



## COMPLETE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Installation Method: Unilin - Angle/Tap

#### **Please read complete instructions before commencing installation**

Evoke flooring is designed for easy, snap-together installation. Evoke flooring can be installed:

- in rooms on, above or below ground level
- over plywood, OSB or concrete subfloors
- directly over most existing hard surface flooring
- over radiant heating systems

**Note: all installations of Evoke flooring over radiant heat systems must follow the special instructions for installation over radiant heat, available from your Evoke dealer.**

### INSTALLER'S / OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Evoke flooring is manufactured to highest standards of product quality, but occasional manufacturing defects may occur in the product. It is the sole and joint responsibility of the installer and owner to conduct a quality inspection of all pieces Evoke flooring before installation. Any pieces of flooring that appear to contain a manufacturing defect should not be installed. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the installer and owner, even if the owner is not present at the time of installation. If defects are found, please contact your dealer. It is the sole responsibility of the flooring installer to ensure that the job site, subfloor and installation and materials meet or exceed all applicable industry standards. Evoke accepts no responsibility for problems arising from incorrect or improper site preparation or installation procedures.

**Very important: VCC is a waterproof product, but it is not a vapor barrier. Crawl spaces still need adequate ventilation and exposed earth must be covered by 6mil poly vapor barrier (min. 12" overlapped joints).**

**Concrete slabs must cured and dry (min. 60 days old) with no evidence of moisture.**

### SITE PREPARATION:

#### INSTALLATION IN NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED HOME

Installation of flooring is one of the last jobs of a new home construction. Prior to installing a VCC floor, ensure that:

- the building is completely enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place and securable, including a door from an attached garage to house interior
- all concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, texturing, painting and other wet work is complete and thoroughly cured and dry
- all floor mounted cabinetry (including kitchen islands, bathroom vanities, etc) is installed and secured
- basements and crawlspaces are dry. Crawlspaces must have no standing water; crawlspaces must also have a vapor barrier and adequate ventilation in accordance with local building codes.
- gutters and downspouts are in place, directing water away from the building
- HVAC systems are fully operational, enabling heat and humidity levels to be controlled and maintained throughout the home. A temperature range of 65-85°F (18-30°C) should be maintained before, during and after installation
- subfloor is properly prepared for installation
- if installing over radiant heat, ensure that the system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone.



## INSTALLATION IN EXISTING HOME (RENOVATION)

Installation in an existing home must meet the same conditions as a new home. If part of a larger remodeling project, ensure that all wet work (painting, wallpapering, texturing, etc) is completed and thoroughly dry before commencing flooring installation. In addition:

- remove all furniture, artwork and other valuables from installation area
- remove baseboards and moldings
- undercut door casings (use a piece of the flooring as a depth gauge)
- remove existing flooring, if necessary
- if installing over radiant heat, it is strongly recommended that a radiant heat technician be consulted prior to installation to ensure that the heating system can be operated effectively at temperatures acceptable to the wood flooring. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone.
- all floor mounted cabinetry (including kitchen islands, bathroom vanities, etc) is installed and secured

## SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Evolve Vinyl Composite Core flooring is waterproof but to ensure the health and safety of your home, it is strongly recommended to eliminate all sources of moisture before commencing installation.

The installer and customer are jointly and solely responsible for ensuring that the subfloor is suitable for the flooring application and properly prepared for installation.

**All subfloors** must be clean, dry, structurally sound and flat to within 3/16" in 10'.

**Wood/Plywood Subfloors** must be tested for moisture content according to NWFA guidelines, the subfloor moisture content should not exceed 12%. Subfloors must meet local building code requirements (US: minimum 3/4" T&G plywood or 23/32" T&G OSB. Canada: minimum 5/8" T&G plywood or 3/4" T&G OSB). They must be secure to the joists, free of squeaks, bounce between floor joists and protruding fasteners.

