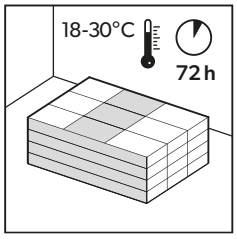
INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR Quick-Step Vinyl Flex

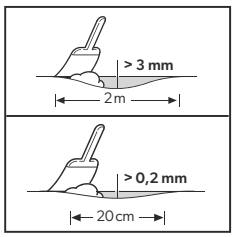
This installation instruction is applicable for all Quick-Step Vinyl Flex collections: Blush, Fuse, Liv, Pristine.

GOLDEN RULES



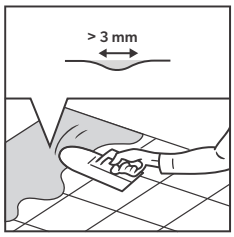
1

Install your floor between 18 and 30°C and a subfloor temperature of above 15°C (for method A) & ≥ 18°C (for method B).
Quick-Step Vinyl Flex must be acclimatized in the room of installation between 18-30°C (64-86°F) for a period of at least 48 hours before installation. This floor & room temperature needs to be maintained prior to, during and for at least 72 hours after the installation is completed.

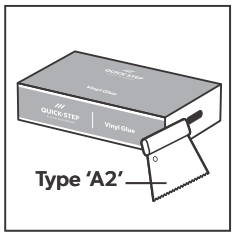


2

Make sure the subfloor is completely flat. Any unevenness of more than 0.2 mm over a length of 20 cm must be levelled out. The same applies to unevennesses of more than 3 mm over a length of 2 m (for method A & B). After testing the subfloor moisture, use an appropriate levelling compound and check if a primer or sealer is needed.

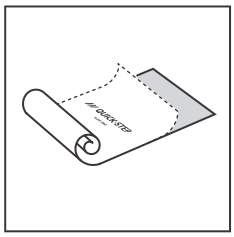


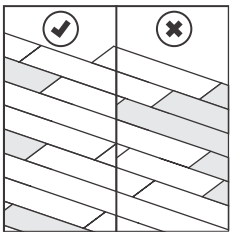
For method B:
Quick-Step FlexPro can smooth out small irregularities of a maximum 3 mm wide.
This allows for installation over existing floor coverings, such as linoleum, compact PVC floors and wooden floorboards (without stepping across the joints), with limited or no telegraphing of the subfloor irregularities.



3

For wet applications and non-absorbant substrate another glue is needed.





4

During installation, make sure that you mix the floor panels (and floor boxes) sufficiently so that there are not too many identical, lighter or darker planks next to each other. To obtain the best visual effect, it is best to install the panels in the direction of the longest wall and/or parallel to the incidence of light. And also install with the arrows on the underside all going the same direction.

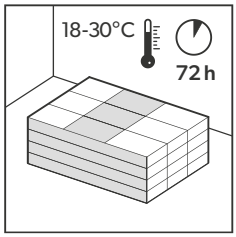
TO OBTAIN THE BEST RESULT, THE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE CAREFULLY FOLLOWED BY ALL PARTIES.

Please make sure that the end user of the flooring has a copy of this document.
National regulations regarding floor application must always be followed.

- Site and installation conditions must always comply with the relevant national regulations and installation standards.
- In case the national standards or regulation conflicts with the manufacturer's recommendations, the most stringent of the two prevails.

1. PREPARATION

We recommend to order all boxes for the same commercial flooring project at the same time.

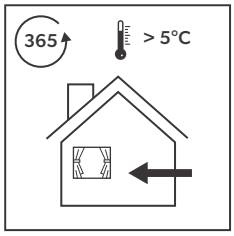


1

Always store and transport Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floors carefully to prevent distortions. Store and transport the boxes on a flat surface in neat stacks. Never store the boxes upright or in moist or in dusty rooms. Do not store the boxes in very cold (< 5°C) or very warm (> 35°C) or in humid places. Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floors must be acclimatized in the room of installation between 18-30°C for a period of at least 48 hours before installation. This floor- & roomtemperature needs to be maintained prior to, during and for at least 72 hours after the installation is completed. Install your floor between 18 and 30°C and a subfloor temperature of above 15°C (for method A) & ≥ 18°C (for method B).

