Installation Guide

General

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.

Storage

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. Flooring should be stored flat and off the ground in a dry, well ventilated, and safe place. Packs should never be leaned 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.

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.

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.

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

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 is 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 any powdery substances. Sand all edges if joints are not flush on wood base panels.

Subfloor wood-base types-Plywood, OSB, Particleboard (PB), and Masonite, they must be structurally sound and installed as per manufacturer's recommendation. If needed add additional fixings to adequately secure an existing substrate. For new substrate material fasten and secure according to panel manufacturing guidelines to 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.

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

Underlay

A recognised 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 joins neatly taped. Joining between the plastic sheets should have sufficient overlap and/or sufficient tight joins to avoid leakage of any 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 joins to seal the slab. The underlay / moisture film should be kicked up the skirting boards on perimeter walls to avoid moisture ingress.

Existing Floors

Installation over existing flooring requires the installer to consider potential issues related to moisture damage, adhesive failure, and fastener failure.

Acceptable floor coverings include Solid wood, linoleum (1 layer only), terrazzo, ceramic, and stone, tile. Tiled floors with grout lines will require a cementitious leveling compound to fill any grout lines, voids, or cracks. Unacceptable floor coverings include Carpet (any type), foam underlayment, cushioned-back vinyl, laminate, free-floating floors.

Recommended Installation Area

This product is not suitable for any outside use, sunrooms/solariums, showers, saunas, seasonal porches, camping trailers, boats, RV's or rooms that have a potential of flooding. Do not install in rooms or homes that are not temperature controlled. Exposure to long term direct sunlight can cause damage to your floor. Failure to properly shade or UV tint windows can discolour, fade, or buckle laminate flooring.

Blending of Cartons

To achieve a uniform appearance across the entire floor, we require that you open and work from a few cartons at a time and lay out the flooring ahead of time. Be sure to mix the planks for the best aesthetic appearance. Make certain the room is well lit to ensure colour is consistent and that any visual defects can be seen and removed prior to installation. "Racking the Floor" is essential to achieve a random appearance. Start by cutting several boards in random lengths, differing the lengths by at least 300mm. As you continue working across the floor remember to maintain a 300mm minimum space between the end joints. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance. Never waste materials; the end cuts from starter rows should be used at the opposite side of the room to complete rows or may be used to start the next row.

Expansion Space

An allowance of at least 12 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. Width area greater than 8m and length area greater than 12m will require transition joints to assist natural movement and expansion of floating floors. Caulking will hinder necessary movement; it should not be used.

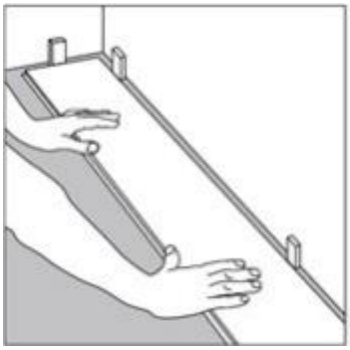
Maximum length can be extended to 15m by following a few precautions.

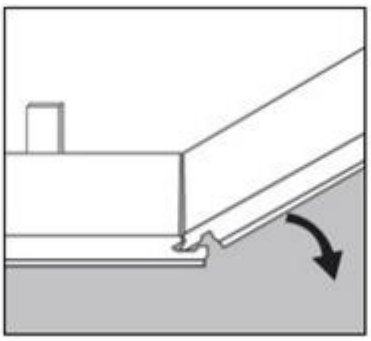
- Under cut drywalls to reach extra expansion space
- Ensure all the door jambs are properly undercut and clean.
- Ensure moisture barrier being laid as per ATFA installation Instructions.

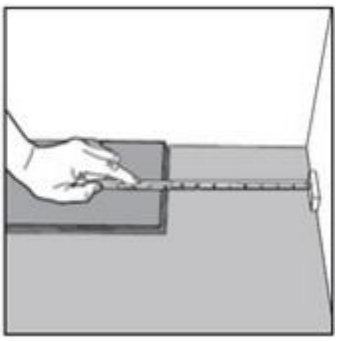
The plank in the last row must not be less than 300 mm. Therefore, measure and plan the floor before the installation begins to calculate the first and last plank.

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.

