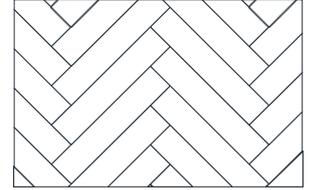


Installation instructions for Solen Herringbone SPC panels with the UNIZIP system.



Thank you for choosing our product. Correct installation will ensure many years of trouble-free use, which is why it is so important to read the following information.

Please note: these instructions are a set of recommendations. We recommend using the services of professional installers, as incorrect installation or poor preparation of the substrate will void the warranty. Installation should be carried out in accordance with good building practice in the field of flooring, current standards and these instructions. If in doubt, please contact a Multicontract technician.

Safety: always use eye and hand protection equipment and take special care when cutting and handling the panels.

The material should be stored and transported in such a way as to prevent damage, with due care. Cardboard boxes should be laid flat, never leaned on their edges or placed upright. Packages filled with the product are quite heavy, so take special care when moving them to protect your health, preferably ask another person for help.

Basic tools required for installation:

Expansion wedges (spacers), rubber hammer, ruler, pencil, tape measure, chalk line, utility knife. Optional: panel cutter or circular saw.

Before installation

- Check that all panels have the same production batch number. The batch number is located on each package. Do not install panels from different batches in the same room or in rooms that are directly connected to each other. After unpacking, visually inspect the product for quality, colour, pattern and compliance with the order. If any defects are noticed, do not proceed with the installation and contact the point of purchase immediately. Once the floor has been installed, claims for surface defects that were already present before installation and were not reported will not be considered.
- **No additional soft underlays may be used** for the installation of the panels. The panels have an integrated acoustic underlay. In special cases, only hard and dense XPS underlays dedicated to the installation of LVT/SPC panels with the "Click" system (minimum load resistance 700 kPa) may be used. In such a situation, consultation with a Multicontract technician is required, as improper use of the underlay may result in loss of warranty.

- **Acclimatisation.** Remove all panels from their packaging and arrange them evenly in the target room in stacks approximately 5 packages high. They should be acclimatised in this form for at least 48 hours at the recommended and controlled room temperature between 18°C and 22°C. After acclimatisation, installation can begin. If the room has underfloor heating, the panels should be acclimatised in such a way that they do not come into direct contact with the floor to prevent the lower elements from overheating. In addition, during acclimatisation, it is forbidden to store the product near radiators or other point sources of heat.

Subfloor preparation

- The subfloor must be free of any contamination (if necessary, it should be swept, vacuumed and mopped).
- Ensure that the area is hard, level, even, without excessive protrusions or depressions (greater than 3 mm over a 2 m section). Any unevenness should be sanded down or levelled with filler (minimum C18 F3) so that no imperfections show through the finished floor surface.
- The substrate should be stable (deflection up to 1 mm) and dry (maximum 3% CM).
- Do not use products containing petroleum derivatives (solvents, oils, etc.) to prepare the substrate, as they may cause permanent discolouration and spot deformations of the new floor.
- Despite the water resistance of the panels, they should not be used as a moisture barrier. Prolonged exposure to water (e.g. lack of horizontal insulation in the building) may damage the product's component layers.
- When installing on ceramic tiles, grout lines and other irregularities should be filled and levelled with special acrylic (washable/removable) fillers. If you do not intend to recover the floor in the future, you can use a permanent/non-washable filler.
- The requirements for substrates should comply with applicable standards and technical information.
- If necessary, it is recommended to seek professional assistance.

Climatic conditions during installation

The panels can be installed in rooms with the following climatic conditions:

- air temperature: 18-25°C
- subfloor temperature without underfloor heating 18-22°C and at least 3°C above the dew point (optimal subfloor temperature to prevent moisture condensation).
- subfloor temperature with underfloor heating 18-22°C and at least 3°C above the dew point (in this case, the panels can be installed with the underfloor heating switched on and properly adjusted).
- Relative air humidity: 35-65%.

The above climatic conditions should be maintained in the room during panel installation and for 72 hours after completion. A sudden change in conditions may cause deformation of the floor.

Information on the use of panels on underfloor heating

The maximum operating temperature of the heating should not exceed 27°C (the maximum substrate temperature of 27°C should not be reached faster than 45 minutes after the heating is turned on). The temperature increase should not exceed 5°C / 10 minutes. Other heat sources (radiators, stoves, etc.) must not come into direct contact with the panels. They must be at least 2 cm away from the floor.

