

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### LUXURY VINYL PLANK - LOOSE LAY

#### BEFORE YOU START

- All sources of moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor, and moisture levels in rooms fitted with luxury vinyl flooring should be maintained at a stable level; in line with normal living conditions. Any construction dampness (such as recently laid concrete slab, or wet paint) must be completely dry. See *Subfloors* section for more details.
- Calculate the total square meters of the space being covered and add 7% for cutting and waste.
- The product must be stored, installed and maintained in a protected and dry place with **room temperature between 14°C – 28°C**. Importantly, **rapid and significant temperature fluctuations must be avoided, and a consistent temperature aimed for, within reason**. The **surface temperature of the subfloor** at time of installation should be at least **10°C**.
- The product should be placed in the room in which it is to be fitted for 24 hours prior to installation, to acclimatise, and should be carefully stacked in its packaging, to allow air to circulate.
- Where the flooring is going to be in direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time it is recommended that the use of curtains, blinds or UV resistant film on windows be utilised.
- Check each plank for any manufacturing defects prior to installation. Any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate refund or replacement prior to the flooring being installed.
- Luxury Vinyl planks are all the same length but should be laid randomly across the floor to create the best effect. We recommend that you install the planks using a mix from several different cartons to ensure a random appearance. This will result in a more natural looking floor.
- The boards should be fitted lengthways towards the main incoming light source and, where possible, down the length of the room. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel to the length of the hallways.

#### ALL SUBFLOORS

For a subfloor to be considered suitable and appropriate for installation of this product, the subfloor must meet all of the below requirements:

- **Structurally Sound:** This product can be installed onto concrete/screed subfloors and existing wood, vinyl or tile floors provided they are dimensionally stable.
- **Flat/Even:** Deviations in any subfloor level must not exceed 2mm under a 1.2 lineal metre straight edge. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound. Please engage a professional installer's services for these tasks.
- **Clean:** Ensure the subfloor is clean and free from all contaminants and loose material by vacuuming prior to installation. Do not wash subfloor or expose it to water prior to installation.
- **Dry:** It is essential that the moisture content of any subfloor complies with the relevant Australian standard: a maximum of **5% for concrete/screed subfloors and 12% for wood subfloors**. All potential sources of moisture (e.g. walls, drains, damp proof courses, plumbing, fridges, washing machines etc.) must be thoroughly checked and rectified if found to be an issue. The final responsibility for determining if the subfloor is adequately dry for installation of the flooring lies with the installer of the product.
- **We do not recommend** the installation of our loose-lay vinyl on **subfloors with radiant heat**. The temperature change in the subfloor has too great an influence on vinyl plank's dimensional stability for this to be a risk-free application.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING WARRANTY:

This product is covered for a very competitive warranty period. In order to enjoy the peace of mind that this warranty affords and ensure the optimum performance of your floor, you must comply with all instructions relating to preparation, subfloor, installation environment, installation method, and ongoing care and maintenance. Any faults that occur as a result of failure to comply with the above, will not be covered by the warranty.

**Appropriate Settings for this product:** Residential settings and light commercial settings: areas with light to moderate traffic, such as hotels, conference rooms, classrooms, small offices, small department stores, boutiques and lobbies. NOT to be installed in areas that have a potential for flooding, such as saunas or outdoor areas. Strong, direct sunlight can influence the dimensional stability of the planks so this should be considered when choosing installation method.

# INSTALLATION

## IF INSTALLING ON CONCRETE OR SCREED SUBFLOOR

In order to avoid moisture related problems with your floor:

- The moisture vapour content of a concrete/screed subfloor must not exceed 5%.
- Freshly laid concrete/screed bases require a drying time of 1 day per 1mm of the depth of the slab, to ensure that they are adequately cured. This recommendation relies on site conditions being conducive to the drying process.
- Check existing concrete/screed bases' moisture content using either a moisture meter or sheets of polyethylene (approximately 1x1m). Tape the sheet onto the screed and place a heavy weight on top for 24 hours. If screed is discoloured, or moisture is apparent on the underside of the sheet, the slab requires further drying time.