**Concrete Subfloors** must be fully cured and dry (60 days) prior to installation.

For **commercial installations**, slab must be tested for relative humidity using approved testing method (ASTM F2170-11 or equivalent) and must return a reading of 85% RH or less.

For **residential installations**, slab may be tested for relative humidity using approved testing method (ASTM F2170-11 or equivalent) and must return a reading of 85% RH or less or moisture content may be measured using a Tramex Moisture Meter.

**Gypsum Subfloors** must be fully cured (30 days) prior to installation. Moisture content should be measured using a Tramex Moisture Meter or equivalent and return an emission rate of 5 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less.

In situ **Relative Humidity** testing is not possible. In these situations, moisture content must be assessed using a Tramex Moisture Meter or equivalent device. If the slab is true concrete, the emission rate must be 3 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less. If the slab is lighter weight gypsum concrete (eg Gypcrete) , the emission rate must be 5 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less.

**Note:** Prior to flooring installation, ensure that the radiant heat system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone.

## ACCLIMATION

Before installation, make sure that the flooring is at the same temperature as the install site; depending on the time of year this may take 24-48 hours for the flooring to become balanced to the install sites interior temperature.

## UNDERLAY

When installing these products, a separate underlay is not required.

## STARTING WALL

Orient the installation so the boards are parallel to incoming sunlight, and select your starting wall. Check it for straightness. If it is not straight, you may need to trim the edge of the first row of floor boards to match the shape of the wall. Calculate how many rows of flooring will be required for the job. You will probably have to rip down



(cut lengthwise) the final row of boards to fit. The final row must be at least half a board width wide to ensure the integrity of the joint. If it will not be half a board width, then rip down your starting row enough to make up the difference.

### EXPANSION SPACE

To allow for this, leave a 3/8”(8mm) expansion space around the entire perimeter of the floor between the flooring and the walls. Also leave expansion space where the flooring will meet any vertical obstacle, such as stairs, pipes, door sills, tiles, cabinets etc. Have a supply of 3/8”(8mm) spacers on hand during installation.

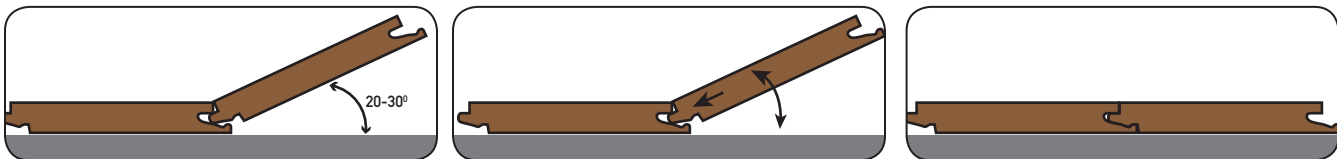
Areas in excess of over 40’ in any direction, will require a T-mold transition strip.

## INSTALLATION

Note: The patented Unilin locking joint system used in this flooring enables boards to be fitted together in two ways. Remember: do not use glue when installing this product.

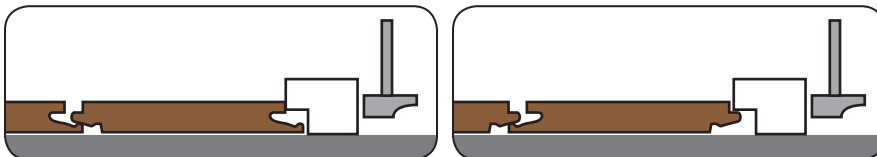
### Angle/Angle Installation:

Hold the new board at an angle of 20 to 30° to the previously installed board, and engage the tongue and groove joint at the butt end of the boards. Move the new board gently up and down while exerting gentle pressure along the long side of the board. The long side joint will click into place, locking the joint. This is the easiest method for installation and should be used for most boards.