Important: Do not lay panels on heating systems that are not embedded in the mass, including heating foils and infrared foils.

Expansion

During installation, remember to leave a gap (perimeter expansion joint – minimum 5 mm) around all walls and vertical partitions in the room. Expansion wedges should be left in place throughout the installation. The wedges may only be removed after the installation is complete. If the wall is uneven, adjust the elements to its contours. Mark the outline of the wall on the floor element and cut it out in such a way as to leave a perimeter expansion joint against the wall.

The floor does not require expansion joints in passageways to rooms and narrowings, provided that the subfloor under the panels is sufficiently stable.

Important: In the case of underfloor heating or rooms exposed to strong sunlight (high temperature), and in rooms larger than 40 m², the perimeter expansion joint should be increased to 8 mm.

Very large areas. In areas larger than 500 m², threshold and shrinkage expansion joints are required, and the perimeter expansion joint should be at least 8 mm.

Regardless of the size of the area, all design and structural expansion joints should be transferred to all layers of the floor.

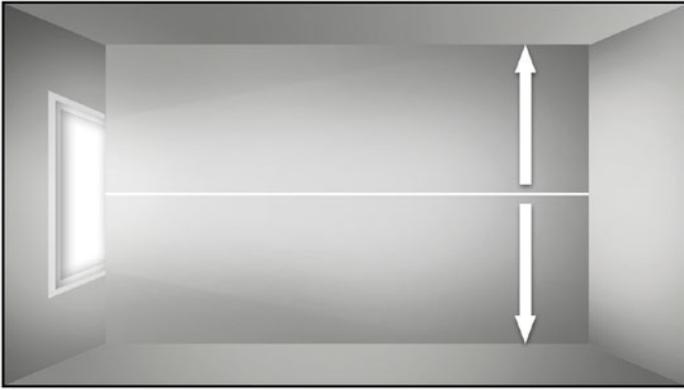
Very heavy furniture, such as kitchen islands/built-in units, built-in wardrobes, etc., must not be placed on the floor unless expansion joints are made under the cover panels (masks).

Installation

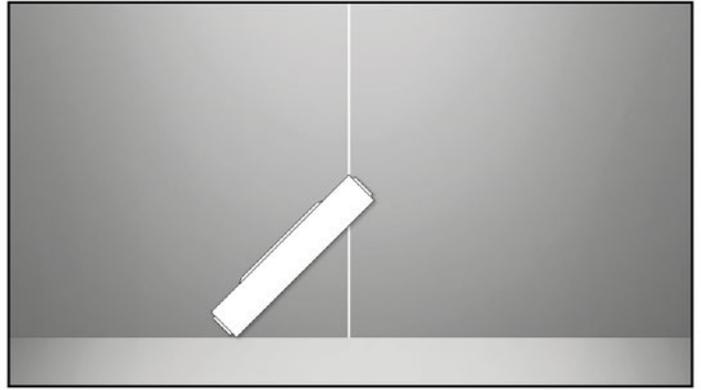
Important: mix panels from different packages. This will give you the best variety of elements and a natural look.

Plan the layout. Avoid using very small pieces of panels (cuts along the side walls). The layout shown below is recommended. However, if the width of the room means that the outer rows along the walls would consist of very small pieces, it is acceptable to shift the starting row in order to avoid using pieces that are too small on the sides. In this case, shift the installation/centre line accordingly.

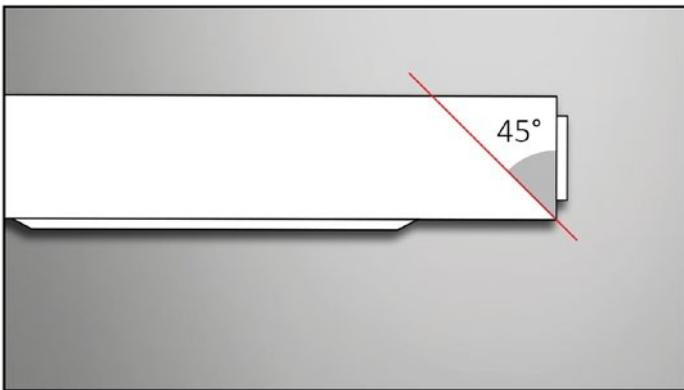
1. Mark the centre line of the room.



