Elements Hybrid XL and Herringbone 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 the samples viewed, 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.

Hybrid flooring is a new generation product manufactured using the latest technology known as 'Rigid Composite Board' (RCB). The rigid core provides unique interior waterproof and stability characteristics. Hybrid flooring is highly durable and interior waterproof product, however careful attention to the installation and basic care and maintenance guidelines needs to be followed.

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.

Elements Hybrid flooring does not need to be acclimatised. However, if boxes are exposed to extreme temperatures (under 5°C or over 50°C) within the 24 hours prior to installation, unopened boxes should be acclimatised for a minimum of 24 hours at temperature between 18-27°C and a relative humidity between 30-60%. Packs should be stacked flat on the floor during acclimatisation and not be opened until the day of installation.

Elements hybrid flooring is stable and can be installed in individual rooms up to 20m long and 15m wide. In complex or multi room installation, Internal expansion joints are required.

Pre-installation Conditions and Getting prepared.

Our Hybrid floor is designed to be installed floating without glue. The Uniclic system allows the planks to be joined without the need for adhesive or nail fixing to the sub-floor.

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 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 flushed 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

It is a must to install 150um builder's plastic over entire surface. Tape joints & ensure moisture barrier plastic underlay installed with a minimum of 150mm overlap on top of underlay.

Elements hybrid has an attached acoustic underlay suitable for single dwelling residential installations. The use of an additional acoustic underlayment is not required. If any underlay required under hybrid flooring, underlay density should be over 800 kg/m3 to have a stable complete floor. Cloudwalk flooring provide various underlayment with above 900kg/m3. (AAAC 5-6 STAR RATING)

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 outdoor use, sunrooms/solariums, showers, saunas, seasonal porches, camping trailers, boats, RV's or rooms that have potential flooding. Do not install 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 discolor, fade, or buckle hybrid 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 color 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 at 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 15m and length area greater than 20m will require transition joints to assist natural movement and expansion of floating floors. Caulking will hinder necessary movement; it should not be used.

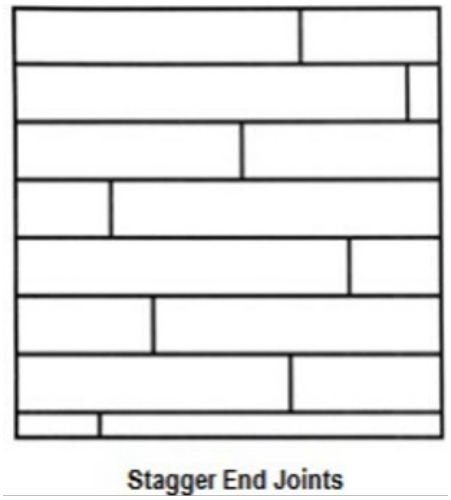
- Under cut drywalls to reach extra expansion space
- Ensure all the door jambs are properly undercut and clean.
- Ensure moisture barrier being laid as per ATFA installation Instructions.

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.

