

To obtain an optimal result, we recommend reading the following installation instructions carefully and follow them closely.

## WHERE TO INSTALL FLOORIFY?

Brigid rigid vinyl floors are designed for **residential and project-based use indoors**. The product is not designed for outdoor use.

Brigid rigid vinyl floors can be installed on various **hard, flat, non-resilient subfloors** such as concrete, sand cement, anhydrite, wood, chipboard, MDF or ceramic tiles. The subfloor must meet the prescribed conditions (see “preparation”).

Brigid rigid vinyl floors are waterproof and can be used as floating floor covering in **damp rooms** such as bathrooms, toilets or kitchens. Brigid rigid vinyl floors are not suitable as floor covering for walk-in showers (or other rooms with integrated water drainage), saunas, swimming pools or other wet areas.

Brigid rigid vinyl floors can be installed on a subfloor with traditional water-based **floor heating and cooling** and/or on a thermostat-regulated electric floor heating processed in the subfloor or in a minimum of 9 mm equalization. This is on the condition that the temperature on the surface of the subfloor does not exceed 27°C. The use of electric underfloor heating is not recommended if it has not been incorporated in 9 mm subfloor / leveling and/or has an on/off switch instead of a continuous system.

Brigid rigid vinyl floors must be installed as a **floating floor system**: the floor panels must be able to expand and shrink freely at any time in response to changes in temperature. You may never glue, nail or attach the floor panels to the subfloor, to walls or to any other part of the room.

You install the Brigid rigid vinyl floors **glueless**: the floor panels are equipped with a click system so that you can click them together easily (see “installation” for more details).

## IMPORTANT TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Flatness tolerances subfloor	Inclination max. 5 mm over 2 walking meters.
Underlay required	1 mm subfloor already integrated.
Vapor-proof membrane 0.2 mm	Not required. Recommended for installation in bathrooms or damp rooms.
Acclimatization	Allow to acclimatize horizontally for a minimum of 12h in the room to be processed or until the material has reached the ideal installation temperature of 18°C-25°C
Expansion joints	8 mm expansion joint around all walls, pipes and objects in rooms up to 10x10m and where the temperature is between 5-35 ° C. In larger rooms or at higher temperatures, the expansion joint must be increased by 0.5mm per 1m in all directions.
Click system	Traditional glueless system under license of Unilin. Insert horizontally: yes Insert vertically: yes Tongue in groove: yes Groove in tongue: yes
Glued installation	Not recommended.
Floor heating	Compatible. Maximum temperature of the surface of the screed is 27 ° C. The increase in temperature should be done gradually.
Maximum permitted percentage of residual moisture in the subfloor	Cement bonded subfloor: 2.5% Cement bonded subfloor with underfloor heating: 2% Anhydrite: 0.5% Anhydrite with underfloor heating: 0.3%
Installation on ceramic tile floor	Suitable when the joints are no wider than 4 mm and / or deeper than 2 mm and / or no tiles or edges protrude upwards.
Cutting / sawing	Stanley knife: yes (see "preparation") Jigsaw with trespa or metal saw blade: yes Electric saw with trespa or metal saw blade: yes Hand saw with trespa or metal saw blade: yes Laminate or PVC cutter: yes
Optimal temperature and relative humidity	During installation: 18°C-25°C During life cyclus: 5°C-35°C Relative humidity: 40%-80%

## TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

It is important to always store and/or transport the boxes with Brigid floor panels on a solid surface, in neat stacks, lying flat (so not overhanging) and never vertically.

Store your Brigid floor indoors and never in very cold (less than 5°C) or very warm (more than 35°C) rooms.

## PREPARATION

**Acclimatization and de-stressing.** To guarantee a pleasant installation experience, it is essential to store the floor horizontally for at least 12h before installation, or the time it takes for the material to reach the ideal installation temperature of 18°C-25°C. This also allows the material to “de-stress” any tension it has sustained during transport or storage. Maintain this temperature for at least 24h both during installation and after installation.

What do you need? Hand and/or jigsaw and/or electric saw, Stanley knife, Floorify Comfort Underlay, pull bar, measurer, pencil, rubber hammer, spacers.

**Subfloor.** A decent subfloor preparation is needed to obtain an excellent result. Remove all traces of plaster, paint, glue, oil, grease etc. The subfloor must be clean, dry, even and firmly fixed. Remove all remaining dirt and vacuum the subfloor. Furthermore, the subfloor cannot be soft, damaged or loose laid.