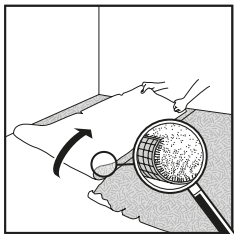
2

Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floors can be bought in different formats, decors and qualities. Make sure you have received the correct flooring that you ordered before starting the installation. It is always a good idea to store the end labels together with your purchasing receipt.



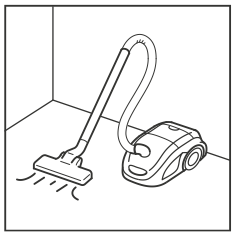
3

Quick-Step Vinyl Flex has been designed for indoor heated (> 5°C) installations, preferably at normal room temperature (= 18-30°C). Quick-Step Vinyl Flex cannot be installed in solariums, seasonal porches, camping trailers, boats or any other unheated application.



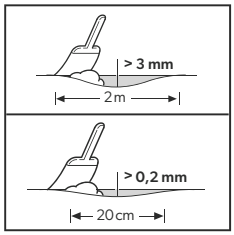
4

The type of subfloor, its quality and its preparation has a big influence on the final installation result. If the subfloor is not appropriate for the installation of Quick-Step Vinyl Flex then necessary actions should be taken. Contact your Quick-Step Vinyl Flex dealer, who will be more than happy to advise you. Be aware that unevenness in the subfloor may leave marks and can create gaps in your Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floor. The subfloor should be stable and firmly fixed.
Furthermore it cannot be soft, damaged or loose laid.
Remove existing and/or too soft floorcoverings such as but not limited to carpet, needle felt, cushion vinyl. Floating floor coverings also need to be removed.



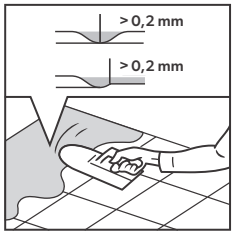
5

The subfloor must be hard, self-supporting, structurally sound, relatively flat, smooth, clean and permanently dry, as well as being free from steps or defects and fit for purpose. When required, scrape off and remove old adhesives and loose laying levelling compound.
Make sure the subfloor is free from greases, chemical substances and other contamination. Prior to installation, carefully remove all debris (including nails), sweep and vacuum. Repair major surface imperfections and large cracks. It is recommended to remove old skirtings and to install new ones after the installation of the floor.

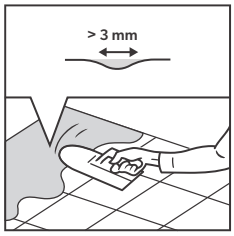


6

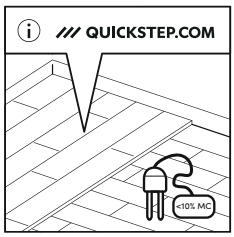
Make sure the subfloor is completely flat. Any unevenness of more than 0.2 mm over a length of 20 cm must be levelled out. The same applies to unevennesses of more than 3 mm over a length of 2 m. After testing the subfloor moisture, use an appropriate levelling compound and check if a primer or sealer is needed.



For method A: cement joints between tiles or other gaps of more than 0,2 mm should be levelled.

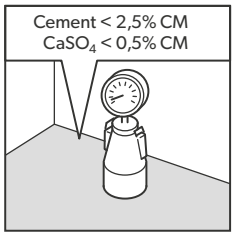


For method B: Quick-Step FlexPro can smooth out small irregularities of a maximum 3 mm wide.
This allows for installation over existing floor coverings, such as linoleum, compact PVC floors and wooden floorboards (without stepping across the joints), with limited or no telegraphing of the subfloor irregularities.