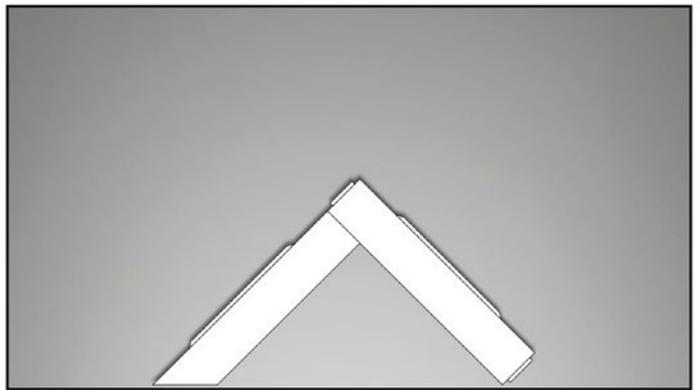
2. Place the first panel on the centre line at a 45° angle to the starting wall. Make sure that the protruding part of the lock on the long edge is facing towards the centre of the room.



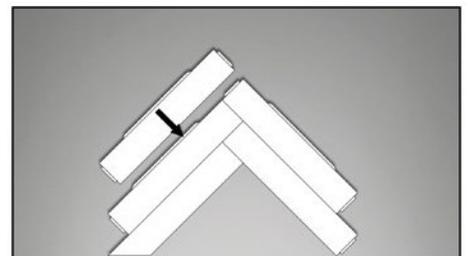
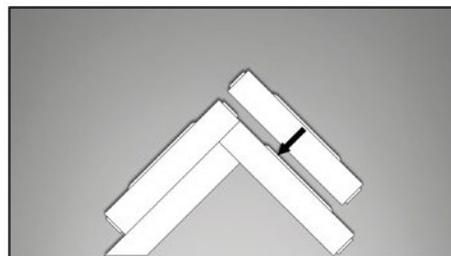
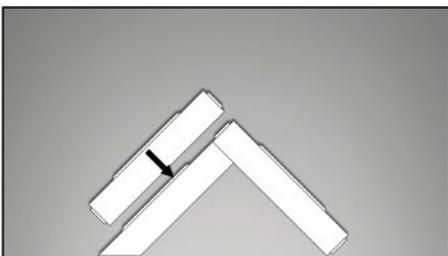
3. Cut the panel at a 45° angle, starting exactly from its corner.



4. Connect the cut panel to the next one. To do this, slide the short lock of the first panel under the longer edge of the second panel. Make sure that the edges of the connected panels form a perfectly straight line. The initial configuration should look like the illustration below.



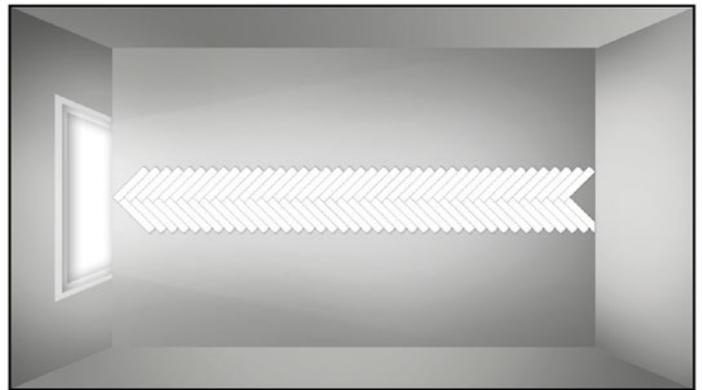
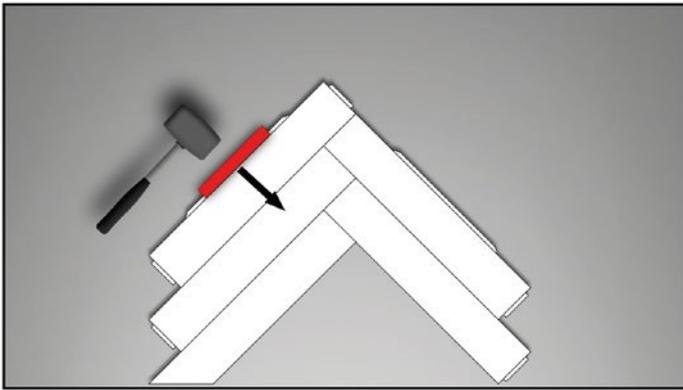
5. Place the next panel at an angle in the lock with its longer edge, evenly aligned with the top of the previously laid panels. Once the panel is in the lock, gently press it down onto the ground so that it lies flat. Continue with the next panels in the same way.



