.g. kitchen wall mouldings) that seal up to the floor with a plastic lip.

Back-ventilation into the edging strips allows air to circulate via the expansion joints and helps keep the subsurface dry.

Avoid continuous liquid impingement as well – especially standing water. This can lead to irreparable damage of the subsurface as well as the floor covering caused by the neuralgic points of the connecting joints. Standing liquids must therefore be removed as quickly as possible.

Never lay NEO directly in shower cubicles and in sanitary facilities with floor drains.

Reduce air humidity in moist rooms with consistent ventilation and heating, especially in winter.

6. After Laying

- The glue-free, laid design floor covering can fully and immediately withstand loads after laying.
- Remove the spacers after laying.
- Cover the expansion joints at the edge using suitable skirting boards and/or with back-ventilated kitchen wall mouldings in moist rooms. Mouldings must always be attached to the wall, never to the floor.
- Sweep dust off of floor covering after finishing and wipe down with a d