

Installation Instructions TORLYS RigidWood™ FIRM and RigidWood™ FLEX

DEAR CUSTOMER,

You have purchased a high quality **TORLYS RigidWood™ FIRM/FLEX** Floor, well suited for all residential rooms including bathrooms.* Please take a moment to review the installation instructions and plan your installation carefully.

NOTE: If installing a custom RigidWood™ FIRM/FLEX product WITHOUT attached foam backing, please contact our Customer Service Department at 1-800-461-2573 to be put in touch with our Technical Department, for specific installation instructions.

IMPORTANT * In bathroom installations, the expansion gap must be filled with silicone sealant.

TORLYS RigidWood can be installed in 3-season homes (from -22°F to 122°F / -30°C to 50°C). Thermal shock - very rapid and extreme changes in temperature - may cause damage to the floor. The use of a continuous vapour barrier and proper insulation is mandatory in the crawlspace.

SET UP

To ensure you have sufficient material on hand, calculate the total area of the room and add 5% of material to allow for custom cutting. Twenty-four hours prior to installation, place the closed packages in the middle of the room, NEVER against a wall or in a corner. **Do not install TORLYS RigidWood™ FIRM/FLEX until it is acclimatized to the required room temperature of 60°F - 70°F (16°C - 21°C).** Inspect each plank before installation. If you find any defects, do not use the plank. Contact your supplier immediately.

Please Note: The TORLYS Warranty does not cover labour for installation of planks with visible defects.

PREPARATION

Remove existing carpet, baseboards, quarter-rounds and thresholds and undercut door jambs, using a piece of flooring material as a guide. Repair all defects in the sub-floor. Additional expansion and contraction can be achieved by undercutting drywall.

CHECK THAT:

- The job-site has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage the finish of your TORLYS floor.
- The doors can still open and close after installing the floor.
- Doors may have to be cut to supply sufficient clearance.

- The door jambs may need to be adapted to install the floor under them.
- For aesthetic appearance we suggest that you measure the width of the room to ensure that the width of the pieces of the first and last row is approximately the same and not less than 2" (5cm). Cut the width of the pieces of the first and last row as needed.

SUBFLOORS

Repair any defects in the subfloor. Installation over an uneven subfloor will cause premature damage to floor and make the floor feel unstable. All subfloors must be clean, firm, flat (within 3/16" – 4.8mm in 10ft – 3m), dry (on concrete ≤ 80% RH as per ASTM F2170, on plywood 12% or less) and smooth. You can lay the planks over a solid and stable subfloor material that meets these requirements. It is essential that the crawl space under subfloors is sufficiently ventilated. Remove any obstacles and provide sufficient ventilation. A 6-mil/ 0.15mm poly vapour barrier must be installed on crawl space floor.

LAYOUT

The floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time, shuffling planks to insure colour and shade mix. If possible, lay the planks parallel to the source of light. The ideal environment is a temperature of 60°F - 70°F (16°C - 21°C).

The floor will be stronger and more stable if the joints are staggered at least 12" (30cm) in each row. Staggered or irregular joints result in less waste and enhance the overall appearance of the floor. Do not stair step the flooring across the room. A minimum of 1/8" (3.2mm) expansion wedges must be used at all walls and vertical obstructions, to allow for proper expansion/contraction space. The wedges should be removed after the flooring installation has been completed, and the expansion/contraction space should be covered by baseboard, quarter round, and/or drywall (if wall is undercut).

Note

Never hit the planks directly with your hammer or rubber mallet. When required, use a **TORLYS Tapping Block** or **TORLYS Bulldog Tool™** to protect the edges of the planks. Make sure the Tapping Block is in good condition. Hold Tapping Block down when using it. Gently tap all planks into their final locking position.

TOOLS

- Hammer (1 lb.)
- Tape Measure
- Pencil
- 3/8" (10mm) Wedges*
- Tapping Block*
- Last-Board Puller *
- Saw, utility knife



When sawing pieces off the planks, use a fine-toothed hand saw, jigsaw, chopsaw, guillotine or utility knife.

