

# Rigid Core Vantage Commercial Installation System

Product	Gauge	Size	Adhesive
Rigid Core Vantage	0.236" (6mm)	7" x 60" and 9" x 60"	S-288

## Installation:

Location:	All grade levels
Layout:	End joints should be staggered a minimum of 6" (15 cm) apart a ¼" (36 cm) gap at the perimeter and vertical surfaces

## General Information:

Rigid Core Vantage features a one-piece drop lock system that can be installed using either floating (no adhesive required) or glue-down methods. Refer to the Recommended Applications Guide to select an installation method appropriate to your space.

## Suitable Substrates:

All substrates listed must be properly prepared and meet certain requirements. There may be other exceptions and special conditions for these substrates to be suitable for the locking Installation System as noted below. (Refer to Chapter 3, Subfloors and Underlayments for more details, or Subfloors and Underlayments — Resilient Section found on [www.floorexpert.com](http://www.floorexpert.com).)

- Concrete — dry and smooth on all grade levels
- Suspended wood subfloors with approved wood underlayments — must have minimum of 18" (45.72 cm) well-ventilated crawl space underneath
- Suspended hardwood flooring that is fully adhered, smooth and square edge without texture
- Single-layer, fully-adhered, existing resilient floors — must not be foam-backed or cushionbacked
- Ceramic tile, terrazzo, marble
- OSB-3/4" (floating installation only)
- Particleboard 40lb. density or wafer board (floating installation only)

## Job Conditions/Preparations:

- Substrates must be dry, clean, smooth and free from paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents and other foreign matter.
- In renovation or remodel work, remove any existing adhesive residue\* so that 100% of the overall area of the original substrate is exposed.
- Allow all adhesives to condition to the room temperature for a minimum of 48 hours before starting the installation.
- The area to receive the resilient flooring should be maintained at a minimum of 65°F (18°C) and a maximum of 85°F (29°C) for 48 hours before, during, and for 48 hours after completion.
- During the service life of the floor, the temperature should never rise above 100°F (38°C) nor fall below 32°F (0°C). The performance of the flooring material and adhesives can be adversely affected outside this temperature range.
- Conduct calcium chloride tests or percent relative humidity tests. Bond tests should also be conducted for compatibility with the substrate. Please refer to Chapter 3, Subfloors and Underlayments for more details
- Radiant-heated substrates must not exceed a maximum surface temperature of 85°F (29°C).

- Concrete floors should be tested for alkalinity. The allowable readings for the installation of Armstrong flooring are 5 to 9 on the pH scale.

\* Some previously manufactured asphaltic “cutback” adhesives contained asbestos. For removal instructions, refer to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute’s publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings.

## Rigid Core Vantage Commercial Installation Method

### Layout:

- Before installing the material, plan the layout so tile joints fall at least 6" (15 cm) away from subfloor/underlayment joints. Do not install over expansion joints. Avoid installing pieces shorter than 8" (20.32 cm).
- The end joints should be staggered a minimum of 6" (15.2 cm) apart.
- Recommended fitting procedures include straight scribing, pattern scribing, or cutting with a tile cutter.
- When installing thinner gauge material next to thicker gauge material, install thicker material first and then butt a 12" (30.5 cm) wide piece of S-153 Scribing Felt against the thicker material. Adhere the Scribing Felt to the subfloor with S-235 Adhesive. Use the fine notching of the S-891 Trowel over nonporous substrates such as existing resilient flooring, and use the regular notching of the S-891 Trowel over porous subfloors such as wood and concrete. Use S-184 Fast-Setting Cement-Based Patch and Skim Coat or S-194 Patch, Underlayment and Embossing Leveler to feather the edge of the S-153 Scribing Felt to the level of the substrate. Allow the patch to dry completely before installing the flooring.

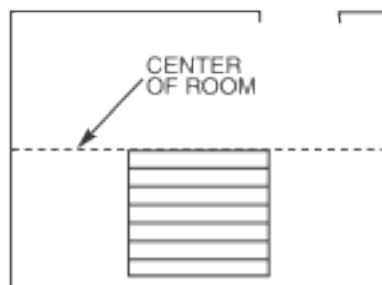


Fig. 1 Dry layout to determine width of border plank.

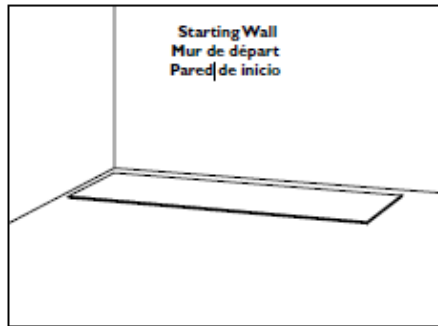
- Avoid having border pieces less than 3" (7.6 cm) wide. If you find the border planks will be less than 1/2 the width of the plank, the center starting line should be shifted a distance equal to 1/2 the plank width. This will “balance” the room and provide for a larger cut piece at the wall.

**NOTE:** The subfloor must be thoroughly free from dust and debris. If the subfloor is dusty this may affect the product performance.