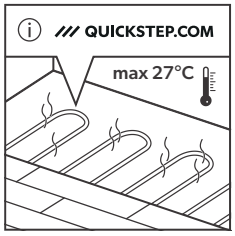
7

In case of installation on a wooden subfloor, please remove any existing floor covering first.
No signs of mold and/or insect infestations should be present.
If there is high moisture in the woodbased subfloor or there is no proper moisture barrier below the woodbased subfloor, it has to be removed first. If this is not done, the wood will rot when covered with the Quick-Step flooring, which is impervious. The moisture will not be able to evaporate through the floor covering. The subfloor must be completely dry, level and nail or screw down any loose parts. Apply a suitable wooden floor panel, level floor, or use levelling compound on top for a perfect subfloor preparation. To create a flat, smooth surface, a minimum 6mm thick, suitable plywood, must be used on top of the floorboards. Make sure to remove any obstacles or raised fixings first.
The plywood must be secured using suitable screws or ring shank nails in grid format, 75 mm around perimeter and 150 mm in the center. Any crawl space or void below the plank floor must be sufficiently ventilated. In case there is no crawl space, make sure that the moisture content of all the floor layers (wooden subfloor + subfloor (for ex. cement screed, anhydrite or …)) are lower then the mentioned values. Remove any obstacles and make sure there is sufficient ventilation (minimum 4 cm^2 total ventilation openings per m^2 of floor).
The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 10%.



8

In case of installation on a mineral subfloor, it must be permanently and sufficiently dry prior to installation. Installation on cement subfloor requires a CM < 2,5% (75% RH).
An installation on anhydrite ($CaSO_4$) subfloor requires a CM < 0,5% (50% RH).
If floor heating is used, cement subfloor requires a CM < 1,5% (60% RH) and anhydrite ($CaSO_4$) subfloor requires a CM < 0,3% (40% RH). (see Floor Heating Instructions) .
Always measure, record and keep your moisture content results which should be taken before and during installation.
Some rules of thumb: A new cement / concrete screed floor must dry at least 1 week per 1cm (3/8") thickness up to 4 cm (1-1/2"). Thicknesses over 4 cm (1-1/2") require twice as much drying time. For example, a 6 cm (2-1/2") concrete subfloor must dry at least 8 weeks.
For renovations, always measure the moisture content in all the different subfloorlayers and make sure that they are lower than the mentioned values.
Quick-Step Vinyl Flex is moisture resistant, however, best practice should be followed to avoid bacteria and mould growth under the floorcovering: Direct-to-earth mineral subfloors must have an effective structural damp proof membrane (DPM) in accordance with the national standards for the installation of resilient floorcoverings.
In most cases such a DPM has been installed during the building process, if not, post-construction solutions are available on the market. Where necessary, follow the manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface applied DPM and the use of levelling compound.



9

Additional instructions apply if there is underfloor heating or cooling. For health and safety reasons and to avoid problems with the Quick-Step floor, certain important basic rules need to be followed:

Floor Heating

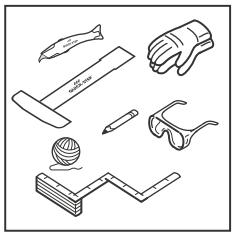
- It is very important to ensure that the maximum, operational, interface temperature, at the underside of the installed flooring does not exceed 27°C.
- The glued-method gives the highest degree of heat transfer and thus ensures the optimum efficiency of your heating system. On the other hand, there is no vapor protection and there is a risk of condensation when there are excessively rapid and excessively large temperature swings. Account should also be taken of small open joints that might appear during the heating season as both, the floor and the subfloor, expand and contract.
- When using "wet system" floor heating, the screed will have expansion joints. In a glue down installation it is also necessary to copy the expansion joints of the subfloor to the floor you want to install.
- Always change the temperature gradually (no more than ± 5°C per day) at the start and end of a heating period.
- Finally try to avoid heat accumulation by carpets or rugs or by leaving insufficient space between furniture and the floor.
- Some water based and electrical floor heating systems are permitted
- See seperate installation instruction Floor Heating and Floor Cooling.

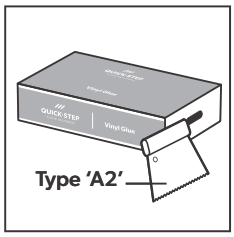
Floor Cooling

- A heat-resistance of < 0.15m²K/W is prescribed.
- Ensure a proper safety system is incorporated, including automatic sensors that detect when the dew point (= start of condensation) is reached below or in the floorcoverings and then switches off the cooling.

For a good preparation, read also the separate installation instructions for Floor Heating and Floor Cooling on www.quick-step.com.

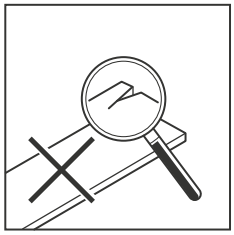
Building movement joints must be transposed to the Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floor and a profile must be used.