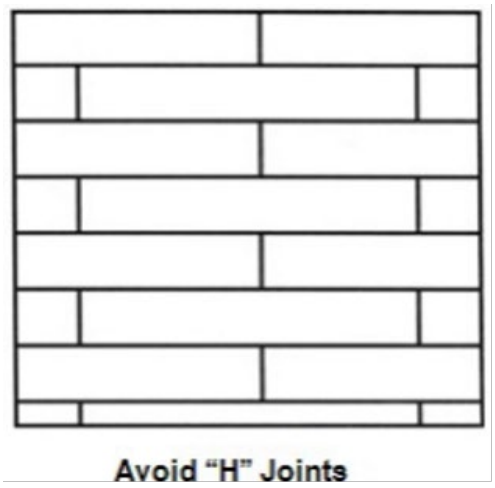
Existing Floors

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

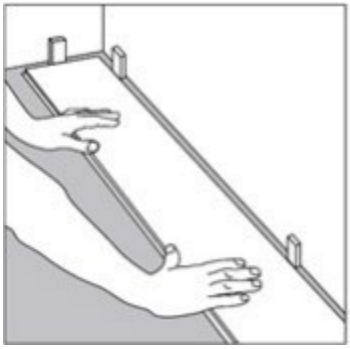
Lay Out Diagrams

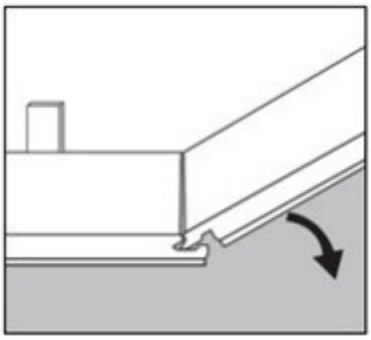


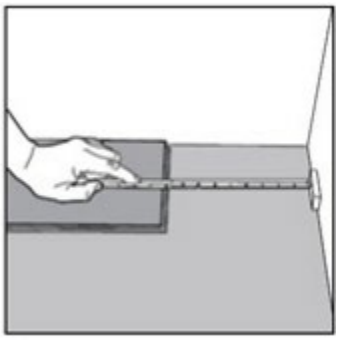
Stagger End Joints



Avoid "H" Joints







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.

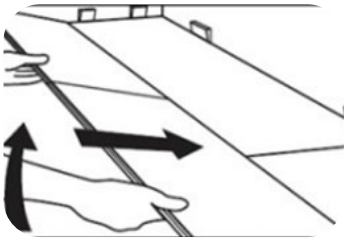


Diagram A

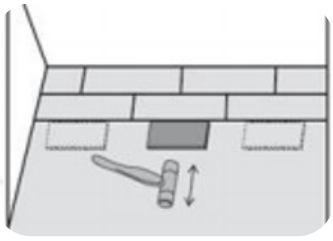


Diagram B

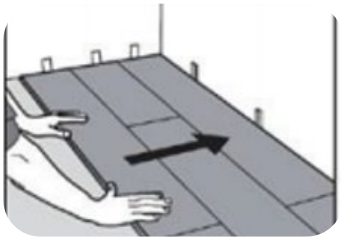


Diagram C

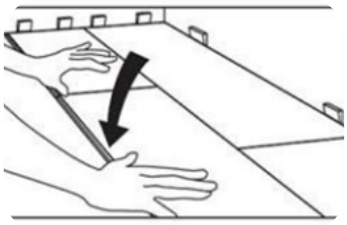
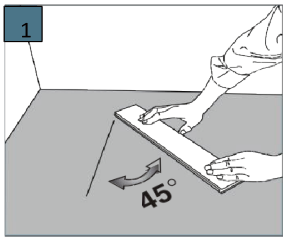


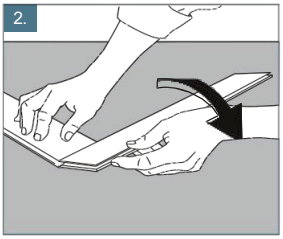
Diagram D

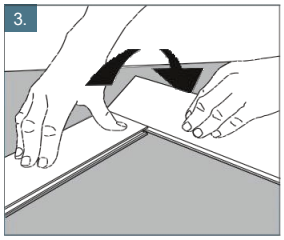
Check Run and Riser

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.

Elements Herringbone Installation.



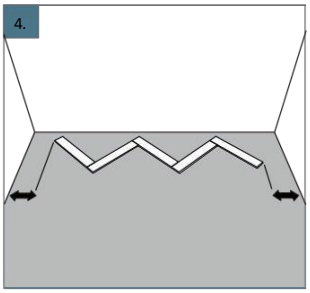




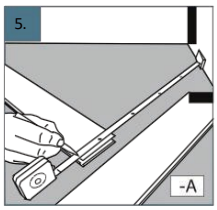
1. **Getting started** - Choose a wall to start and begin installing at the left corner. Start with an A-panel and place it with its long side marking facing the left wall at an angle of 45°. Make sure that the distance between the left wall and the panel is less than the length of one panel.

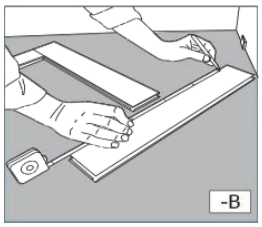
2. **Connect next panel** - Continue with a B-panel. Press the long side of the B-Panel at an angle against the short side of the previous installed A panel. Fold down the B-panel flat to the floor to lock the panels tightly together. Check that the grooves on the two panels form a continuous line.