## IF INSTALLING ON WOOD, VINYL OR TILE SUBFLOOR

In order to avoid moisture related problems with your floor:

- The moisture vapour content of a wood subfloor must not exceed 12%.
- Luxury vinyl planks can be fixed directly onto pre-installed wood (masonite, plywood, MDF or floorboards), vinyl or tile subfloors, provided this subfloor meets all of the requirements detailed at the beginning of the Subfloors section. If the subfloor is not flat and even then you will need to overlay it with structural grade plywood, masonite or MDF (min 20mm thick). All existing floorcoverings must be securely fixed to the subfloor, to minimise the risk of squeaking. Where poor adhesion between the subfloor and existing boards, planks or tiles exist, secure if possible, otherwise remove existing floor entirely.
- On a tile subfloor, grout lines that are >4mm in width and/or >2mm depth must be levelled in order to avoid the risk of telegraphing.
- On a wood subfloor, your luxury vinyl planks should be laid perpendicular to the direction of the boards below. If this is not possible, plywood sheets (minimum depth 6mm) should be nailed, stapled or screwed to cover the existing floor, allowing a 15mm perimeter gap (against walls) for expansion. The new floor can then be laid onto the plywood.

## 1 FLOATING INSTALLATION

**This Installation method is only recommended in spaces equal to or less than 5m<sup>2</sup>.** Spaces greater than this must be adhered using pressure sensitive adhesive (see next section: *Glue Down Installation*).

**Tools Required** (not supplied): knee pads, square, tape measure, pencil/marker, utility knife

- Ensure you have read and understood all of the subfloor requirements detailed in the previous section.
- Do not install your luxury vinyl plank over soft surfaces like carpet or foam underlay greater than 1mm in thickness. Should an underlay be required for acoustic reasons or improved comfort underfoot, we recommend *Dunlop Advantage 3* or *Dunlop Luxury Vinyl Cushion*.
- Measure the room before you commence laying, in order to determine its squareness, and ensure that neither your first or last row of planks laid will be less than 50mm in width, as these are difficult to install. This may mean commencing your first row from a certain distance out from your starting wall.
- Begin your installation from the left side of the room and work to the right.
- Make sure your first row is perfectly straight. This can be accomplished by laying three rows at a time, making sure to push planks tight against one another so that they are straight.
- NOTE: When cutting your vinyl planks, always use a sharp utility knife, and cut firmly into the surface of the plank twice, before bending the plank, with scored side facing out. Once the majority of the core layer has separated, run your knife through the incision from the other side of the plank to separate.
- Set up a random stagger pattern as you begin your first three rows. Cut the first boards of the next two rows to be different lengths from one another. This will add to the natural appearance of the floor.
- Do not cut any piece to be less than 400mm, as this becomes trickier to install.
- Endeavour not to have the ends of two planks within 200mm of the ends of planks in an adjacent row, as this weakens the overall installation.

## SCRIBING

- For your final plank in any row, you can determine the plank length required by scribing. This means placing a full length plank upside down and butted against the wall. Make your cut on the upturned plank, at the point where the plank beneath, ends. This will give you your final length piece.
- You can use the leftover piece of this final plank as a starter piece for a future row.
- For the first and final rows that butt up against walls, that are not full-width planks, you can determine the width required, by way of scribing (as above). Lay a new plank on top of your final full-width row. Use off-cut strips in the gap between this final full-width row and the wall, so that you can then lay another new plank upside down, and pressed firmly against the wall. Using the upside down plank as a guide, cut down the length of the face-up plank below it. Remove the off-cut from the face-up plank and place it in the gap against the wall.
- Always use cut edges against the walls and the factory-machined edge against the adjacent planks.

## 2 GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

This installation method is recommended and required for spaces greater than 5m<sup>2</sup>.