10

The following standard tools are needed: tape, measure, safety glasses, cut resistant gloves, string / chalk line, a pencil. In addition to the standard tools, we recommend to use the Quick-Step vinyl cutter knife and installation tool.
For method A: use an A2 glue trowel to glue to ensure an even and correct distribution of vinyl glue over the subfloor.
+ Use a roller of minimum 50 Kg.
The use of accessories other than Quick-Step Vinyl Flex accessories may cause damage to your Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floor. In such cases the guarantee provided by Quick-Step will be void. For this reason we advise to use only Quick-Step Vinyl Flex accessories, which have been specially designed and tested for use with your Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floor.
For wet applications and non-absorbant substrate another glue is needed

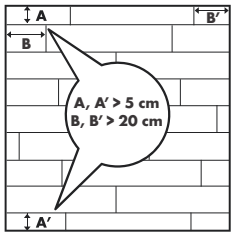


11

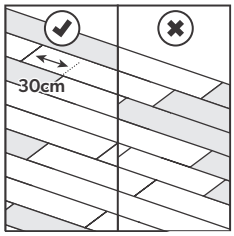
Check all panels before and during installation in optimal daylight conditions under the angle of light reflection. Check that the colours correspond to those ordered, the quantities are correct and there is no visible damage to the boxes. Check Quick-Step Vinyl Flex during installation for any visible defects. Do not install any panels that display any imperfections.
Be aware that some designs have a natural variation within them.
Defective panels must never be used.
For defects that are visible prior to installation, Quick-Step will never assume responsibility for the uplift & relay costs. Installation implies acceptance. It is always a good idea to keep one end-label together with you purchasing receipt. Also write down the production code mentioned at the back of a panel.

2. INSTALLATION

1

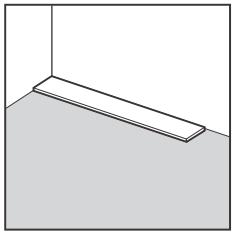


Before starting, carefully measure the length and the width of the room to plan a precise layout to achieve a balanced appearance of the floor.
As shown in the image, A and A' not less than 5 cm & B and B' more than 20 cm.



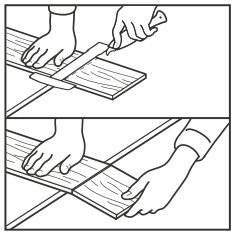
2

During installation, make sure that you mix the floor panels (and floor boxes) sufficiently so that there are not too many identical, lighter or darker planks next to each other. To obtain the best visual effect, it is best to install the panels in the direction of the longest wall and/or parallel to the incidence of light. And also install with the arrows on the underside all going the same direction.



3

We recommend to dry fit first (without glue).
Start the first row with a whole plank in lenght.



4

To shorten the length of the plank with a straight cut, you can cut the Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floors with the decor side face up, using a special concave vinyl cutting knife. In order to cut the vinyl plank, draw a straight line along which you will be cutting, and use the knife to make a firm cut in the surface. You never need to completely cut through the vinyl. Then break off the plank using both hands.

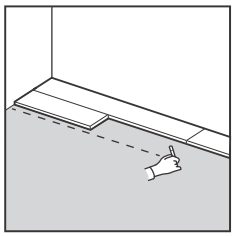
You can install Quick-Step Vinyl Flex with the Quick-Step LVT adhesive.
This is the standard installation method that gives the most stable and best secured solution, especially with slightly greater temperature fluctuations **= method A.**

If method A cannot be used, you can also install Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floating on top of the loose laid Quick-Step FlexPro underlay **= method B**.

Remark: Quick-Step FlexPro underlay cannot be used in rooms with a high moisture level like bathrooms and it is only suitable for use with specific Quick-Step Vinyl Flex.

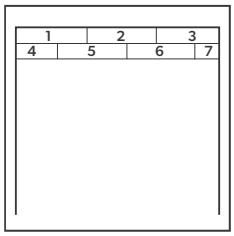
2. INSTALLATION

Method A - Fully glued with the Quick-Step LVT Glue



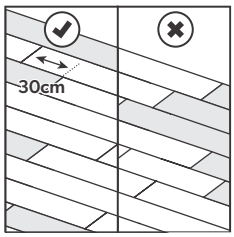
1

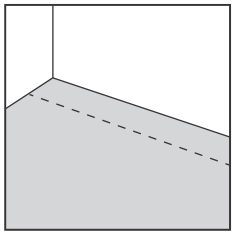
Draw a line along the first two dry fitted rows.
This line marks to which point the glue should be applied.