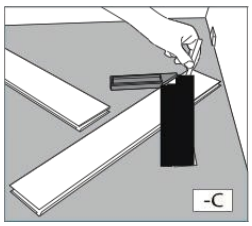
3. **Connect additional panels** - Next panel is an A-panel. Again, press the long side of the new A-panel at an angle against the short side of the previous B-panel and fold down. Continue like this with as many panels as they may fit along the starting wall.

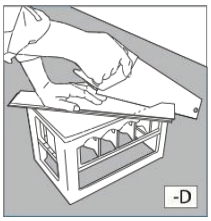


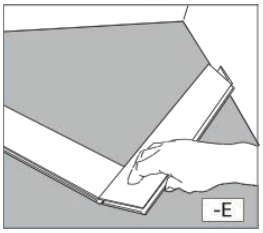
4. **Center the first row** - Check that the first row of panels is centered along the starting wall. Make sure that the distance to the walls on both sides is less than the length of one panel. If not, add a panel to the right side.

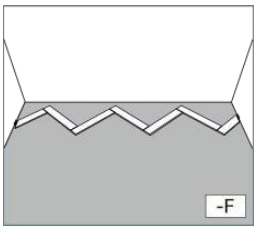




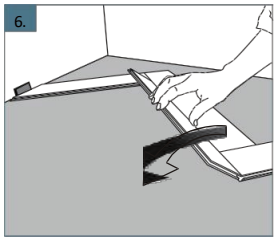


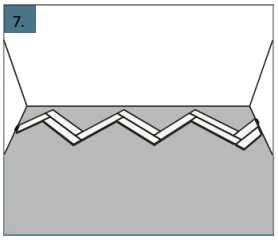


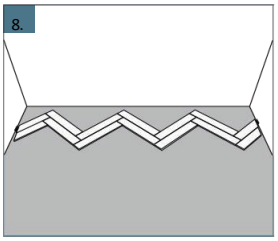




5. **Cut the end panels to size** - Measure and cut the end panels to size using a fine saw. Finish the first row with the cut end panels. Make sure that you leave a gap of 10mm to each wall.



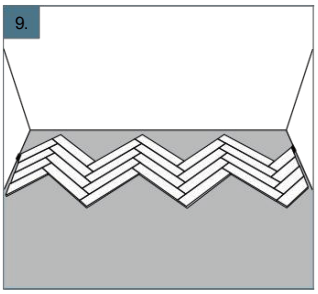


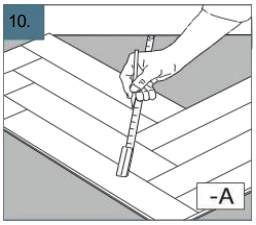


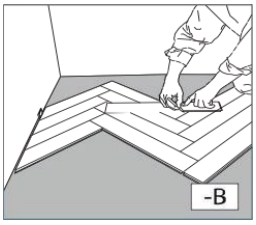
6. **Start the second row -** Start the next row with an A-panel. Place the new panel against the previous row and fold down.

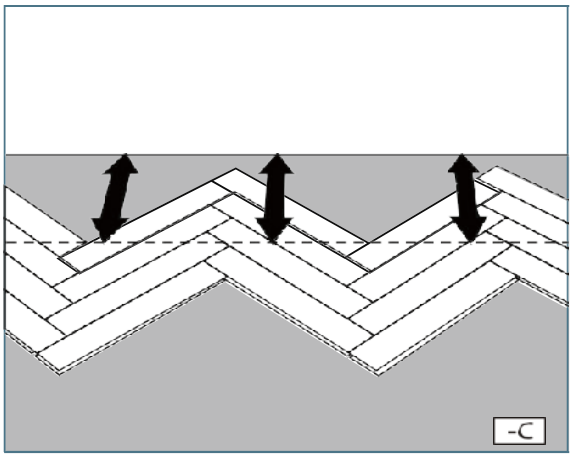
7.**Install the A-panels** - Continue from the left to the right and install all the A-panels in the second row. Finish with a panel cut to size (step 5).