### Flat Installation:

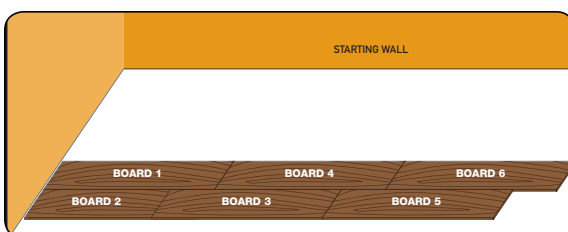
The new board is laid flat on the floor aligned to the previously installed board and, using a specially designed Unilin tapping block (available from your dealer) the boards are tapped together gently until the joint locks. Do not try to close the joint with a single hit on the block; use a series of light taps until the joint closes completely. It is important to avoid damaging the locking system. Broken locking systems are not covered under warranty. This method should



only be used in situations where the Angle-In method is not feasible, or for tapping closed joints that have not locked completely.

**Multi-Width products** are designed to give a more random wood appearance. Each row must be completed with the same width board. There are no pattern restrictions how a multi-width product assembled. Typical install pattern is 3”-5”-7” ; but you can also install 3”-3”-5”-5”-7”-7” or 7”-3”-5”-3”-7”-5”. Your imagination is the only restriction, but always make sure to properly engage the locking systems complete each row with the same width board.

Open 1 or 2 packages of flooring and inspect boards to ensure there are no manufacturing defects. Remember, boards that have been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the customer. Select your starting wall and check for straightness as described above. Decide in which direction you want to install (evoke can be installed left to right, or right to left). This manual will describe a left-to-right installation.



Begin at the left hand end of the starting wall. Have a quantity of 3/8” (8mm) spacers handy.

Begin with a full board. Saw off the tongue on both the long and short sides of the board, and place the board with the sawn butt end against the wall on the left, and the sawn long side facing the starting wall, but set out about two feet from the starting wall. Insert a spacer at the left end of the board and nudge the board against the wall.



Take a shorter board to begin the second row, and angle in to position against board 1, fitting together the long side joint. Place a spacer at the left hand end of the second board. Note: Lay a heavy object like a full box of evoke flooring on the end of the first two boards to help keep them in position while you continue the installation.

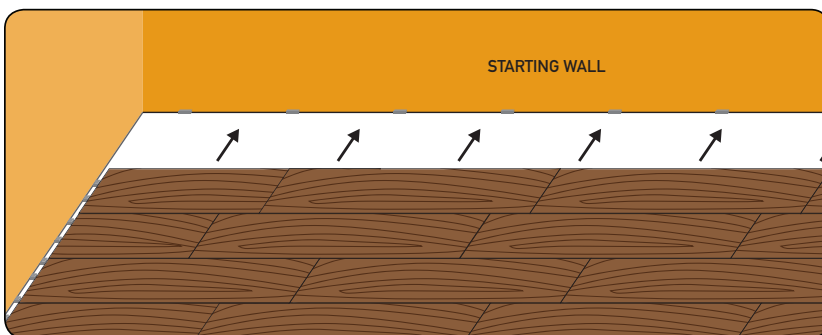
Install board 3. Hold it at angle and fit the butt end joint into the end of board 2. Drop board 3 slightly to engage the butt joint, then lift board 2 & 3 together and move gently up and down while pressing forward until the long side joint of board 3 locks into board 1.

Note: Ensure that all butt joints are staggered by a minimum of 6”.

Take board 4 and saw off the tongue joint on the long side only. Hold it at angle and fit the butt end joint into the end of board 1. Drop board 4 slightly to engage the butt joint with board 1, then lift board 1 & 4 together and move gently up and down while pressing forward until the long side joint of board 4 locks into board 3. (Kneeling on board 3 while you do this will help hold everything in place.)

Install board 5 in the same fashion as board 3. Install board 6 in the same fashion as board 4. Continue until you have completed two full rows. At the end of the row, cut boards to fit, but remember to leave expansion space at the end of the row as well.