**Tools Required** (not supplied): knee pads, square, tape measure, pencil/marker, utility knife, spacer wedges.

- Ensure you have read and understood all of the subfloor requirements detailed in the previous section.
- Do not install your luxury vinyl plank over soft surfaces like carpet or foam underlay greater than 1mm in thickness. Should an underlay be required for acoustic reasons or improved comfort underfoot, we recommend *Dunlop Advantage 3*, which can be adhered to both the subfloor and the vinyl planks.
- For a glue down installation, it is very important that your subfloor conforms to the moisture content standards detailed in the *Subfloors section*. If it does not, you will need to apply a **DPM** (Damp Proof Membrane). The levelled subfloor must be allowed to dry out completely before applying a suitable liquid DPM. Comply with all instructions provided by the DPM manufacturer.
- If undertaking a glued down installation where the floor is expected to remain dry and unaffected by fluctuating humidity levels, you may use a pressure sensitive adhesive.
- If undertaking a glued down installation where the floor is expected to be exposed to moisture or high levels of humidity, you will need to use a two-part, polyurethane adhesive.
- Measure the room before you commence laying, in order to determine its squareness, and ensure that neither your first or last row of planks laid will be less than 50mm in width, as these are difficult to install. This may mean commencing your first row from a certain distance out from your starting wall.
- Begin your installation from the left side of the room and work to the right.
- Make sure your first row is perfectly straight. This can be accomplished by laying three rows at a time, making sure to push planks tight against one another so that they are straight.
- It is advised that you mark out a reference line for where your first row of planks will lay (if not flush against your starting wall) as this line will guide you regarding where to apply your adhesive.
- Obey all adhesive manufacturer's instructions regarding adhesive quantity and drying time. We advise the use of a V1 notched trowel to apply the adhesive in order to ensure the appropriate spread and adequate surface contact.
- Apply adhesive in a gradual approach, allowing yourself room to manoeuvre around your installation space without stepping in the adhesive. Always allow adequate curing time for adhesive, as per the manufacturer's recommendations.
- **NOTE:** When cutting your vinyl planks, always use a sharp utility knife, and cut firmly into the surface of the plank, before bending the plank, with scored side facing out. Once the majority of the core layer has separated, run your knife through the incision from the other side of the plank, to separate.
- Set up a random stagger pattern as you begin your first three rows. Cut the first boards of the next two rows to be different lengths from one another. This will add to the natural appearance of the floor.
- Do not cut any piece to be less than 400mm, as this becomes trickier to install.
- Endeavour not to have the ends of two planks within 200mm of the ends of planks in an adjacent row, as this weakens the overall installation.
- Stand on the already laid planks to avoid stepping in the adhesive, as you move across the room.
- Use a roller (or the back of a broom head) to apply pressure to each installed plank, to ensure optimal surface area is being held by the adhesive.
- Continually ensure that planks are fitted straight and tight against adjacent rows, as this will be difficult to fix retrospectively.
- Continue installation process as detailed under **Scribing** in the previous installation section.

## FINISHING OFF

- The perimeter of the floor can either be finished by re-fitting any pre-existing trims that were removed for installation, by filling any visible joints/gaps with a non-silicon based filler (e.g. Fuller Caulk In Colours) or by installing Heartridge Smoked Oak Scotia
- At doorways, a door threshold strip should be used to protect the edges of the floor and provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.

# CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- Use only approved laminate or luxury vinyl floor cleaning products. Do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool or scouring powder as this may damage the surface of your floor.
- Sweep or vacuum regularly, using soft bristle attachments.
- We advise using a dry or damp (rung out until no more drops are present) cloth for regular cleaning of the floor. Wipe up any moisture spills immediately with a damp cloth.
- Do not use a steam mop to clean your floor if pressure sensitive adhesive has been used beneath the planks. The moisture applied by the steam mop will deteriorate the adhesive over time.
- It is recommended that you use felt pads under chairs and furniture, plastic mats under chairs with wheels and rubber-based castor cups underneath heavy furniture such as armchairs, fridges and pianos. When shifting furniture, never drag heavy items across the surface of your floor.
- Doormats should be used inside and outside of all external doorways to prevent grit from being carried across the floor, increasing wear and tear of the floor's surface. Mats or rugs are recommended in any area that is highly trafficked. Do not use rubber-backed mats as they can react with the coating of the product.
- Protect your floor from wear and tear resulting from pet's nails by keeping them trimmed, and placing mats in areas frequented by the animal(s).
- Maintain room temperature between 14°C – 28°C and avoid rapid or significant temperature fluctuations.
- In bathrooms and laundries, ensure adequate ventilation or air-flow is maintained.
- Long-term exposure to direct sunlight can cause the product to change shade. If this is a concern, we recommend the use of curtains, blinds or UV resistant film on windows.
- Damaged boards can be replaced by simply using any sharp, flat implement to pry up a board at an end join. If pressure sensitive adhesive has been used underneath the plank, make sure you clean up any residual adhesive and reapply before replacing the plank.



For more information contact Dunlop Flooring on  
**1800 622 293** or visit [heartridge.com.au](http://heartridge.com.au)