8. **Continue with the B-Panels -** Now work in the opposite direction, from the right to the left and Install all the B- panels in the second row. Finish with a piece of panel cut to size (step 5)



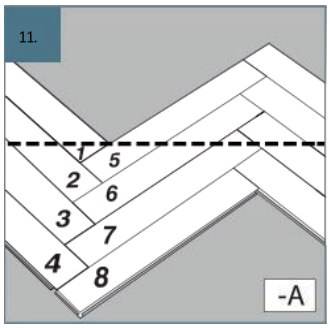


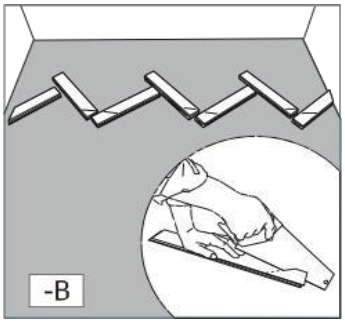




9. **Complete four rows** - Install additional rows to complete four full rows.

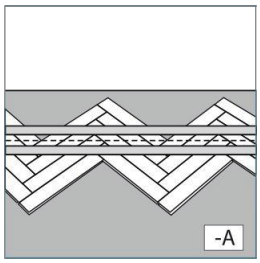
10**. Adjust the starting rows -** The first four rows must be cut parallel to the wall. Measure and mark where to cut the floor panels at a fixed / parallel distance to the wall.

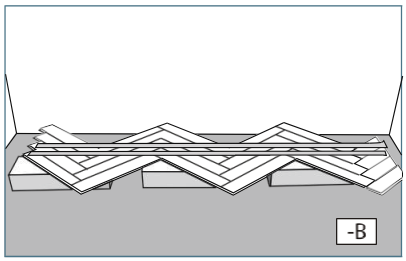


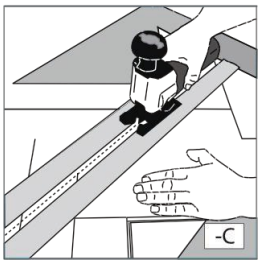


11. **Dismantle and cut** - Number the panels from 1 to …. This will allow you to keep the panels in order. Dismantle the panels and cut them to size along the previous marked line.

11. ALTERNATIVE

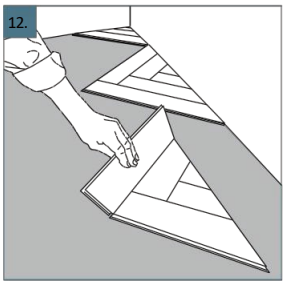




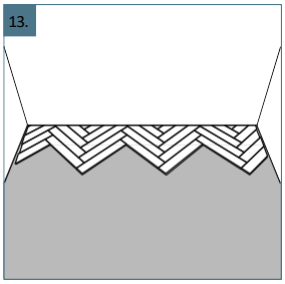


11. **Alternative way to cut the first rows**

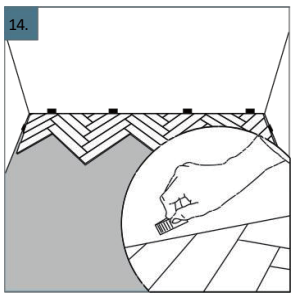
Leave the left end-panels uninstalled. Tape along the marked line and place the flooring on top of a few flooring packages. Cut along the marked line. Then put the adjusted rows into place. Complete the first rows by installing the remaining end-panels. Start with the end-panel in the last row and finish at the first row



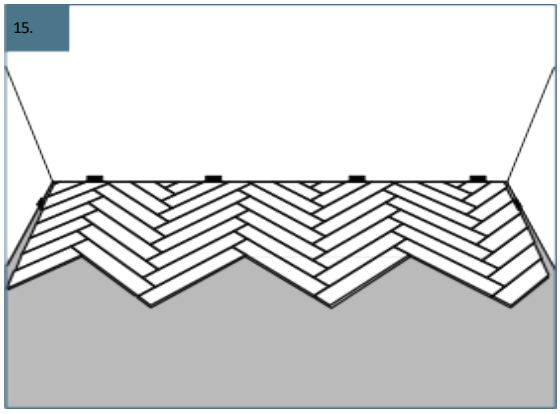
12. Install the starting triangles Connect the cut starting panels to form triangular shapes, one by one.
Start installing the triangles from the left corner. It is recommended to use glue to fix the smallest parts of the triangles into place by applying a small quantity of glue inside the groove.