2

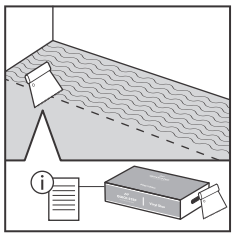
Now dry fit the first rows completely. It is strongly recommended to stagger the rows by at least 30cm so that the short edge seams are not in a straight uniform line. However you may want to try other patterns of planks to suit your taste. Make sure the first rows are on a perfectly straight line. For instance, it is possible that your starting wall has a slight angle. You can check the straightness by holding a thin rope (or a chalk line) and adjust the straightness of your floor where necessary. Before placing the planks in the glue, please make sure you have cut them to the right size so they neatly fit between the wall and the already installed plank.





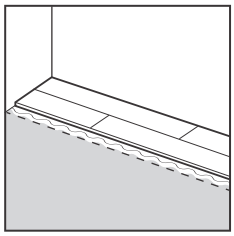
3

Remove the dry fitted panels.



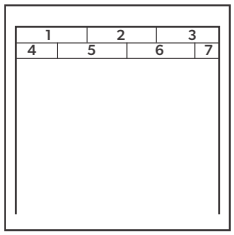
4

Apply the Quick-Step vinyl glue on the floor between the marked line and the wall / remaining flooring.
Always take into account the instructions of the vinyl glue.
We recommend to use the specifically developed Quick-Step vinyl glue.
For wet applications and non-absorbant substrate another glue is needed.



5

Install the first two rows following the starting line. Place the planks into the adhesive, adjust the correct position and push or roll down to ensure good adhesive transfer to the back of the planks. All glue residue should immediately be removed with a damp cloth. Never use detergents.



6

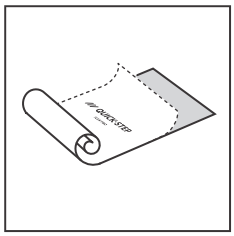
Use the same procedure to complete the rest of the room.

7

Use a heavy roll of minimum 50 Kg to ensure the best bonding and adhesive transfer.
Wait no longer than 30 minutes after placing the flooring into the adhesive before rolling on the installed area.

2. INSTALLATION

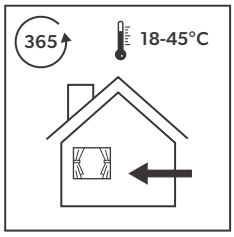
Method B = floating installation of the Quick-Step Vinyl Flex on top of the loose laid Quick-Step FlexPro underlay



1

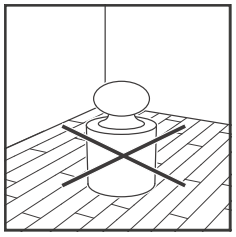
Although Quick-Step Vinyl Flex is traditionally adhered directly to the subfloor, consideration can be made to install it on an underlay as well.
Quick-Step FlexPro is a looselaid underlay for Quick-Step Vinyl Flex. It also gives improved acoustic performance. Always use an underlay that has been tested and approved by Quick-Step to be used with the floorcovering. Quick-Step rejects all responsibility in cases of non-approved combinations.

Quick-Step FlexPro contains a release foil and pressure sensitive adhesive film for quick and easy installation.



2

Special care must be taken to avoid hot-spots or isolated areas of prolonged exposure to direct sunlight through un- or low protected glass, in front of a wood burner, other direct heat source, etc.. It is recommended that the floorcovering is shaded from direct sunlight and otherwise protected from any direct heat source that increases the temperature in a localized area.
The temperature in the room and the temperature of the floor must always be between 18°C and 45°C.

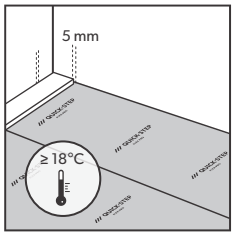


3

NEVER BLOCK THE FLOOR.
If heavy/fixed objects (ex. kitchen, kitchen island, build-in cabinets, heavy stoves, electrical accumulators, doorframes, stairs and others) are on the floor, they act as a wall.