### **What to do with different types of subfloors?**

	Remove?
Carpet	Yes
Needlefelt	Yes
Cushion vinyl	Yes
Floating laminate	Yes
Floating parquet	Yes
Ceramic tiles	Not necessarily
Glued PVC	Not necessarily
Glued VCT	Not necessarily
Glued linoleum	Not necessarily
Glued laminate	Not necessarily
Glued parquet	Not necessarily

**Irregularities.** Roughness or irregularities in the screed can create an uneven floor surface and thus accelerate wear of the floor or the click system. Therefore, the screed must not show any inequalities greater than 5 mm over 2 lm. Brigid rigid vinyl floors can bridge small openings up to 3 mm and joints, joints and cracks up to 10 mm. Brigid rigid vinyl floors are therefore ideal for the renovation of imperfect screeds, but this does not imply that larger irregularities or sudden differences in level of the screed will not be visible through the finished floor. The screed must therefore be properly prepared before installing Brigid rigid vinyl floors. This can be done by means of leveling, using a chipboard or other products. Ask your dealer or installer for advice.

**Moisture.** Although the Brigid rigid vinyl floors are insensitive to moisture, they are not intended for use as a moisture-inhibiting or waterproof system. In the case of moisture, the subfloor must be made vapor-tight before the floor is installed. Ask your glue or leveling supplier if there are structural moisture problems. Moisture under the floor can lead to unhealthy mold formation and/or to push up the floor panels. If you are unsure of the quality or suitability of your subfloor for the installation of your Brigid floor, contact your dealer or installer. He will gladly help you out.

**Underfloor heating.** You can use Brigid rigid vinyl floors on a subfloor with traditional water-based floor heating and cooling and/or on thermostat-regulated electric floor heating incorporated in the subfloor or in a minimum of 9 mm equalization. This is on the condition that the temperature on the surface of the subfloor does not exceed 27°C. The room temperature must remain constant at 18°C-25°C before, during and at least 24h after the installation of your floor. The floor heating system can then be gradually increased, with a maximum of 5°C per day until an agreeable temperature is reached.

Always check the suitability of the floor heating or cooling system in the manufacturer's instructions.

**Preparation in case of concrete/screed subfloor.** Let new concrete dry sufficiently. The moisture content of the subfloor must be less than 2,5% CM in case of cement and 0,5% in case of anhydrite. In case of floor heating, results must be respectively 2% CM and 0,3% anhydrite. Always record and keep your moisture content results. Repair surface imperfections with an appropriate repair compound and check if a primer or sealer is needed. Vacuum the subfloor afterwards to remove all debris.

**Preparation in case of tile subfloor.** Check the subfloor on moisture problems. Check that no tile edges protrude upwards. It is not necessary to fill the grouts of a subfloor of ceramic tiles with joints, when they not exceed 4 mm width and 2 mm depth.

**Preparation in case of wooden subfloor.** Remove any existing floor covering on top of the wooden subfloor first. No sign of mould and/or insect infestations should be present. Make sure the subfloor is level and nail down any loose parts. If not sufficiently level, it is mandatory to apply an appropriate wooden levelling board or levelling compound on top for a perfect subfloor preparation. The crawl space under the plank floor must be sufficiently ventilated. Remove any obstacle and make sure there is enough ventilation (min 4 cm<sup>2</sup> total ventilation openings per m<sup>2</sup> of floor). The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 14%.

In high-moisture areas, such as bathrooms, we recommend applying water-tight foil beneath the underfloor. Although Brigid rigid vinyl floors are completely water-resistant, water can always seep in between the joints or beneath the edge of the floor, permeating the underground and causing damage.

## PRECAUTIONS

**Production number.** Check the production number on the short side of the package or the bottom of each floor panel and check if all the material is from the same production number. Small colour variations in the same production number contribute to the natural look of your floor. To avoid striking colour variations, do not install material of different production numbers on large surfaces in the same room (unless checked in advance).

**Visual check.** Check in optimal light conditions, before and during installation, all floor panels on visible defects. Panels with defects must not be used.

**Mix.** It is important to mix floor panels from different boxes together so that not too many identical, lighter or darker panels together.

**Laying direction.** To achieve an optimum visual result, it is best to install the panels parallel to the longest wall and/or to the light in the room.

