



## Monarch SP/Sovereign Rigid Core Installation Instructions

### GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Handle cartons carefully to protect the locking edges from damage.
2. Before you begin the installation, inspect the flooring material for any obvious defects. Ensure you have the correct colour, pattern, quantity, and that all the material is of the same production number. Beginning the installation means that you have accepted the conditions.
3. Acclimatising the flooring and the area being installed to the same constant temperature is always the best practice. The room and flooring temperature should not be below 12.7° C or above 32.° C during the installation.
4. Monarch SP/Sovereign does not need to be acclimatised if the material has been stored in a temperature within -6.6° C of the area to be installed.
5. Monarch SP/Sovereign should not be exposed to temperatures greater than 71° C
6. Monarch SP/Sovereign may be installed up to 600 m<sup>2</sup> without expansion strips.
7. To allow for building/subfloor movement Monarch SP/Sovereign require a 4mm gap around all walls and fixtures. Door jams should be undercut.
8. Subfloors must be rigid, flat, and permanently dry.
9. Mix planks from several cartons to ensure a random variation.
10. To prevent fading and discoloration, Monarch SP/Sovereign should be protected from prolonged exposure to direct sunlight if room will be above 26.6° C
11. Do not install under permanent fixtures such as cabinets

### SUBFLOORS

As a floating floor, Monarch SP/Sovereign may be installed over subfloors that may not be suitable for normal glue down installations such as; particle board, OSB, chipboard, existing resilient flooring, certain ceramic tiles, etc. However, subfloors must be rigid, even and flat to within 4mm in every 3 metres

### Wood

The floor must be rigid, free from movement and have at least 450mm of well-ventilated air space below. Monarch SP/Sovereign should not be installed over wooden subfloors built on joists over, on grade, or below grade concrete floors unless specific design has been undertaken to eliminate the chance of failure due to the excessive moisture vapor emissions from the concrete.

### Concrete Floors

Concrete floors should be prepared according to *ASTM F-710*, Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring.

It is essential that a permanent, effective moisture vapor retarder with a permeance of 0.1y, be installed under all on or below-grade concrete floors. The water vapor retarder (vapor barrier) should be installed directly below the slab.

Floors shall be smooth, rigid, flat, level, permanently dry, clean and free of all foreign material. Corrective patching/leveling should be with cementitious based patching and/or underlayment materials. The surface of the concrete must be flat to within 2mm in 3m.

### Existing Floor Coverings

Monarch SP /Sovereign may be installed over a single layer of resilient flooring such as VAT, VCT, sheet vinyl, ceramic tile and epoxy coatings. The flooring must be flat and smooth and non-cushioned. Do not install over carpet.

**Note: The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring or subfloor is suitable to be installed over rests solely with the installer and flooring contractor.**



## **Radiant Heated Floors**

Monarch SP/Sovereign may be installed over radiant heated floors provided the operating temperature does not exceed 29°C (85°F) The room temperature must be maintained at a minimum of 13°C (55°F) for 48 hours prior to and during installation.

## **Moisture Testing -**

It is essential that moisture tests be taken on **all** concrete floors regardless of age or grade level with a minimum of three tests for the first 1000 square feet. The test should be conducted according to ASTM F1869, Calcium Chloride Moisture Emission Test, and ASTM F2170, In-Situ Relative Humidity of the Concrete. One test should be conducted for every 100 sq. metres of flooring. The test should be conducted around the perimeter of the room, near columns and where moisture may be evident. The results of F1869 Calcium Chloride moisture vapor emissions from the concrete shall not exceed 3 kgs per 100 sq. metres in 24 hrs. For all installations. For the most accurate results, the weight of the calcium chloride dish should be made on the job site at the start and end of each test. The results of F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity shall not exceed 85%. If the test results exceed the limitations, the installation **should not** proceed until the problem has been corrected.

**Note: It may not be the floor installer's responsibility to conduct the test. It is, however, the floor covering installer's responsibility to make sure these tests have been conducted and that the results are acceptable prior to installing the floor covering.**

When moisture tests are conducted it indicates the conditions only at the time of the test. The flooring contractor cannot be held responsible if moisture appears in the future, causing a failure.

## **Material Handling**

Flooring shall be stored in a clean, dry environment, protected from the elements.