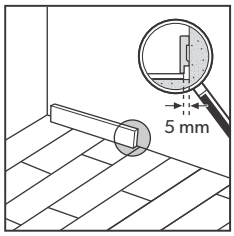
- Heavy objects should be installed first and not placed on top of the Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floor.
- For heavy objects with radiant heat, it is recommended to install the stove/accumulator first on top of a protection plate, and install the Quick-Step Vinyl Flex around the plate and respect the expansion gaps.

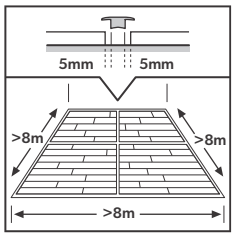
The Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floor must be able to move around the heavy objects to avoid open joints, separating planks and doming. The expansion gaps size must be respected around the complete perimeter and all heavy/fixed objects.
A floating installation should ALWAYS stay floating!



4

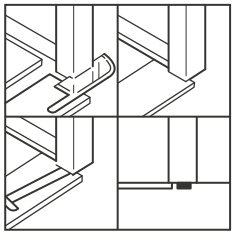
Quick-Step Flex Pro needs to be acclimatised between 18-30°C and installed on floors with a minimum surface temperature of 18°C during installation.
It is of utmost importance to monitor and record these conditions during the whole period of installation. Keep the records as proof of installation conditions.





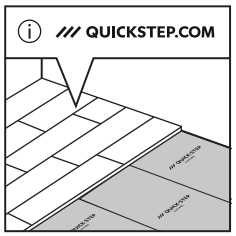
5

Quick-Step Vinyl Flex installed on Quick-Step FlexPro is a floating floor, which requires expansion gaps of 5mm at the perimeter of the room/area.
To cover the expansion gap, see '4. Finishing'.
In addition, bigger floors require splitting into smaller sections, that not exceed 8 linear meters in length and width. Between every section, you need to respect the prescribed expansion joints of 5mm at both sides of the profile.



6

When the new floor meets a threshold or a doorway, we recommend undercutting the door frames or moldings. To secure the correct cut, turn a plank upside down with the underlay below, and place it on the floor up to the door frame. This ensures that the cut will be made at the correct height. Then place a multi tool or hand saw flat against the plank and simply cut through the frame. Remove the cut out pieces and vacuum away any debris.



7

Lay the sheets edge-to-edge, at a 90° angle to the laying direction of the new floorcovering. Quick-Step FlexPro underlay is to be laid printed side up. There is no need to fix one sheet to another. Now begin laying your new floor according to the fitting instructions. Do not use adhesive.

Use a similar laying method as for an installation with adhesive, but instead of applying the adhesive in zones on the subfloor, remove the release foil in zones from the Quick-Step Flexpro underlay.

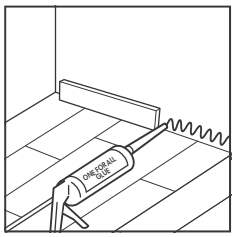
Tip: If you stop installing (e.g. at the end of the day), we recommend to put the release foil back in place on the uncovered areas, to avoid that dust sticks on the dry adhesive and/or people walk onto it.

WARRANTY: Quick-Step FlexPro underlay and suitable Quick-Step Vinyl Flex flooring is covered within our warranty. Other underlays are not recommended or warranted.

10

In order to reach the optimal bonding strength, it is obligatory to roll the installed floor with a heavy weight roller of at least 50 kg. Wait no longer than 2 hours after installing the flooring before rolling on the installed area.

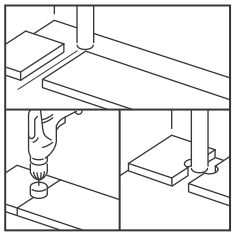
3. FINISHING



1

Inspect the final surface of the installed floor.
Install the skirting-board against the wall. Never attach the skirting-board to the floor. This method allows the floor to expand and contract under the skirting-board.

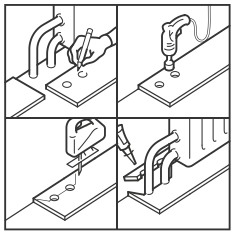
- For fully glued installation (method A): no expansion gaps are required. For rooms with a high moisture level like bathrooms, a waterproof transparent silicone must be used at the perimeter.
- For installation on Quick-Step FlexPro (method B): respect the required expansion gaps and do not fill the expansion gaps with silicone or other kit.



2

In rows where there is a pipe, make sure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two planks. For fully adhered installations, take a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe. (*)
Lay the planks together and drill a hole centered on the joint between the two planks.
Now you can install the planks.

