

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

LUXURY VINYL PLANK

Appropriate Settings: Residential settings and commercial settings: areas with light to moderate traffic, such as hotels, conference rooms, classrooms, small offices, small department stores, boutiques and lobbies. This product is designed for internal installation only – it is NOT to be installed in areas that have a potential for flooding, such as saunas or outdoor areas. This product is not suitable for installation in garages, as discolouration of the surface of the planks can occur as a result of prolonged contact with rubber. Strong, direct sunlight can influence the dimensional stability of the planks so this should be considered when choosing installation method.

BEFORE YOU START

- All aspects of installation should comply with **Australian Standard AS1884: 2012**.
- Concrete sub floors must be tested in accordance with AS1884-2012 for moisture using the relative humidity in-situ probe test and pH. RH levels should not exceed 75% and pH levels should not exceed 10.
- Calculate the total square meters of the space being covered and add 5% for cutting and waste.
- Check each plank for any manufacturing defects prior to installation. Any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for replacement prior to the flooring being installed.

ACCLIMATISATION

- 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. Boxes should have one end of the carton open and be stored no more than 5 high to avoid damage and maximise acclimatisation.
- The product must be stored, installed and maintained in a protected and dry place, with room **temperature between 14°C – 28°C**, and **relative humidity between 40 – 65%**. The temperature and humidity must remain within this range for the entire installation period and a minimum of **24 hours** after installation completion.
- Storing cartons in direct sunlight may affect proper acclimation by inducing thermal expansion/contraction.
- The subfloor shall not be exposed to direct sunlight for a period of **48 hours** either side of installation period, including throughout the installation process. This is to prevent thermally induced dimensional changes of the product.
- It is highly recommended that the planks, subfloor and adhesives are all maintained at the same temperature.

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.

SUBFLOORS

The below requirements apply to all subfloor options detailed throughout this document and must be paid careful attention to in order to minimise the risk of problems occurring with your flooring post-installation.

All substrates must be structurally sound, flat/even, clean and dry:

- **Structurally Sound:** This product can be installed onto concrete subfloors, existing vinyl or ceramic tile floors provided they are not cushioned and are dimensionally stable. Existing engineered wood floors, strip timber wood floors, laminate floors, particleboard (aka: chipboard, Yellow Tongue, etc.) are not considered to be suitable subfloors for vinyl planks.
- **Flat/Even:** Deviations in any subfloor level must not exceed **3mm under a 2-lineal metre straight edge**. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound. The subfloor must be free of grooves, ridges, gaps (exceeding 1 mm), holes and similar imperfections, otherwise an underlay or underlayment must be used. Please engage a professional installer's services for these tasks.
- **Clean:** Ensure the subfloor is clean and free from all contaminants, such as paint, adhesives and curing compounds by means of grinding, as required. Subfloor should be vacuumed thoroughly to remove any loose materials, prior to installation.
- **Dry:** It is essential that the moisture content of any subfloor complies with the relevant Australian standard: a maximum of **75% relative humidity for concrete subfloors** and **10 – 14% moisture content 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.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR

- In order to avoid moisture related problems with your floor, the concrete must have been installed using good building practices and must be cured, dry and have a damp proof membrane installed.
- Relative humidity of the concrete must not exceed 75% when tested to ASTM2170.
- Existing concrete subfloor's moisture content can be checked using a moisture meter. Your floor must not be fitted until the problem has been rectified.

HEATED SUBFLOORS

It is not recommended to install vinyl plank flooring over an electrical radiant heating system. Hydronic radiant heating systems are acceptable provided the following instructions are complied with:

- **Ensure the surface temperature never exceeds 28°C.**
- Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the subfloor. Once this has been completed, switch off your radiant heating system for installation of the flooring.
- It is recommended that the radiant heat be applied in a gradual manner after installing the flooring and not until the adhesive has completely cured.
- Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

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 **10 – 14%**.
- Due to environmentally influenced dimensional stability, vinyl planks **should not be installed on particleboard** or strip timber subfloors. You will need to overlay such subfloors with plywood, Masonite or MDF/HDF flooring underlay. This is in line **with Australian Standard AS1884: 2012**.
- 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
- Due to the risk of 'telegraphing', tiled subfloors must be screeded. Please note that Feather Finish® alone will not be sufficient for this purpose. Please refer to a tiling/grouting manufacturer for further instructions.

INSTALLATION

Vinyl is a thermoplastic and as such, it expands and contracts subject to changes in temperature. The manufacture of luxury vinyl plank is governed by **ISO 10582 Resilient Floor Coverings – Heterogeneous poly (vinyl chloride) floor coverings – Specification** that dictates that dimensional stability must not exceed a 0.25% of the dimensions of the plank. Dunlop Flooring are proud to state that all our vinyl planks contain fibreglass and other components that aid in enhancing dimensional stability. Our planks perform significantly better than the standard.

Expansion and contraction is significantly reduced through compliance with our installation guidelines, particularly adhesive application. It is very important that all guidelines published by Dunlop Flooring and the adhesive manufacturer are followed closely to reduce the natural occurrence of expansion/contraction in vinyl products.