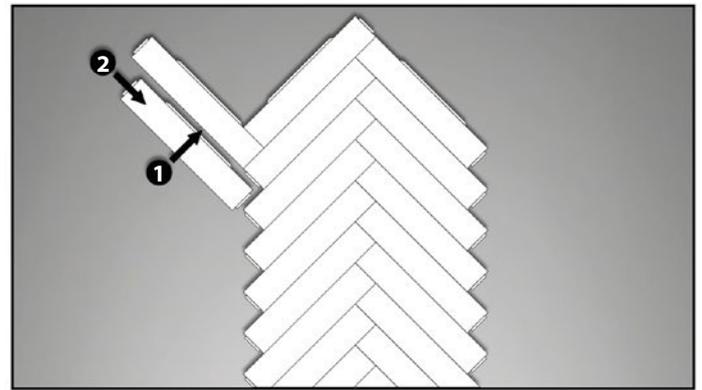
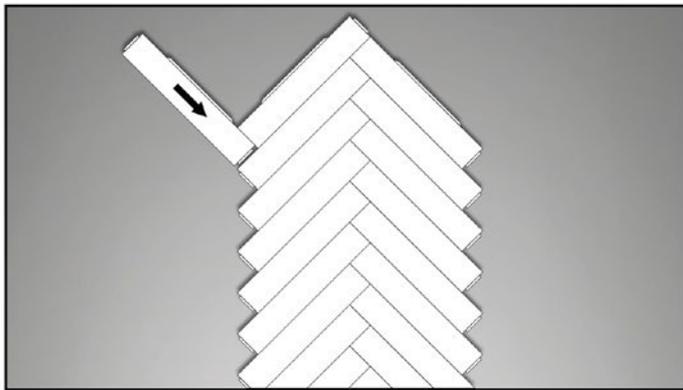
IMPORTANT: Each subsequent element must be carefully fitted and placed in the lock. The joints must form a perfect line. During installation, remember to maintain a perimeter expansion gap of approx. 5 mm from the walls and other permanent fixtures.

TIP: Tap the panels with a rubber mallet using a striking block (a so-called "tapping block") to protect the panels from damage. Be careful. Use the "tapping block" for both short and long sides.

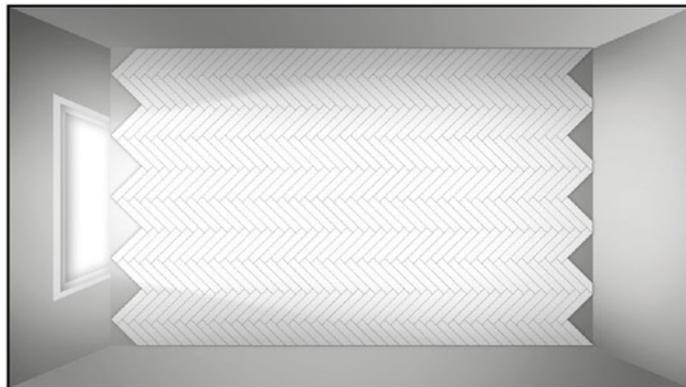
6. Continue laying the first row until the wall prevents you from adding more panels.



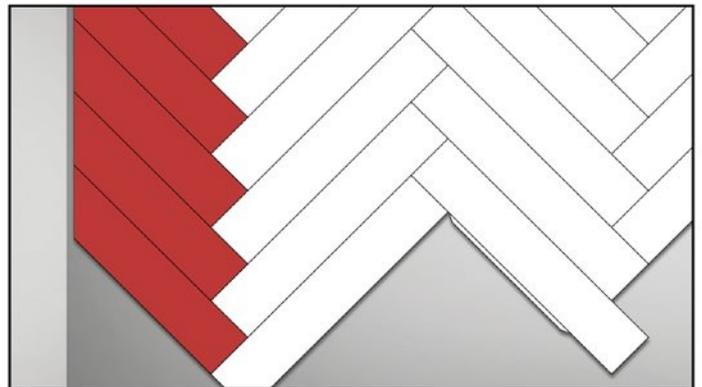
7. Start the next row by placing the long edge of the new panel into the short lock of the panel from the previously laid row. Once the panel is placed in the lock in a flat position, slide it under the next panel, as indicated by the arrow in the illustration below. Tap the panels on the short side with a rubber mallet and a "tapping block". Take the next panel, slide the long tongue of the lock under the last element laid (1), and when it is connected and in a flat position, slide its short edge under the panel from the first row as indicated by the arrow (2) in the illustration below.



