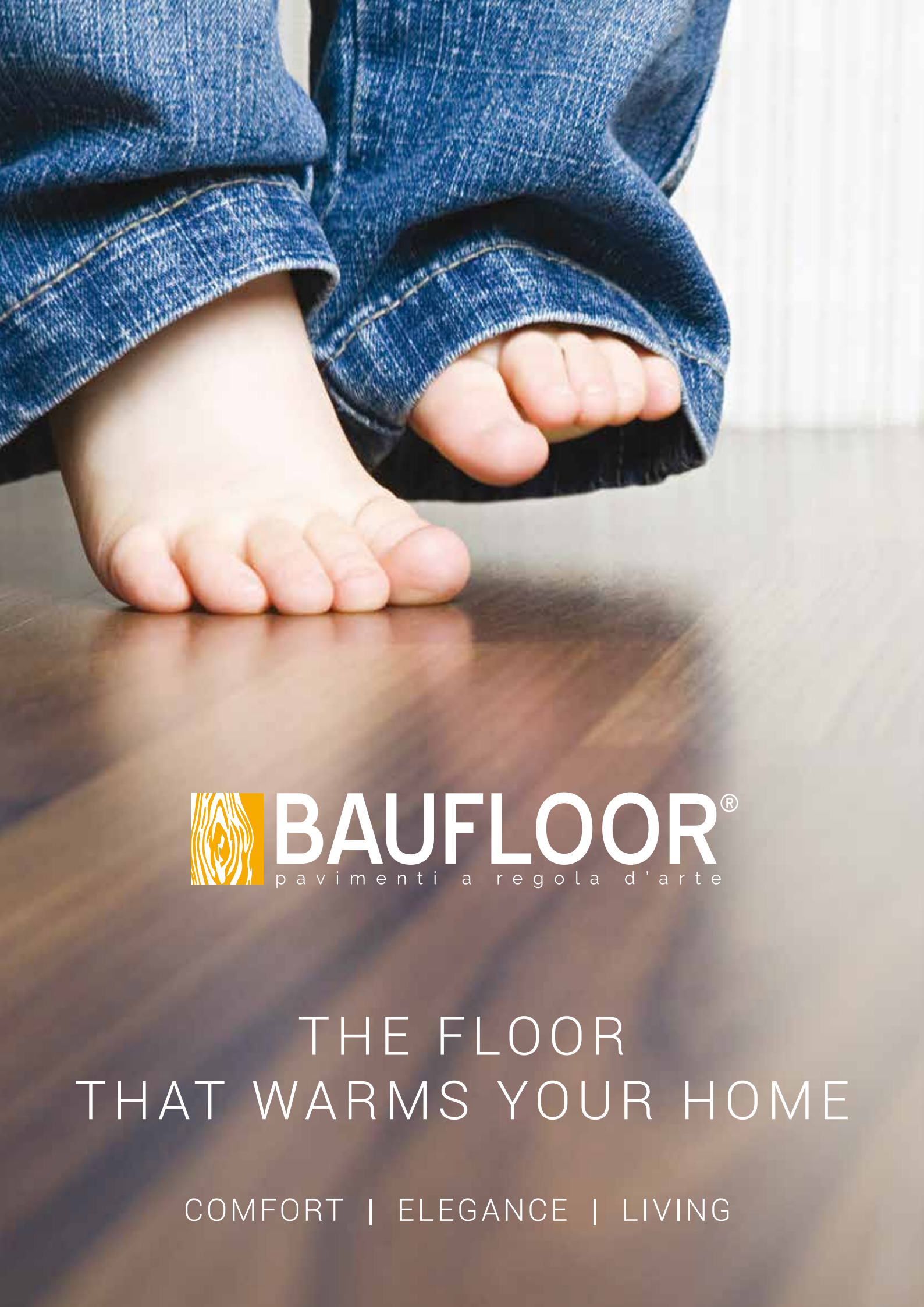
 **BAUFLOOR®**
pavimenti a regola d'arte



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THE FLOOR
THAT WARMS YOUR HOME

COMFORT | ELEGANCE | LIVING

SPC floors

There are several types of floors on the market:

- ▶ Solid wood
- ▶ Veneered
- ▶ Bamboo
- ▶ Laminate
- ▶ Linoleum
- ▶ Cork
- ▶ Ceramic tiles
- ▶ Carpet
- ▶ Natural stone
- ▶ Polished concrete
- ▶ PVC

We will go and see the characteristics of the latter, the PVC floors. Compared to other floors, PVC flooring is a “young” floor and development is still ongoing. Very often PVC floors are confused with linoleum floors, while they are two completely different floors. 90% of PVC floors come from China and there are very few manufacturers in Europe.

3 TYPES OF PVC FLOORS CAN BE FOUND ON THE MARKET:

1) Adhesive PVC floor: it is made of flexible materials with a reduced thickness and can be laid directly on top of the existing floor. It allows for quick restyling and can be found in various forms. Characteristics: reduced thickness, quick restyling, simple, economical installation.