**Glueless installation with click system.** Brigid rigid vinyl floors come with a mechanical locking system that enables a glueless installation of the floor. The flooring panels can be simply clicked together thanks to the clever shape of the tongue and groove.

**Floating installation.** Brigid rigid vinyl floors must be installed as a floating floor system: the floor panels must be able to expand and shrink freely at any time in response to changes in temperature. You may never glue, nail or attach the floor panels to the subfloor, to walls or to any other part of the room.

The maximum recommended surface area to install is 10 walking meters (both in length and width). The expansion and contraction is linear, so the larger the surface, the greater the joint must be. Is the surface longer or wider? Then place a transition profile as an interruption when it is necessary to install over a large length or width.

**Lay-out.** Measure the (most important) room to become a balanced lay-out. By measuring, you will be able to determine if the first row needs to be cut. The first and last row should not be less than five cm wide.

**Doors.** Before installing, check whether doors can still be opened or closed after installation of your Brigid floor. The total thickness of a Brigid floor is 5 mm.

## INSTALLATION

### ***Installation of the first two rows.***

We pay a lot of attention to the installation of the first rows because it is extremely important that they are perfectly aligned.

Start with the first (complete) floor panel in the upper left corner of your room.

Then take an incomplete floor panel (minimum 1/3 and maximum 2/3 of a panel) as first panel for the second row. Hold the panel at an angle of  $\pm 30$  degrees with the tongue in the groove of the first panel of the first row and then lower it. The panels will click automatically into each other.

Take a third floor panel of your choice. Place the panel at an angle of  $\pm 30$  degrees on the short side with the tongue in the groove of the other panel on the second row and then lower it.

Now there's a narrow gap visible between the panel of the first row and the one on the second row. In order to close the gap, lift panel three at an angle of  $\pm 30$  degrees. While holding the panel in this position, slide then the long side of this panel into the groove of the first panel (on the first row). Then carefully lower panel three. The panels will now click into each other.

Place the fourth panel at an angle of  $\pm 30$  degrees with the long side in panel three using the tongue-in-groove system and then lower it. Then use a tapping block or tension to slide the short side of panel four and one into each other.

Repeat these operations until you reach the end of the first two rows. Then slide the whole nicely against the wall. Use spacers to respect the expansion joint of five mm. Do not remove these blocks throughout the installation for an optimal and linear straight result.

### ***Installation of the next rows.***

A remaining piece of a floor panel from the previous rows can serve as a starting panel for a next row provided it is at least 1/3 of an entire floor panel. Make sure that the ends of the panels in two consecutive rows are never laid the same. Always allow the end connections to be offset by at least 30 cm.

Place the long side of the first panel of the third row at an angle of  $\pm 30$  degrees against the already installed panel of the second row. Move the panel to be placed slightly up and down and exert a forward pressure at the same time. The panels will automatically click into each other.

To place the next panel of the third row, first click the panels together on the short side according to the previously described tongue-ingroove system and then lower the floor panel. Now there's a narrow gap between the panels of the current and those of the previous row.

Now close the gap: Hold the floor panel at an angle of  $\pm 30$  degrees and while keeping this angle, slide the tongue of the panel into the groove of the previous row of panels. Slide it until the gap between both rows is completely closed and then lower it gently. The panels will automatically click into each other.

**TIP:** Put a box of panels at the end of the row you are clicking into each other to make sure that the panels stay in place during installation. Always use spacers to respect the expansion joint of 8 mm and do not remove them during the whole installation.

Version 04/06/2020 – This document replaces all printed and electronic installation and technical recommendations that were previously distributed.

***Installation of the last row:***

Leave an expansion joint of 8 mm between the last floor panel and the wall. In order to respect the expansion joint, you will have to cut the floor panels in length. To install the floor panels of the last row, you can use a metal striking bar. Note: uneven slamming or slamming too hard can cause damage to the floor panels.

***Panel width of the last row.*** Place the floor panel that you are going to install on top of the penultimate row. Put another panel on top of this panel, that lets you connect against the wall. Now use this last panel to mark the distance to the wall on the panel to be used and cut it.

***Finishing.*** After installing the last row, remove all spacers and install the skirtings. Attention: never attach the skirtings to the floor but always to the wall with the help of mounting glue. The floor must always be able to expand and contract under the skirtings. Never use a silicone sealant or other flexible paste to fill the minimum expansion joint of 8 mm.