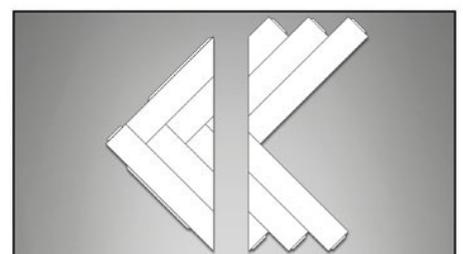
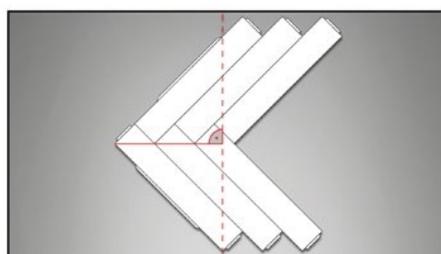
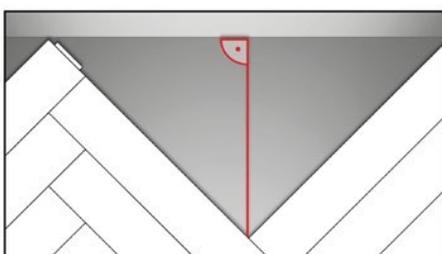
8. Continue laying subsequent rows.