2) Floating PVC floor: together with the adhesive one it is the best known and most used type. It is sold in slats, like laminate floors, and has thicknesses, sizes and properties that vary by model.

3) PVC flooring in rolls: it is the least widespread type, as regards the residential. It is sold in rolls: the width is variable and the length can reach up to 30 meters while the thickness is reduced. It is the least requested and used type.

ADVANTAGES OF PVC FLOORS:

- 1) Water resistant. They work well in humid environments, such as the bathroom, and is a popular feature over laminate. They can also be used in taverns, which are usually very humid.
- 2) Very reduced thicknesses. You can renovate environments without demolishing the underlying floor and without making the floor too heavy. In some cases it is not even necessary to modify the doors (they must have at least 2/3 mm of light).
- 3) Antistatic. The air is charged with electricity, PVC floors decrease the electrical charge in the room, increasing comfort, and also repel dust and dirt from their surface.
- 4) Wide choice. It is a market in full evolution and different aspects of the PVC floor can be selected. You can choose: type, thickness, wear resistance, size and shape, texture, color and intended use.
- 5) Ease of installation. From this point of view it is one of the most popular floors for DIY lovers. The installation is quite simple, you just need a little manual skills and you can save thousands of euros by installing it on large surfaces.
- 6) Practical. It can be managed without too much effort, cleaning is very simple and fast.
- 7) Noise reduction. Quiet and comfortable, it muffles footfall noise. It is also used in public facilities such as hospitals, gyms, and offices. Performance improves for floating floors when combined with a good underlay mat, unless they have already been integrated.
- 8) Wear resistant. Wear is measured by indicating the surface PVC layer. The wear classes for the residential sector range from 0.2 mm to 0.5 mm (0.55 mm), beyond these values we pass to industrial use.
- 9) Non-slip. Very important point because we talk about safety. It is an anti-slip floor and in this regard there is a reference standard (din 51130), for residential vinyl the coefficients to be checked are R9 and R10. It also has anti-slip properties and also in this regard there is a standard for this feature (EN 14041), if the floor is safe it has a "DS" technical class, therefore it is considered a "dry" floor.

SOME DISADVANTAGES FOR PVC FLOORS ON THE MARKET:

- 1) Aesthetic yield. The adhesive PVC floor should only be laid on perfectly flat floors, preferably smooth or with small joints because after a while, they tend to bring out their joints, highlighting them when you look at it against the light.
- 2) Sensitive to dirt. Low-quality products get dirty easily (based on use). Problem encountered on low cost products.
- 3) Thermosensitive. Low cost products expand and shrink based on temperatures. PVC floors can be installed in all areas of the house: living area, sleeping area, bathroom, basement, office and can also be used for activities open to the public.

TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT FLOOR WE MUST PROCEED STEP BY STEP MAKING THE RIGHT EVALUATIONS:

1) **Type of heating.** Not all types of PVC floors are suitable for underfloor heating, their compatibility must be checked.

2) **Intended use.** The floors have a variable use class based on use:

From 21 to 23 *domestic use*

From 31 to 34 *commercial use*

From 41 to 43 *industrial use*

3) **Thickness.** From a few mm, for an adhesive product, up to 8 / 8.5 mm, for a top of the range flooring.

4) **Wear resistance.** This information can be found in the manufacturer's data sheet (varies from 0.2 mm up to 0.5 / 0.55 mm).

5) **Aesthetics.** What effect do you want to achieve? On the market there are many textures to choose from: wood, stone, resin, etc. The quality changes, from a low cost to a top of the range, with the advantage of not having to pay all the attention that a parquet floor would require.

The prices of PVC floors start from 6-7 € per square meter (*retail price*) for adhesive vinyls: cheap, reduced thickness, quick restyling and the aesthetic result is modest. In the € 18-20 per square meter range (*retail price*) we begin to find floating vinyls, which have higher quality such as wear resistance and product thickness. Floating floors, top of the range, can be found at € 35-40 per square meter (*retail price*) or even more.

THE DURABILITY OF THE PVC FLOOR DEPENDS ON SEVERAL FACTORS:

- ▶ Type and quality of the product
- ▶ Ordinary maintenance
- ▶ Intended use

The technical data sheets show the guaranteed years of the floor, both for domestic and commercial use, which for the latter is smaller.

WHAT IS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE?

Cleaning it is very simple, just a microfiber cloth and a neutral detergent, it can also be vacuumed with a vacuum cleaner. For low cost products it is not recommended to use steam mops. Instead, it is not recommended, in all cases, to use aggressive and corrosive detergents, linseed oil and acetone.

In summary, the flexible PVC floor is an economical floor that fits in all rooms of the house, in commercial premises and even in industrial ones. Very important note, they are known as LVT (Luxury Vinyl Tile), then in the last period SPCs were born in rigid slats or rigid tile format.