## OBSTACLES

In places where it is difficult to tilt the panels (e.g. beneath radiator), use a pull bar to pull the floor panels together.

When the new flooring meets a threshold or a doorway, we recommend undercutting the mouldings. To secure the right cut, turn a panel upside down and place it on the floor up to the door frame. Then place the hand saw flat against the floor panel and simply cut through the frame. Remove the cut-out piece and vacuum away the debris. You can now simply click the panel in on the long side at the side of the undercut moulding. Use the pull bar to secure absolute tightness in the long and short joint.

In rows where there is a pipe, make sure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two panels. Take a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe plus 8 mm expansion gap. Click the planks together on the short side and drill a hole centred on the joint between the two planks. Now you can install the planks.

In case of a double pipe, drill a hole at each of the marked points that is equivalent to the diameter plus 8 mm expansion gap. If located on the long side, make a 45° cut from each whole to the edge of the plank. Then, using an appropriate glue along the cut edges of the piece you cut out, glue the piece into place. Be sure no glue comes between the cutout piece and the subfloor.



## MAINTENANCE

You can walk on the floor during and immediately after installation. Due to the extra coating of the top layer, special treatment after installation is not necessary. This coating protects your Brigid floor against dirt and makes maintenance easier.

### **Some preventive precautions.**

Some simple preventive precautions help you to maintain the view and maximize the life cycle of your Brigid floor.

**Cleaning mat.** Most of the pollution comes from an external source. Avoid entering dirt, water and sand by placing an adapted foot mat, without a rubber back, on all entrances. This not only helps to prevent damage (accumulated dirt under sliding furniture can cause (light) damage in the form of scratches) but also facilitates maintenance and extends the life of your Brigid floor.

**Protect sliding furniture.** Protect furniture and chair legs with proper protective caps.

Place soft wheels (EN12590) that are suitable for vinyl/PVC floors and/or use a suitable desk mat under your (office) chairs and armchairs.

Never drag heavy objects or furniture over the floor, but lift them up.

**Avoid discolouration.** Every floor covering discolours under the (long-term) influence of sunlight, whether this is parquet, laminate, PVC/vinyl or carpet. This is caused by the UV radiation in the sunlight. Good sun protection is important to avoid discolouration.

**Avoid contact with rubber.** In the case of prolonged contact between vinyl/PVC and rubber, a permanent dark-brown discolouration may occur due to migration (such as a rubber ring under a trash can, rubber doormats, bicycles, etc.). Rubber caps under furniture can also cause streaks due to friction. We therefore recommend that you check all furniture and all utensils for rubber caps and provide them with the correct protection.

**Fire.** Do not bring cigarettes, matches or other hot objects into contact with the floor. These can cause permanent damage.

### **Cleaning and maintenance.**

Brigid rigid vinyl floors do not require maintenance after installation as is the case with parquet or linoleum. Thanks to the extra coating of the top layer, special treatment after installation is not necessary. This coating protects your Brigid floor against dirt and makes maintenance easier.

#### ***First cleaning after installation.***

- First remove all coarse dirt and dust from the floor with a soft brush or vacuum cleaner.
- Clean the floor with water and a pH-neutral maintenance product.
- Repeat this at least twice or as much as necessary until the water remains clean.

#### ***Regular maintenance.***

- Remove daily dirt with sweeping, dust wiping or vacuuming (vacuum cleaner with soft head).

- Remove stains and splashes with a damp cloth or mop.
- Mopping: leave the floor as dry as possible. Never use more than the prescribed amount of maintenance product.
- Stubbornly dried-in dirt: soak for 5 minutes and then remove with a mop.
- Never use maintenance products that contain wax or oil. Do not use vinegar, polishes, abrasives, corrosive detergents or solvents.

***Periodic maintenance.***

- Mop with a traditional mop or with a damp mop.
- You can use a little more water in combination with a neutral maintenance product suitable for vinyl/PVC floors (pH 7).
- Never use maintenance products that contain wax or oil. Do not use vinegar, polishes, abrasives, corrosive detergents or solvents.

***Remove stubborn stains.***

- First remove the loose dirt and dust from your floor with a soft brush or vacuum cleaner.
- Then mop your floor with water and an intensive cleaner.
- Leave on for 10 minutes and then remove any loose dirt with a clean, damp mop.
- Then mop your floor with clean water.

***Maintenance product.*** Ask your dealer for advice on vinyl / PVC floors. Other maintenance products can contain substances that can damage your floor.