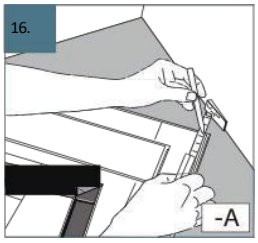
13.Install a few more rows Connect the triangles by installing a few additional rows of panels. Start each row from the left to the right with the A-panels, finish with the cut piece of panel (step 5) and then install all the B-panels in the row. Finish with the left end panel, cut to size.

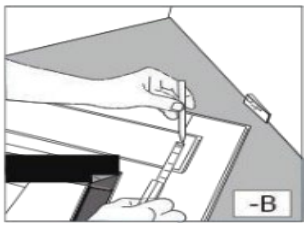


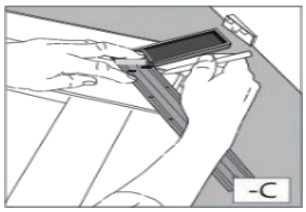
14.Put in spacers between the flooring and the wall to ensure an expansion gap of 10mm



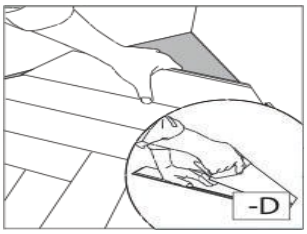
15.**Subsequent rows -**
Start each subsequent row by installing the A-panels from the left to the right and complete the row by laying the B- panels from the right to the left.

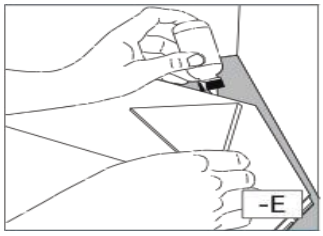


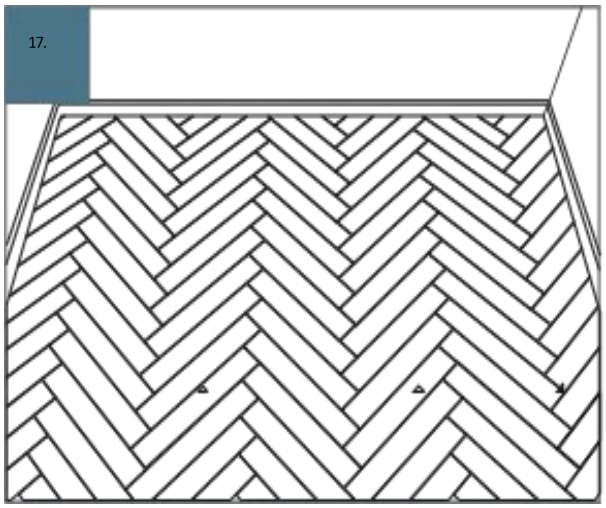




16. **Last row -**
Measure and cut the panels in the last row to size. It is recommended to use glue to install the smallest panels. Apply a small quantity of glue inside the groove.







17. Spacers and skirting Remove the spacers and cover the expansion gap with skirting boards
or beadings.

Elements Hybrid XL and Herringbone 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 OR STEAM 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 underpot plants and animal feeding or bedding areas to avoid moisture ingress.

Underfloor Heating Installation Guide for Elements Hybrid Flooring.

Elements Hybrid flooring can be installed over **hydronic heated slabs only**. However, careful attention to the installation and basic care and maintenance guidelines need to be followed.

In-Slab Hydronic is the only type of radiant heat system supported by our flooring warranty. You must follow all heating system installation & operating guidelines as provided by the system manufacturer. Heating system is not covered under flooring warranty.

Below steps must be followed in numerical order.

1. Installation of minimum of 150 um moisture barrier as per Elements installation guideline.
2. The system must be turned on and be operational for at least two weeks prior to installation.
3. Turn off the heating system for 3-4 days to allow concrete slab to reach room temperature.
4. Install floorboards as per installation guide.
5. Gradually increase the temperature in increments of 1°C per 24 hours to avoid overheating.
6. Maximum floor temperature should never exceed 27°C.
7. In-floor temperature sensor is required to avoid overheating.

Refer to underfloor heating system's manufacturer for recommendations for additional guidance on installing Hybrid flooring.