**NOTE:** Stagger end joints by 6" (15 cm). Cut pieces at the ends of rows should be 8" (20.3 cm) long or longer.

## Procedure: Floating Installation

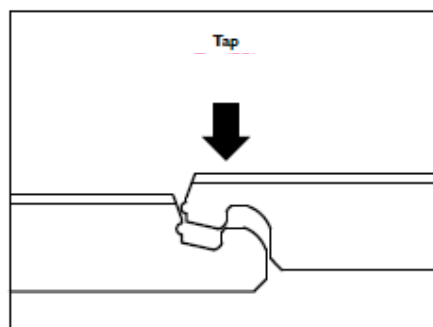
- Position the first plank so that grooved edge is facing you. Install the product from left to right in the room. See Figure 2 for position of initial plank in the room. Occasionally it may be necessary to install backwards. This may be done by sliding the grooves under the tongues and working them right to left, but this is more difficult.



**Fig. 2 Left corner of starting wall.**

### Install First Row:

- Inspect each piece prior to installation for damaged planks.
- To minimize pattern repeats, always pull from at least 3 cartons while installing.
- Lay first row of boards with tongue side facing the wall.
- If the starting wall is crooked, trace the contour of the wall on the first row of planks and trim as needed.
- Use spacers along all sides that butt up against walls to maintain 1/4" (6.35 mm) to 1/2" (12.7 mm) expansion zone. Where the room is larger than 40' (12.19 m) but less than 80' (24.38 m) in plank length or wider than 26' (7.92m) but less than 52' (15.85 m) in plank width, a minimum of 1/2" (12.7 mm) expansion zone is required around the perimeter of the room as well as against any fixed objects.
- Lay pieces from left to right. Lock the end joints by aligning the end tongue with the end groove of the previous board then tapping the joints together. See Figure 3.



**Fig. 3 Tap end joints.**

- When measuring the last piece in the row, subtract 1/4" (6.35 mm) from the end of the board to maintain expansion zone
- Cut decorative side up if using a hand saw or decorative side down if using a power saw to minimize chipping. A utility knife may also be used.
- If the cut-off piece from the first row is 8" (20.32 mm) or longer, use it to start the second row. If it is less than 8" (20.32 mm), cut a full board in half and use that.

### **Installing Remaining Rows:**

- Continue laying planks, one row at a time and staggering the end joints.
- Install the long end of the first board in the second row at an angle to the board in the first row. Press flat to subfloor to lock into place.
- Angle the long end of the next board in the second row to lock into the first row. Lock the end joints by aligning the end tongue with the end groove of the previous board then tapping the joints together. See Figure 3.
- Follow the order described above to continue laying the boards in the second and additional rows.
- Continue installing planks. Maintain a random appearance by offsetting the end joints by least 6 inches. Always be certain that the planks are fully engaged. If slight gapping is noticed, place a cut piece of flooring (bridge piece) in the side groove that spans the ends of two adjacent planks within a row. Then tap the side of the plank with a tapping block. When fitting in areas such as door casings it may be necessary to use a flat pull bar to engage the lock.
- Continue installing the remaining rows in similar fashion. For planks, maintain the 6" minimum staggered end joints between rows and for planks maintain the 1/4" gap at perimeter and vertical surfaces.

### **Finishing the Installation:**

- Replace molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface, not through the flooring. At doorways and at other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a "T" molding, or similar, to cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks. Leave a small gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.

## **Procedure: Glue Down Option**

### **S-288 Flooring Adhesive**

- Move the chalk lines to the corner or end of the room farthest from the doorway. These lines should be 2' or 3' from the wall depending on your reach.
- Plan floor layout according to Floating Installation procedure above. See Figure 1.
- Apply the S-288 Adhesive according to adhesive instructions.
- Allow the adhesive to set until dry-to-touch, following the recommended open time. To test, press your thumb lightly on the surface of the adhesive in several places. If the surface feels slightly tacky as your thumb is drawn away and does not stick to your thumb, the adhesive is ready for installation.
- Immediately remove any adhesive from the surface of the flooring using a clean, white cloth dampened with a neutral detergent and water. Roll the tile in both directions within 30 minutes after installation using a 100-lb. roller.
- Do not allow traffic for 24 hours after installation. Newly installed flooring should not be exposed to rolling load traffic for at least 72 hours after installation to allow setting and drying of the adhesive.

<b>Adhesive</b>	<b>Dry-to-Touch</b>
S-288	<b>Open Time:</b> 30 minutes or more <b>Fine Notch:</b> 1/32" (0.8 mm) deep, 1/16" (1.6 mm) wide, 5/64" (2.0 mm) apart

**NOTE:** Allowing the proper open time will help to minimize tile shifting. The amount of open time will vary according to job conditions, temperature, humidity, air flow and type of substrate.

**Rigid Core Vantage Installed Over Existing Single Layer of Resilient Flooring:**

- Confirm that the existing flooring is completely and firmly bonded.
- Existing flooring must have been properly installed over underlayments and subfloors recommended as suitable for resilient flooring.
- They may not show evidence of moisture or alkaline.
- Waxes, polishes and other finishes must be removed with a commercially available stripper. We would recommend using a 3M Black Pad for stripping purposes only. Do not allow the stripping solution to dry at any time. Thoroughly rinse the existing flooring with clean water after removing the stripping solution. Do not flood with water or stripping solution at any time.
- Indentations or damaged areas should be replaced or repaired.

**NOTE:** The responsibility for determining if the old resilient flooring is well-bonded to the subfloor rests with the contractor and the installer.