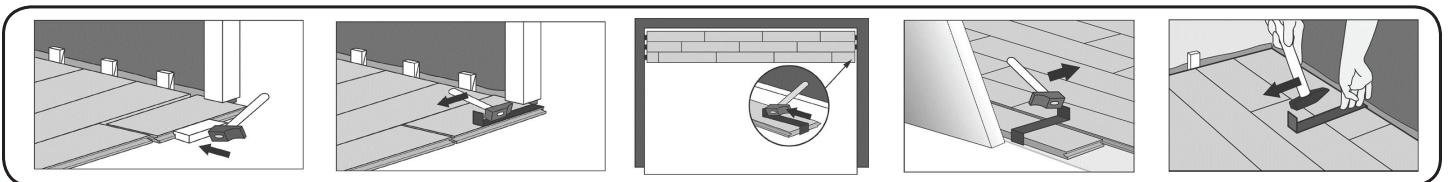
Note: Start rows with a variety of different lengths of boards. You can also use off cuts from previous row ends to begin new rows, as long as they are minimum 6” (15cm) in length. Remember to stagger butt joints by a minimum of 6” (15cm).



To begin the third row, hold the first board at a 30° angle and insert the long side tongue into the long side groove of the previous row, then lower into place. Ensure the left hand edge is aligned with the previous row and put an expansion spacer between the left hand end of the board and the wall. Use the Angle-In installation method described above to install the rest of the boards to complete the row. Continue installing in this manner until you have completed three or four full rows. Insert a series of expansion

spacers along the starting wall and slide the assembled flooring against the starting wall.

If a board cannot be angled into place – if it is under a door jamb or other obstacle, for example – use the flat installation method. Lay the board flat on the floor and, using a special Unilin tapping block and hammer, gently tap along the edge until the joint is closed. Tap gently and repeatedly; do not use excessive force. To close a butt joint, use a series of light taps. To close a long side joint, tap gently and repeatedly along the entire length of the joint.



Continue with the installation throughout the rest of the room. When you get to the final row, measure the distance to the far wall and ‘rip’ a row of boards to fit the gap – remember to leave 3/8” (8mm) expansion space against the far wall.

That’s it! Your new evoke floor is installed! To finish the job, remove the expansion spacers. Install moldings, trim and transitions. Moldings and transitions must be affixed either to the subfloor or to the wall – never to the flooring itself.

Before you move furniture onto the floor, take a moment to protect your new floor by putting felt pads on all furniture and accessories. To learn more about care and maintenance of your evoke floor, please see the Product Warranty.

If the flooring was installed over a radiant heating system, when you turn the system back on bring the temperature of the system up gradually, in 5° increments. Never allow the surface temperature of the floor to exceed 82°F (28°C) and avoid dramatic temperature changes; always adjust the system gradually in 5° increments. It is recommended



that a dedicated quick recovery thermostat be installed to allow the temperature of the radiant heating system to be accurately controlled.

## **PRODUCT CARE & WARRANTY**

### **CARE & MAINTENANCE**

Evoke floors have a durable finish that is designed to provide years of protection and easy care. Some simple care and maintenance procedures will help to keep your Evoke floor looking its best and help to protect it from unnecessary wear and damage.

- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to keep it clean and free of dust, sand and other abrasive materials.
- Place area rugs or doormats at entryways to help prevent sand, grit, oils, dirt and other abrasive materials from being tracked onto the floor surface from outdoors.
- Place protective mats at high-use work areas such as sinks, ranges, service counters and workstations.
- Your new VCC flooring is not affected by water but it is always a good idea to wipe up any moisture on the floor quickly so that it does not work its way into any other areas where it may cause damage or cause a slipping hazard.
- Ensure that environmental conditions are maintained with a temperature range of 65-85°F (18-30°C) and humidity at 30-50% at all times. Problems resulting from exposure to improper environmental conditions are not covered by the product warranty.
- If the floor is installed over a radiant heating system, never allow the surface temperature of the floor to exceed 82°F (28°C). Avoid dramatic temperature changes; always adjust the system gradually in 5° increments. It is recommended that a dedicated quick recovery thermostat be installed to allow the temperature of the radiant heating system to be accurately controlled.
- Put felt protector pads on the feet of all furniture, display stands, file cabinets and other accessories that will be placed directly onto the floor surface. Inspect regularly for wear and replace as necessary.
- Avoid letting sharp or pointed objects come into contact with the floor surface.
- In areas where direct or extreme sunlight occurs use window coverings or drapes to avoid overheating the flooring and prevent fading.