Lay Out Diagrams

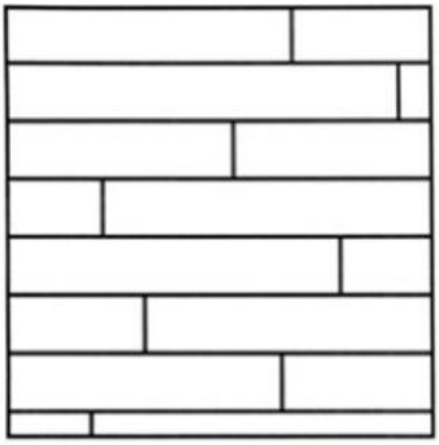




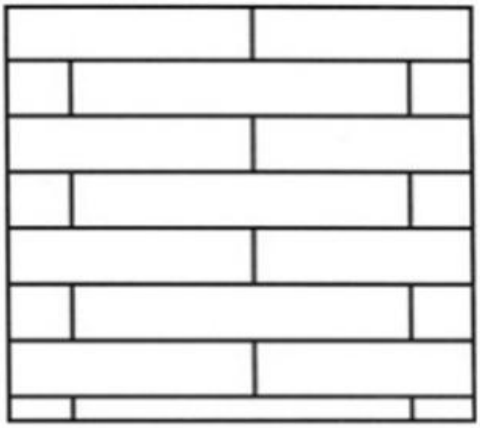


Minimum 12mm gap around the perimeter, angle to angle click system,
Minimum gap between planks 300mm.

Once the first row is in place, continue to lay out the planks. Be sure to blend the planks and stagger the end joints a minimum of 300mm apart.



Stagger End Joints



Avoid "H" Joints

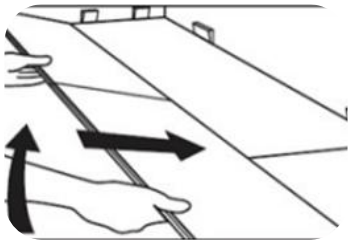


Diagram A

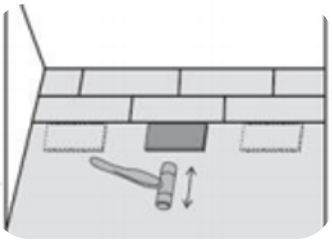


Diagram B

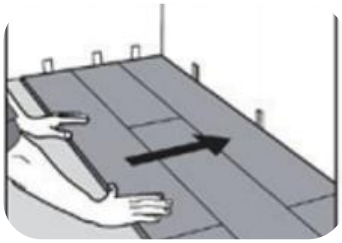


Diagram C

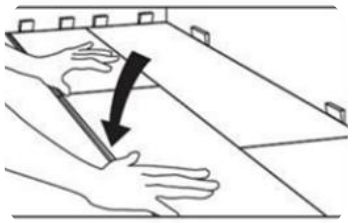


Diagram D

Check Run and Riser

Ensure stair treads conform with local building codes in your area for appropriate tread depth and step height. Most building codes require a rise or run difference of no more than 5mm throughout the entire stair system.

Laminate Maintenance Guide and Care

- Sweep floor regularly with an electrostatic broom, soft bristled broom, or wood floor mop.
- Dust and or clean with a soft bristled vacuum head. Ensure vacuum head is non-abrasive with no metal contact points.
- Remove spills promptly with an absorbent cloth or similar.
- Place mats at exterior and interior doors to trap sand and grit from incoming traffic.
- Use a rug or mat in high traffic areas to reduce wear & scuffing. Where possible periodically relocate rugs or large items to allow natural aging of the floor surface area.
- Place felt protectors on the legs of furniture to avoid scratches.
- Keep pets' claws properly trimmed to avoid excess scratches and gouges.
- Flooring must be always protected from direct sunlight. (Use of curtains, blinds, or UV resistant film on windows)

Regular Care

- Do not use excessively wet mop floor surface area after installation. Too much water may allow seepage through the click profile and will create a moist environment under the floor planks.
- Do not use waxes or common household supermarket cleaners or detergents on the floor. These types of cleaning solutions are very abrasive. Long term use will dull the finish and soften the surface coating reducing its durability and sheen level.
- Chairs with roller wheels must be placed on protective mats to protect the surface coating.
- Do not let sand, dirt or grit build up on the floor surface.
- Avoid walking in narrow point or stiletto heel shoes as they may damage the surface of your floor.
- Do not roll or slide heavy furniture or appliances across flooring without surface protection or lift trolley.
- Place drip pans or protective matting under pot plants and animal feeding or bedding areas to avoid moisture ingress.