SPC FLOORS

SPC floors are the evolution of LVT floors. The novelty of these products consists mainly in the composition of the central layer (core) of the plank. The classic LVTs are composed of layers of PVC alternating with fiberglass, while the SPCs have a central rigid layer composed of 25% PVC and 75% calcium carbonate which makes the dashboard rigid and resistant. The central panel (core) is a plastic-mineral hybrid that distinguishes it, thus offering a much higher stability than that of a classic LVT floor. It is impermeable to liquids and therefore ideal for kitchens and bathrooms and the very good thermal conductivity of the mineral panel makes it compatible with modern underfloor heating systems.

LET'S SEE IN DETAIL THIS NEW GENERATION OF PVC FLOORS, THE SPCS.

The abbreviation SPC refers to "Solid Polymer Core" or "Stone Plastic Composite". Most slats consist of:



The best known and sold SPCs are the floating ones with integrated mattress (thickness 1 mm or 1.5 mm), but on the market you can also find SPCs to be glued or without integrated mattress.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF SPC FLOORS?

1) Water resistance. They have excellent water resistance and are suitable for environments that are more sensitive to humidity such as bathrooms, kitchens, taverns (difficult to ventilate) and

laundries. The elements are waterproof and do not swell even if we immerse them directly in water. The only precaution to have is to avoid prolonged stagnation of water because it could pass between the joints in the floor.

2) Aesthetics. The floor is pleasant and the joints are hardly noticeable, the feeling is that of a clean surface and even the customization offers a wide choice. You can choose the surface effect, the dimensions of the elements and the thickness of the floor. The most requested effect is wood, in all its shades, but you can also choose other effects such as stone, marble, concrete and resin. The most common format is the rectangular one, with element lengths exceeding 2.20 m, the widths are variable.

3) Reduced thickness. The thickness of a float varies from 4 mm and 8 / 8.5 mm w.g. including mattress. They are perfect for quick restyling of environments, and thanks to the overlapping installation and the integrated mat, we can change the look of an old floor without demolition, dust and inconvenience.

4) Thermo stable. The composition and construction technology of the SPCs guarantees high thermal stability even after repeated temperature changes, unlike normal traditional PVC floors. They can also be used in rooms with large windows exposed to the sun for many hours, there will be neither expansion nor bending.

5) Stain resistance. They resist stains from food, earth, mud, markers, etc. very well. They don't even fear our four-legged friends.

6) Wear resistance. This point is based on the wear layer used by the manufacturer which can vary from 0.3mm, 0.4mm and 0.55mm.

7) Impact noise reduction. Excellent, compared to other PVC floors, SPCs have an integrated mat and the thickness can vary according to the choices of the manufacturer. Even better result when combined with a performance mat.

8) Do it yourself assembly. it is a floating floor to be laid over the screed or an existing floor. There is no need for glue or nails. The elements are simply cut with a cutter and fit together with a click, you don't even have to think about laying the mat. It only takes patience, dexterity and a few right tools!

9) Suitable for all rooms. The SPC is suitable for all rooms in the house, living area, sleeping area, bathroom and laundry room, basement, attic, etc. It can be used both in residential and commercial areas, such as offices, studios and also in activities open to the public.

10) Underfloor heating. We also have the possibility of laying with underfloor heating, following the manufacturer's instructions.

AS FOR THE DISADVANTAGES ... IT'S HARD TO FIND ANY!

IN SOME CASES THEY COULD BE:

1) Synthetic. Some may not like walking on a "fake" floor, unlike natural stone, marble or parquet.

2) Slim joints. Reduced thickness stands for thinner interlocking, they have some mechanical performance lower than parquet laminates. For example: an aluminum interlocking laminate has more tensile strength than an SPC one.

HOW MUCH DO SPC FLOORS COST?

Prices range from € 26 up to € 35 (*retail price*), even more for the top of the range with integrated mattress.

HOW LONG DOES AN SPC FLOOR LAST?

It depends on the quality of the product, how it is used and its destination. It can be seen from the manufacturer's warranty, on average 10 years in the public and 30 years in the private sector.

WHAT IS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE?

The maintenance and cleaning of the SPC floor is very simple. You can use a microfiber cloth, neutral detergents and a vacuum cleaner. Aggressive detergents are not recommended.

WHERE CAN THEY BE INSTALLED?

They can be laid on solid, compact, flat and dry substrates. They cannot be placed on top of carpet.

COMPARISON TABLE OF THE MOST USED FLOORS

	SPC	VLT	STONEWARE TILE	LAMINATE	PARQUET
LOW THICKNESS	✓	✓			
FOOTBALL NOISE REDUCTION	✓	✓			✓
RESISTANT TO WATER AND HUMIDITY	✓	✓	✓		
QUICK CLICK INSTALLATION	✓	✓		✓	
PRE-ADHESIVE MATTRESS	✓				
LAYING ON ANY EXISTING FLOOR	✓			✓	✓
CUTS FOR DUST-FREE INSTALLATION	✓	✓			
INSTALLATION FOR SEAMLESS SURFACES	✓				
QUICK REMOVAL WITHOUT TRACES	✓	✓		✓	
STABLE TO THERMAL CHANGES	✓		✓	✓	✓
PERIMETER OF THE TABLE WITHOUT GROUTING	✓	✓		✓	✓
FIREPROOF BFL_S1	✓	✓	✓		



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