### **CLEANING**

- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to keep it free of dust, grit and other abrasive materials.
- Blot up any food, drink or liquid spills immediately.
- For more thorough cleaning, use Therapy by Kentwood Spray Cleanser (available at your Evoke dealer) or other floor cleaning solution approved for use with laminate flooring.
- Do not use any household cleaners, oils, soaps, waxes or any abrasive materials or scouring agents on the floor.
- Do not use steam cleaners and/or other products that will over-wet or flood the floor.

Failure to follow these instructions may void the product warranty.

Questions? Visit [evokeflooring.com/faq](http://evokeflooring.com/faq) or email [info@evokeflooring.com](mailto:info@evokeflooring.com)

### **UV COATING**

Evoke VCC comes with a UV coating to reduce the affects of the sun however in areas where prolonged or extreme sunlight occurs use window shades or drapes to reduce exposure. It will not only help prevent the environment and floor from overheating, it will also help to prevent fading or discoloration to the surrounding furnishings, artwork and flooring.

### **PRODUCT WARRANTY**

This warranty applies to the original purchaser and the original site of installation only. The conditions and terms of this warranty are as stated herein and may not be altered by any dealer, installer, agent or distributor of Evoke flooring.

### **MANUFACTURING WARRANTY**

Evoke warrants that Evoke flooring shall not contain manufacturing defects in excess of industry standards (5% of total flooring quantity). If manufacturing defects are present in excess of industry standards, the defective pieces should be returned to the original place of purchase PRIOR TO INSTALLATION. If Evoke deems the flooring to



be defective, Evoke will replace it with an equivalent quantity of the same or similar product at no charge to the customer. If Evoke is unable to furnish an equivalent replacement product, Evoke may, at its sole discretion, elect to refund to the customer a portion of the original purchase price equivalent to the value of the defective portion of the floor. Under no circumstances will the value of a warranty claim exceed the original purchase price of the product.

It is the responsibility of the customer to inspect all pieces of flooring for defects prior to installation. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been accepted by the customer and will not be eligible for replacement. Evoke accepts no responsibility for labor costs incurred to remove or install products.

## FINISH WARRANTY

**Limited Lifetime Residential Warranty:** When installed in a residential application, Evoke warrants that the decorative surface on Evoke VCC floors will not stain or wear through under normal residential traffic conditions and use.

**Commercial Warranty - Vivid Collection:** When installed in a light commercial application, Evoke warrants that the decorative surface on Evoke VCC - Vivid Collection floors will not stain or wear through for a period of 12 years from the date of purchase under light commercial conditions and use. Light commercial applications include salons, professional business offices and reception areas, multi-family buildings such as condos/apartments, light retail or specialty stores and boutiques. Evoke VCC floors are not recommended for food and beverage service operations, or heavy duty retail stores (eg: food, drug and hardware stores); use in such applications will not be covered by this warranty.

**Commercial Warranty - Vital Collection:** When installed in a light commercial application, Evoke warrants that the decorative surface on Evoke VCC - Vital Collection floors will not stain or wear through for a period of 3 years from the date of purchase under light commercial conditions and use. Light commercial applications include salons, professional business offices and reception areas, multi-family buildings such as condos/apartments, light retail or specialty stores and boutiques. Evoke VCC floors are not recommended for food and beverage service operations, or heavy duty retail stores (eg: food, drug and hardware stores); use in such applications will not be covered by this warranty.