*Note: available in a TORLYS Installation Kit

**OPTIONAL: for ease of installation and repairs use TORLYS Bulldog.

Note: even when using care to disengage planks using the Bulldog, some minor joint damage may occur. This can be repaired by using a water-based sheet vinyl seam sealer.

FLOATING METHOD

Prepare the subfloor. **TORLYS RigidWood™ FIRM/FLEX** has a built-in FoamPlus™ BLUE underlay and therefore no additional underlayment is required.

Do not glue planks together.

Note: While floating is the primary form of installation of **TORLYS RigidWood™ FIRM/FLEX**, it can also be glued-down. Please visit our website at: www.torlys.com, for detailed information on these installation instructions.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

To ensure the full benefit of your **TORLYS RigidWood™ FIRM/FLEX floor** and to extend its beauty for years to come, we recommend the following preventative maintenance suggestions:

- **Install floor protectors** on furniture legs to protect against scratches and dents. These furniture pads should have no wrinkles and be made of soft, non-staining material (e.g. felt pads); the felt pads should be of adequate size to support the weight of the furniture and a minimum of 1" (2.5cm) in diameter. The floor protectors should sit flat on the floor and be inspected periodically for cleanliness and wear. For heavy pieces of furniture (e.g. couches) the use of coaster-cups is recommended.
- **Do not drag furniture** or other heavy objects on the floor. Avoid high heels or shoes that need repair. Some types of high heel shoes can severely damage the surface of any floor covering. For damages that require plank replacement, a tool, the TORLYS Bulldog, is available through your dealer.

- **Close your curtains or blinds** where continuous or extreme sunlight will shine on your floor. Also UV protection in windows will help with the performance of your furnishings. A combination of heat and sunlight can cause most furnishings and flooring to fade or change colour.
- **Sweep and vacuum floor regularly.** Use TORLYS Maintenance Kit with dust mop.
- **Avoid sand and grit build up.**

At doorways and areas of heavy wear, use protective mats or rugs that are marked "non-staining". For dry maintenance, use a dust mop, vacuum cleaner or dry cloth. For damp maintenance, **use the TORLYS Natural Glow Maintenance Kit**, available from your Authorized Dealer, and follow the maintenance instructions on the container. **Basic cleaning is with a damp cloth. Excess water can cause a slip and fall hazard.**

IMPORTANT

To keep your warranty valid, use TORLYS recommended maintenance products and follow TORLYS maintenance instructions. For more information on Maintenance products and instructions go to: www.torlys.com.

INSTRUCTIONS

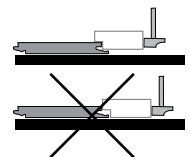
1) GENERAL

TORLYS Uniclic RigidWood™ is a revolutionary system for installing flooring using an ingenious tongue and groove system to "lock" the planks together.

IMPORTANT

When required, use a hammer and the special TORLYS Tapping Block (positioned as shown in diagram below) or TORLYS Bulldog tool. Never use any other tapping block, as it may damage the planks.

Use a **TORLYS "Last-Board Puller"** to pull exposed joints tight, where a tapping block and hammer will not fit. For a short edge, use several small taps until the planks click together completely. For a long edge, and if you cannot **angle-click**



the planks (e.g. when installing final row) tap planks together gradually. Begin tapping lightly at the corner of a plank until the joint has clicked together. Repeat the process approximately every 12" (30cm) until the entire long edge of the plank has clicked in with the next plank.

Never attempt to knock the joint into place with one hit.

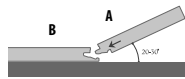
For the best results, follow the installation instructions and use only:

- A) TORLYS INSTALLATION KIT** (Wedges, TORLYS tapping block and last-board puller)
- B) TORLYS MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS** (Dust Mop, TORLYS Natural Glow (PH Neutral) Cleaner)
- C) TORLYS BULLDOG TOOL**

2) CORRECT INSTALLATION

A minimum of 1/8" (3.2mm) expansion/contraction gap must be provided at all walls and vertical obstructions (e.g. around pipes and at thresholds). These gaps may be covered by a moulding that is not fixed to the **RigidWood™ FIRM/FLEX** floor, but to the wall.

