



Laminate Flooring Installation Guide

It is the installers/customers responsibility to carry out an inspection of the delivered flooring product prior to installation to ensure the colour, grade, pattern irregularities, structural quality, gloss and finish are acceptable. It must also be confirmed that the correct product, as per viewed samples, has been delivered to site. If the product is deemed not acceptable, do NOT install and contact your supplier immediately. If the product is installed it will be considered, to be acceptable to the customer and the supplier will take no further responsibility.

Flooring should never be stored outdoors, on a cement floor, in a garage or in any damp conditions. Care should be taken to store the packs. They should be stored flat and off the ground in a dry, well ventilated and safe place. Packs should never be lent against a wall. The product should be installed from the carton. Its moisture content should be checked by the installer before installation with a moisture meter to be certain that the flooring has not dramatically changed moisture content since it has left the supplier warehouse all flooring contractors should possess moisture meters for the timber flooring and concrete and timber sub-floors.

Pre-installation Conditions and Getting prepared.

The laminate is designed to be **installed floating without glue**. The Angle-to-Angle Click 4 sides system allows the planks to be joined without the need for adhesive or nail fixing to the sub-floor. In some situations, a method using cross-linked PVA will be required to allow for easier assembly under door thresholds and tight floor spaces.

The cartons must be stored in a cool, shaded and protected dry place (ambient temperature of 18 –25 Degrees Celsius). Never open the packs until the day of installation as to avoid moisture pickup of the laminate.

Each plank should be carefully checked prior to installation: never install any damaged planks. Carry out alignment inspections as you continue the installation and to better blend and balance the natural batch variation the installer should always work from several open cartons of product to create a balanced visual blend.

Subfloor

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Slab subfloors are to be made flat through grinding and levelling to the flatness tolerance required for the flooring system and products used. Subfloor levelling not to exceed 4mm within 2m straight edge.

All floor surfaces shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean and free of all foreign matter such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils and old adhesive residue. The surface must be rigid, dense and free of flaking or powdery substances. Sand all edges if joins are not flush on wood based panels. Subfloor wood-based types- Plywood, OSB, Particleboard (PB), and Masonite. They must be structurally sound and installed as per their manufacturer's recommendations. If needed add additional fixings to adequately secure an existing substrate. For new substrate material fasten and secure according to panel manufacturing guidelines or meet local building regulations.



For concrete slab installations. The slab must be sound, dry & level. Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions. Final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry for installation remains with the floor installer / contractor.

Kitchen Island

Do not install kitchen island benches & similar large, fixed cabinetry on floating installations. The floor needs to be cut in & around these objects to avoid restricting the movement of a floating floor.

Getting Ready

A recognised acoustic underlay with a minimum thickness of, 2 or 3 mm incorporating a PE film moisture barrier must be used on the flooring to reduce sound transmission and to control moisture ingress. This should be placed over a dry, flat substrate, with joints neatly taped. Joining between the plastic sheets should have sufficient overlap and/or sufficient tight joints to avoid leakage of vapour from underneath. Recommended overlap should be at least 200mm. For increased protection on concrete slabs 150 um Builders Plastic can also be installed to avoid possible rising slab moisture. Tape all joints to seal the slab. The underlay / moisture film should be kicked up the skirting boards on perimeter walls to avoid moisture ingress.

Ensure that the sub floor is thoroughly cleaned to avoid mould growth. If the RH of the sub-floor be above 95%, the flooring should not be installed. This is strictly prohibited.

An allowance of at least 10 mm on each edge / perimeter should be provided to accommodate floor expansion. Please allow for expansion around heating tube outlets, connection with tiles and fixed items where the floor is installed. In large or multi-room installations, you might need to install trims at door thresholds or throughout the installation area. This is known as compartmentalization. Check with your place of purchase prior to installation whether the area to be installed needs to be compartmentalised and for more information on the recommended location of in-floor trims. Widths greater than 8m and lengths runs over 12m will require increased expansion provisions. The plank in the last row must not be less than 300 mm. Therefore, measure and plan the floor before the installation begins to calculate the first and last plank.

When the floating-method of installation is used, skirting-boards should be installed by fixing them directly to the adjacent wall, never fix them onto the floorboards. This is to allow the floor to move freely without restrictions from skirting or door jambs etc.