If wear-through does occur within the warranty period, Evoke will, at its sole discretion, either repair the affected portion of the floor or replace it with an equivalent quantity of the same or similar product at no charge to the customer. If Evoke is unable to repair the product or is unable to furnish an equivalent replacement product, Evoke may, at its sole discretion, elect to refund to the customer a portion of the original purchase price equivalent to the value of the affected portion of the floor. This is the sole remedy provided by this warranty. Any other incidental or consequential damages or costs incurred by the customer as a result of the imperfect piece of flooring, including any labor costs incurred to remove and re-install affected portions of flooring, will not be covered by this warranty. Isolated areas of surface wear in high traffic areas (doorways, hallways, service counters, workstations, etc) are not considered normal wear through and are not covered by this warranty. Surface wear on moldings and accessory pieces (transitions, stairnoses, etc) is not covered by this warranty.

Changes in gloss levels are not considered surface wear-through, nor is it considered surface wear. Excessive wear along the edges and bevels of individual boards (within 1/8" / 3mm of the edge of the panel) is not covered by this warranty. Scratches, indentations, marks, stains or other damage caused by negligent or accidental exposure to pebbles, grit, sand or other abrasives, pets, insects, high heeled or cleated shoes, fire, product spills, excessive moisture, heat or dryness are not considered normal wear and are not covered by this warranty.

**There are no other express or limited warranties except as set forth above.**

## WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS

Installation must be performed in accordance with the installation instructions included with the product and in accordance with local building codes. Evoke floors are for indoor residential or light commercial use only.

Environmental conditions must be maintained as specified, with a temperature of 65-85°F (18-30°C) and humidity at 30-50% at all times. Problems resulting from exposure to levels of heat and/or humidity other than those specified herein are not covered by this warranty.

Where the flooring is installed over a radiant heating system, the installation must conform to the manufacturer's Special Instructions for Installations Over Radiant Heat, including the placement of approved underfloor heat



sensors. After installation, the system must be controlled so that the surface temperature of the floor does not exceed 82°F (28°C) and any changes in temperature are applied gradually to avoid shocking the floor.

Care and maintenance must be carried out in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. These warranties are not transferable. No installer, retailer, distributor or agent of Evoke flooring has the authority to alter the terms or conditions of these warranties.

These warranties provide no express or implied coverage against:

- Scratches, indentations, marks, stains or other damage caused by negligent or accidental exposure to pebbles, grit, sand or other abrasives, pets, insects, high heeled or cleated shoes, fire, product spills, excessive moisture, heat or dryness
- Problems arising from failure to follow manufacturer's written installation, care and maintenance instructions
- Excessive wear along the edges and bevels of individual boards (within 1/8" / 3mm of the edge of the panel)
- Expansion and contraction between boards or any other problems arising from prolonged exposure to excessive heat and humidity levels
- Fading and discoloration caused by exposure to extreme direct sunlight

The foregoing is the complete and exclusive statement of the express warranties provided herein and is in lieu of all the other express and / or statutory warranties by the manufacturer, to the extent provided by law. Evoke assumes no liability for incidental or consequential damages arising from the use or non-use of the product. However, some states and provinces do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so this exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights that vary from state to state or province to province. The sole remedy provided by this warranty is the repair of imperfect products or replacement of imperfect products with an equivalent quantity of the same or similar product. If Evoke is unable to repair the product or is unable to furnish an equivalent replacement product, Evoke may, at its sole discretion, elect to refund to the customer a portion of the original purchase price equivalent to the value of the affected portion of the floor. This warranty does not cover any labor costs incurred to remove or re-install products. Under no circumstances will the value of a warranty claim exceed the original purchase price of the product.

## CLAIM PROCEDURE

Claims must be submitted in writing to the Evoke dealer where the product was purchased. Please include a copy of the original sales receipt and a photograph showing the cause of claim. In the event of a claim for an installation over radiant heat, please consult the manufacturer's Special Instructions for Installations Over Radiant Heat.