Begin installing the floor from the left corner of the room. Always remember that the easiest way to install the floor is by placing the tongue **(A)** into the groove **(B)**. Lift plank being installed to 20-30 degree angle and keep tongue of the plank in the groove of installed plank. With gentle pressure and a gentle rocking motion push the plank down. If necessary, finish locking the plank with a tap into place using a tapping block or Bulldog tool.



TRANSITION MOLDINGS

Installation can not exceed 80' (25 meters) in any direction, without the mandatory use of transition mouldings. When installing without a Transition Moulding, a small bead of silicone, or similar caulking, can finish the edge.

Match Transition Mouldings (e.g. Stair Nosings)
For the best appearance compare the transition mouldings and flooring before installation, identify the planks that best match the mouldings for colour and grain, set them aside and then install them as needed.

Note: If using flush-mount stair nosing in conjunction with this flooring, do not commence installation before referring to stair nosing instructions.

3) THE FIRST ROWS

Saw off the tongue of the first plank, both on the short as well as the long edge. For all other first-row planks cut off the tongue on the long edge **(Photo I)**. Orient the first plank in the left corner of the room. Maintain a minimum spacing from the wall of 1/8" (3.2mm), using wedges. Lay the planks with the groove side facing you **(I)** in order to use the tongue/groove system. Lay the first row along the wall.



IMPORTANT

Turn the plank inclined with the end joint into the already laid plank. Click the two together. Ensure that the planks of the first row are straight **(II)**.



The cut piece from the first row becomes the starting piece for another row. Install the cut edge facing the wall, with the expansion wedge in place. Now angle this piece and click it into the first plank of the first row. The cut pieces should be a minimum of 8" (20cm) in length **(III)**. Continue the second row with a full piece, placing the tongue of the long side into the groove of first row piece **(IV)**. Move the end joints together until they are approximately 1/4" (6mm) apart. Click the plank lengthwise into place. For the short and long edge, if necessary, use the tapping block and a number of smaller taps until the planks lock into place completely.



Do not attempt to knock the joint into place with one hit. Continue this method for each plank, covering the entire width of the room.

Another method of installation is the Angle/Angle Method, which will reduce the amount of tapping on the planks.

PLEASE NOTE that the stagger between the head joints should be minimum 12" (30cm). Cut the last planks of each row leaving a minimum 1/8" (3.2mm) gap to the wall.

4) THE FINAL ROW

Measure and cut the planks of the final row so that there is a minimum 1/8" (3.2mm) expansion/contraction space between the final row and the wall. These planks will be angled and tapped into the last row using the Last-Board Puller or Bulldog Tool. Knock short edges together using TORLYS Tapping Block.

5) UNDER DOOR FRAMES

Saw the planks so that after installation there is a minimum 1/8" (3.2mm) expansion/contraction gap. This expansion/contraction gap can be covered by undercutting the door jamb. If you cannot rotate this plank, use the TORLYS Tapping Block and hammer to tap the planks together.

TORLYS has designed a special tool for this type of installation: the TORLYS Bulldog.

6) COMPLETING THE INSTALLATION

After installing your floor, you can immediately walk on it and begin the final touches. This is one of the major benefits of the glueless system. Remove all spacer blocks and install baseboards and/or quarter-rounds. Never attach the baseboard to the floor itself. You need to allow the floor to

expand and contract underneath the baseboard. Finish around the pipes with rosettes, silicone or similar caulking. Where no mouldings or baseboards can be installed, or where undercutting is not an option, fill the expansion/contraction gap with silicone or similar caulking.

7) RADIANT HEAT APPLICATION

TORLYS RigidWood™ FIRM/FLEX floors are guaranteed for installation over radiant-heated sub-floors. For details and limitations, please check the “TORLYS Flooring Warranty and Instructions for installation over radiant-heated sub-floors”. Visit our website at: www.torlys.com, for detailed information.

8) FLOOD WARRANTY

TORLYS RigidWood™ FIRM/FLEX floors are covered by a Flood Warranty. For detailed installation instructions and limitations, please check the “TORLYS Flood Warranty and Installation Instructions for RigidWood”. Visit our website at: www.torlys.com, for detailed information on our Flood Warranty.

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