9. Panels near walls must be cut to size before installation.

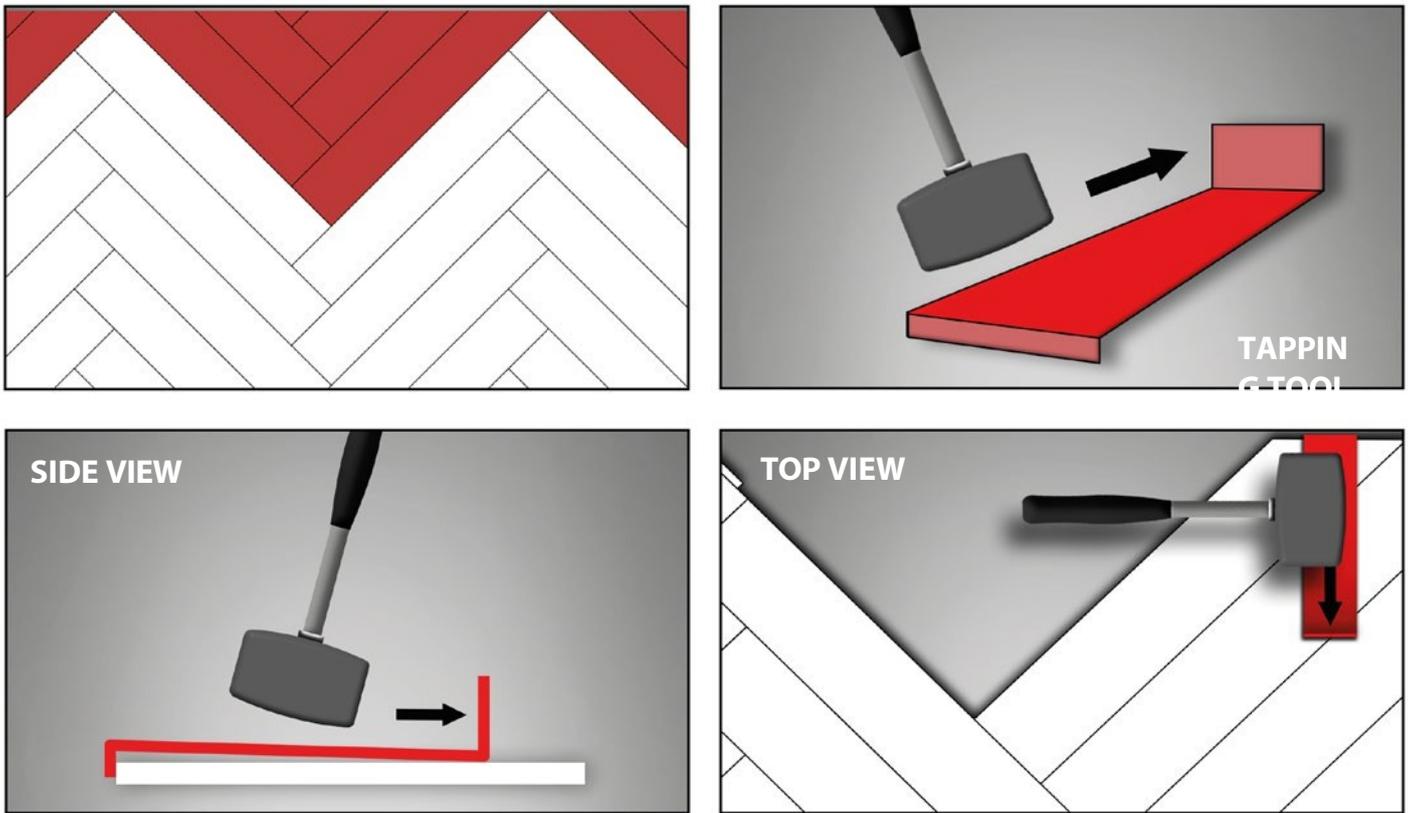


10. To fill in the triangular gaps at the walls, measure the distance that is the height of the triangle that forms the gap. Then lay out the appropriate number of panels from which you will cut the missing triangle. Transfer the length of the triangle's height, starting from the apex, to the laid panels. Draw a line perpendicular to the height (dashed line in the illustration) and cut the panels (using a guillotine or circular saw).



11. Fill the triangular gap by placing the previously cut elements one by one.

TIP: The expansion gap will allow you to slide the panel locks against the walls. Never place the panels flush against the wall. Use a rubber mallet and a tightening spoon (a so-called "bent hammer") to properly connect the elements against the walls with the rest of the row in the locks.



12. If it is necessary to drill holes in the panels, e.g. for pipes, ensure that the holes are larger in diameter than the object/obstacle. Tip: when installing around pipes, the hole diameter should be 12 mm larger than the pipe diameter.

13. Once all rows are ready, remove the expansion wedges from the gaps.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The product belongs to the "floating floor" group (installation without the use of adhesive). Installation with adhesive is not recommended, but it is permissible provided that a specialist is consulted, as improper installation may result in the loss of the warranty. When gluing the floor, do not use additional barriers such as underlays or polymer films – the floor must be glued directly to the subfloor, never to insulating materials. Before installation, remove all contaminants that may affect the adhesion and bonding of the adhesive (e.g. oil, wax, varnish, old adhesive, paint and other similar substances) and strictly follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions, with particular attention to substrate preparation (temperature, humidity level, etc.). Only use specialised, thermoactive, flexible, moisture-resistant adhesives designed for this type of flooring. Requirements: the temperature of the panels at the time of installation must be close to the ideal installation conditions, i.e. 18–22°C (an element that is too cold, installed on underfloor heating, may become deformed), humidity of the substrate on which the panel will be glued:

- cement screed without heating 1.8% CM
- cement screed with heating 1.5% CM
- anhydrite screed without heating 0.5% CM
- anhydrite screed with heating 0.3 CM

If adhesive was used for installation, the floor should be taken out of normal use until it has completely set. During this period, do not place furniture on the floor or cover it with protective film, as this may interfere with the setting process.

- Skirting boards should be attached to the wall, never to the floor.
- Ensure that all furniture, other heavy items and appliances have felt pads to prevent scratches. Damage caused by failure to protect these items is not covered by the warranty.
- When moving heavy furniture, it is recommended to use special "blankets" used during removals. This will prevent scratches and dents.
- Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-marking, large-area covers/pads to prevent dents. As a general rule, the heavier the item, the wider the pad should be.
- Furniture on castors should rotate easily so as not to cause scratches when changing direction. Castors should be made of a material that does not discolour and is suitable for this type of flexible flooring. Do not use ball castors as they can permanently damage the floor.
- Protective mats must be used under office chairs.
- Do not use rubber mats or other materials that may react chemically with the wear layer of the panels on the outside of the floor.
- Please refer to the cleaning and maintenance instructions.