ADHESIVE

Luxury vinyl planks must be adhered using a **HARD-SET (PERMANENT) ADHESIVE** that is recommended by the manufacturer for use with vinyl planks and relevant to specific site conditions.

The below guidelines must be followed in order to ensure a successful bond between subfloor and plank:

- Apply adhesive using a **V1 or V2 notched trowel**, dependent on adhesive manufacturer's recommendations.
- Ongoing in-room temperature consistently between **14-28°C**
- Ongoing in-room relative humidity is between 40-65%
- For **48 hours** prior to installation, during the installation process and throughout the adhesive curing period the subfloor must be protected from direct sunlight and subfloor temperature must be maintained between 14 - 28°C. pH must not exceed 10.
- Concrete subfloors do not exceed 75% relative humidity and timber subfloors fall within 10 - 14% moisture content.
- Please ensure that adhesive is applied in such a manner as to achieve a **95% transfer rate** of adhesive to the back of planks.
- Working and open times of adhesives may vary based on job conditions, substrate, temperature, and humidity.
- If the floor is expected to be exposed to moisture, high levels of humidity, or significant direct sunlight, you will need to use a two-part, polyurethane adhesive. Examples of these settings are: windows/doors with a continuous full sun exposure, heaters/fireplaces, laundries, bathrooms, areas of high water spillage etc.

If a curing compound has been used, please contact your adhesive supplier for a recommendation for suitable adhesive. If in doubt about appropriate adhesives to use, consult your adhesive supplier to confirm adhesive suitability and application.

BEFORE COMMENCING INSTALLATION

Ensure that:

- You have read and understood all the subfloor requirements detailed in the previous section.
- You have an adequate quantity of material to finish and that it is from one dye lot.
- You are not installing your luxury vinyl plank over soft surfaces like carpet or foam underlay. Should an underlay be required for acoustic reasons or improved comfort underfoot, we recommend Dunlop Advantage 3.
- During the installation process, your flooring must be protected from direct sunlight by use of curtains, blinds or UV resistant film on windows. If these options are not possible, use paper or cardboard to block incoming sunlight from windows.

SETTING UP YOUR LAYOUT

- It is customary to centre rooms and hallways, so borders are not less than half a tile or plank.
- It is recommended to install the length direction of the planks perpendicular to the window or main light source. For the best result, make sure to always work from 3 to 4 cartons at a time, mixing the planks during the installation.
- In hallways and small spaces, it may be simpler to work lengthwise from one end using a centre reference line as a guide.
- Make sure cut edges are always against the wall.
- We recommend dry fitting first (without glue). Start the first row with a whole plank in length.
- Carefully place the first piece of plank at the junction of the chalk lines.
- Continue to lay the plank, making sure each plank flush against the chalk line and tight against the adjoining plank.

APPLYING ADHESIVE

- Adhesive should be applied using a **V1** or **V2 Notch trowel** (dependent on manufacturer's instructions) and by following the manufacturer's recommendations with regard to set up, working and drying time.
- A transfer rate **95%** minimum is required for a successful install and is required so as not to void the Product Warranty.
- To aid adhesive transfer and optimal bonding, roll the installation area in both directions with a **three sectioned, steel roller** that is at least **45 kg**. Ensure the rolling is undertaken within the time limitations of the adhesive as specified by the manufacturers.
- Specific adhesive recommendations are available on the Dunlop Flooring Website.

LAYING THE PLANKS

- Draw your planks from 3 boxes at a time to ensure there are no shading or pattern repeat issues.
- Starting from the left wall lay the planks along the line in one row, once you reach the end, butt a plank against the wall and lay it over the last plank in the row. Score along the end of the overlapped plank with a sharp knife, marking the plank underneath.
- Snap the plank by gently bending it in your hands and carefully trim any excess material.
- This cut plank should now fill the space between the last plank and the wall.
- Keep the off-cut and use it to start your next row moving in the opposite direction. This will give you a natural staggered pattern which is recommended for the best visual effect.
- As you install each plank against the previous one, ensure that any end gaps are firmly butted together. This can be achieved by using an off-cut piece of vinyl placed against the plank you have just laid, and using a hammer or mallet against the vinyl off-cut to gently tap any gaps closed.
- Ensure that no end joints are less than **400mm** distance of the end joints in adjacent rows of planks.
- Continue this way until you reach the front or rear wall and then lay a spare plank tight along the wall and mark the length of the plank underneath. Continue doing the same as needed throughout, ensuring there are no gaps against any perimeter walls or permanent fixtures.
- Always use cut edges against the walls and the factory-machined edge against the adjacent planks.

POST INSTALLATION

- It is recommended that plywood be placed over the floor during the movement or replacement of furniture or any heavy objects for 48 hours after the installation.
- The floor shall not be exposed to direct sunlight for a period of 24 hours following installation. This is to prevent thermally induced dimensional changes of the product.



For more information contact Dunlop Flooring on
1800 622 293 or visit heartridge.com.au