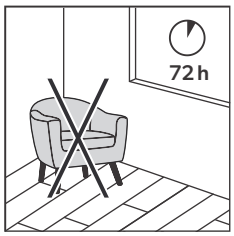
(*): For Quick-Step FlexPro: add the required expansion gaps to the diameter (D + 10 mm). You can finish your gap with a radiator cover.



3

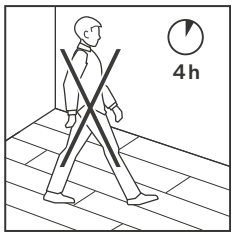
In case of a double pipe, drill a hole at each of the marked points that is equivalent to the diameter of the pipes. For Quick-Step FlexPro: add the required expansion gaps to the diameter (D + 10 mm).

4. MAINTENANCE



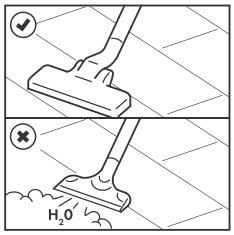
1

The glue must be able to cure 100% before moving in furniture. Hence, leave the floor untouched for 72 hours after installation between 18-30°C for the curing process to complete.



2

Wait at least 4h before walking on your new installed vinyl floor.



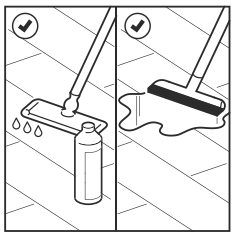
3

It is allowed to use a suitable vacuum cleaner. The use of a steam cleaner is forbidden.

Appropriate maintenance procedures will help to preserve the appearance and will extend life of a Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floor. The frequency of maintenance will depend on the amount and type of traffic, degree of soiling, the floor colour and type.

For full maintenance instructions and recommended products we refer you to www.quick-step.com.

For dry maintenance, we advise a Quick-Step mop or vacuum cleaner. Make sure the vacuum cleaner is equipped with soft wheels and a special brush to avoid scratches on your floor.



4

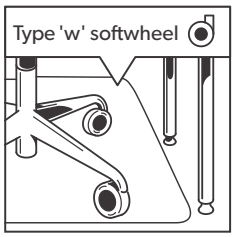
Your Quick-Step Vinyl Flex floor can be cleaned with a damp or wet mop. Quick-Step Cleaner is a maintenance product specifically developed to keep your new vinyl floor in top condition.
Never use natural soap detergents since this will leave a sticky film on the surface which will collect dust and dirt and will be difficult to remove. The same with cleaning agents containing abrasive particles, these may alter the appearance of the surface. It is always important not to overdose any cleaning agent, as this will lead to a build up of cured cleaning agent which is difficult to remove without using a vinyl stripper.

Bad maintenance can damage your floor.

For further information on how to clean and maintain your floor, please visit www.quick-step.com. For specific cleaning instructions in commercial applications or projects, you can contact the Quick-Step technical department.

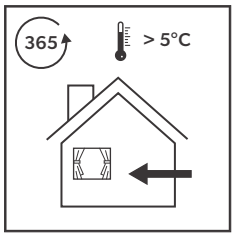
We always recommend to remove spilled liquids from the floor immediately.

The moisture and/or water spills must be removed within 1 hour for the fully glued LVT's to have the water resistant floor warranty.



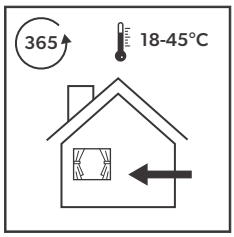
5

Protect furniture and chair legs. Use (office) chairs type W and seats with soft wheels that are suitable for a vinyl floor and/or use a desk mat that is suitable for Quick-Step Vinyl Flex.



7

For fully glued installation (method A): Ensure that the indoor climate conditions are always kept > 5°C and preferably between 18-30°C. It is also important to keep the subfloor in the temperature range mentioned above.



For installation on Quick-Step FlexPro (method B): Ensure that the indoor climate conditions (room- and floor temperature) are always kept between 18°C and 45°C (*) and preferably between 18-30°C. It is also important to keep the subfloor in the temperature range mentioned above.

(*) Floor Heating: It is very important to ensure that the maximum, operational, interface temperature, at the underside of the installed flooring does not exceed 27°C.