Store cartons on a smooth, level surface. Stack cartons squarely. Do not stack more than 10 cartons high. Do not store tiles and planks on their edges. Do not drop cartons. Do not double stack pallets. Storing flooring at high temperatures and on uneven surfaces may cause a permanent distortion of the material.

## **Installation**

Remove plinth, quarter-round and other wall base material. Under-cut door trims to allow flooring to be installed under trim and move freely.

Proper layout will prevent narrow pieces along the wall. For plank installations lay the long dimension of the plank parallel with the long dimension of the room. Plank ends should be staggered randomly. Keep end joints at least 200mm apart. Start each row with planks of varying lengths. Usually the left over piece from one row can be used as the starter piece on the next row of planks.

- Measure the room to determine the center line, adjust that center line in either direction to give a balanced width of plank on each side of the room. Determine the distance from your starting wall where the first row of planks will start and snap a chalk line along the starting wall.
- If the first row is less than the full width of the plank, or if the wall is not straight, scribe the plank to fit and cut the first row to the needed size leaving a minimum 4mm gap between the tile and the wall.
- Lay the first row of planks with the 'tongue' side toward from the wall, along the chalk line to ensure all pieces are cut to the width and length needed.



**Note: Monarch SP is an angle/drop down installation. Sovereign is an angle/drop lock installation**

- Starting in the corner, install the first row of planks (groove side out, tongue side toward wall) along the chalk line. **The first row must be straight as it is the foundation for the rest of the installation.**
- Working from left to right in the room, start the second row with a cut piece of a minimum of 200mm in order to stagger the end joints. End joints should be staggered a minimum of 200mm.
- Install the first plank of the second row. Insert the long side tongue into the groove side pulling the plank in tight to ensure there is no gap.
  
- **Monarch SP** – Install the second plank of the second row. Insert the long side tongue into the long side groove. Slide the plank to align the end joints until tight, push the board down until the tongue and groove end joints ‘click’ together. Tap the end joint with a rubber mallet to ensure the lock is fully engaged.
  
- **Sovereign** - Install the second plank of the second row. Insert the long side tongue into the long side groove. Slide the plank to align the end joints until tight, push the board down until the tongue and groove end joints ‘click’ together. Tap the end joint with a rubber mallet to ensure the lock is fully engaged.
  
- Use the balance of the last cut from the row as the beginning piece for the next row.
- Continue installing planks maintaining the random staggering of the end joints.
- If small/narrow fill pieces are required it is recommended to apply a small bead of wood glue along the tongue of the small piece, use a pull bar to pull piece in tight, use painters tape to hold piece in place until glue is set.
- Upon completion remove all spacer blocks, install skirting and quarter-round to cover gap around the wall. Take care to nail or glue the skirting and quarter-round to the wall and not to the flooring.

### Protection and care

- The single greatest cause of damage to any flooring or floor finish is abrasion from dirt and grit. Wherever possible, use walk off mats at entrances and doorways, and vacuum mats often.
- Ensure you use non-staining mats on the floor. Rubber-backed and latex-backed mats, tires, and asphalt sealers may stain or damage the surface.
- Use non-staining floor protectors under heavy furniture and equipment.
- Chairs should have clean, smooth, non-staining floor protectors. Ensure there are no nicks or burrs on the protectors. Felt protectors must be cleaned regularly to ensure there is no grit build-up. Floor protectors should be at least 25mm in diameter and rest flat on the floor.
- When moving heavy furniture and equipment, use strips of plywood to roll or slide the furniture or equipment.
- The key to successful maintenance of all flooring types is the removal of dirt and soil. Mopping with a sponge or string mop alone removes very little soil, but rather it dissolves the dirt and spreads it out evenly across the floor creating a dull, dirty film and migration into the tile joints.



- Adore recommends the use of micro-fiber mops and pads for dust mopping and scrubbing. On larger installations using an automatic scrubber or wet vacuum is the preferred way to remove soiled water and rinse water.
- Do not use vacuum cleaner with rotating brushes or beater bars.

Chairs must have clean, smooth, non-staining floor protectors. Ensure there are no nicks or burrs on the protectors. Felt protectors must be cleaned regularly to ensure there is no grit build-up. Floor protectors should be at least 1 inch/25.4mm in diameter and rest flat on the floor. Protective pads should be used under caster chairs.