

## Important Notice Regarding Warranty

Any faults that occur as a result of failure to comply with these installation instructions will not be covered by the product warranty.

The products must be inspected prior to installation and any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate replacement prior to the flooring being installed. Dunlop Flooring will not be responsible for installation cost claims where flooring was installed with obvious defects.

In order to enjoy the peace of mind of this product's warranty 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 of the floor.

Special attention needs to be given to areas where direct sunlight from floor to ceiling windows can significantly raise the temperature of the floor. It is recommended that blinds, tints or window curtains are used to protect the floor from the heat of the direct Sun.

**ALL OF THESE FACTORS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN CHOOSING BOTH PRODUCT AND INSTALLATION METHOD.**

## APPROPRIATE SETTINGS

Suitable for use in residential settings or commercial areas, such as hotels, conference rooms, health care, child care, education, 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.

For wet areas including bathrooms and laundries refer to the relevant National Construction Code (NCC) and Australian Standard 3740:2010.

## Pre-Installation

- Pre-Installation should comply with **Australian Standard AS1884:2012**.

### A) ACCLIMATISATION

- It is best practice to acclimatise planks on site where they will be installed for 24 hours prior to installation. The temperature must be kept between 15-28°C. The room temperature must also be kept between 15-28°C during installation.
- Always handle, store and transport the planks carefully to prevent distortions. Store and transport cartons on a flat surface in neat stacks.

### B) SUBFLOOR

The requirements below apply to all subfloor and careful attention must be paid in order to minimise the potential risk of issues occurring following the installation of the floor.

**All substrates must be, structurally sound, plain, smooth, clean and dry:**

- **Structurally Sound:** This product can be installed onto concrete subfloors and existing timber sub floors, provided they are not cushioned and are dimensionally stable (*Refer to Timber Sub floor section*). Hybrid Planks can be

installed over existing PVC, Linoleum and Ceramic Tiles. Carpet, carpet underlay and/or existing floating floors are not a suitable subfloor. (For ceramic tiled floor coverings please see subsection **B.2) Tile Sub Floor**)

- **Plain:** Deviations in any subfloor level must not exceed 2mm under a 1 lineal metre straight edge. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound.
- **Smooth:** Must not exceed 1mm over a 150mm straight edge on concrete, wood and slate subfloors. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound. Ceramic and porcelain tiles please refer to **B.2.) Tile Sub Floor**.
- **Clean:** Ensure the subfloor is clean, 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 **Australian standard 1884:2012** a maximum of **75% relative humidity for concrete subfloors and 10 – 14% moisture content for wood subfloors**. A high reading of Relative Humidity (RH) or Moisture Content (MC) will affect the integrity of the subfloor.

**The final responsibility for determining if the subfloor is adequately suitable for installation of the flooring, lies with the installer of the product.**

### **B.1) TIMBER SUB FLOOR**

- Hybrid planks can be installed on particleboard or strip timber subfloors; however, the installation of a 200-micron black builders' plastic must be installed under the Hybrid Planks to ensure the product's backing does not grip on the fibrous subfloor.
- Existing timber floors should be securely fixed, to minimise the risk of squeaking.

### **B.2) TILE SUB FLOOR**

- For existing Terrazzo, Marble, Slate and other textured non-porous surfaces, the Plane and Smooth criteria mentioned in **B.) Subfloors** General are applicable.
- For existing Ceramic and Porcelain Tiles grout joints wider than 3mm and deeper than 2mm should be filled with an appropriate levelling compound.
- The floor must be sound and firmly fixed, and any loose or powdery material removed from the joints.
- Any loose tiles should be removed and repaired to a structurally sound condition.

### **B.3) HEATED SUBFLOORS**

**Always refer to the underfloor heating system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance on installing Hybrid flooring and the compatibility with their system.**

- Electrical underfloor heating system

It is **not recommended** to install hybrid plank flooring over an electrical underfloor heating system.

- Hydronic underfloor heating systems

**This is acceptable provided the following instructions are complied with:**

- Before installing over the newly installed heating system, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the subfloor.
- Once this has been completed, switch off the heating system for installation of the flooring.
- It is recommended that the heat be applied in a gradual manner after installing the flooring.
- Ensure the **surface temperature never exceeds 28°C**.

### **B.4 RUBBER & CORK ACOUSTICS UNDERLAYS**

- **Hybrid flooring is a floating floor which will float freely on the sub floor.**
- **A cork or rubber crumb acoustic underlay may cause friction with the foam backing on the planks.** Installation of a 200-micron black builders' plastic must be installed under the Hybrid Planks to ensure the product's backing does not grip on the cork or rubber underlay.

## C) LAYOUT

- Check each plank for any manufacturing defects prior to installation. Dunlop Flooring will not be responsible for installation cost claims where flooring was installed with obvious defects.
- Hybrid Planks are manufactured to a consistent length with a limited pattern repeat. To achieve the most natural and realistic finish the planks should be laid randomly across the floor. This will result in a more natural looking floor, minimising pattern repeat.
- The boards should be fitted to run the length of the longest, straightest wall. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel to the length of the hallways.
- Before laying commences, carefully measure the length and width of the rooms and hallways, plan the layout so the floors look balanced and ensuring borders are not less than half a plank width from the wall.

## Installation

- Ensure you have read and understood all the subfloor requirements detailed in the previous section.
- A perimeter expansion gap of a minimum of 10 mm is required around perimeter walls, permanent fixtures (benches, cabinetry, pipes, etc.). This gap can be covered with skirting, scotia or other profiles available.
- Skirting boards and door frames should be removed or undercut to allow for expansion.
- It is recommended a scotia / skirting of 15mm – 20mm is used as the floor may contract during colder periods / seasons allowing for coverage.

**Note:** Dunlop Flooring offer a matching 20mm scotia for our Hybrid Plank ranges, that will cover these expansion gaps.

- Adhesives are not recommended in the installation of this product.
- In doorways between adjoining rooms, the use of expansion joints should be utilised to compartmentalise your flooring to allow the area in the adjoining room to expand and contract independently.
- Areas that exceed 200m<sup>2</sup> (or 20m in length or 10m in width) should also be compartmentalised by expansion joints.
- Do not install kitchen benches or fittings on top of the Hybrid planks. This will pin the floor in place and prevent it from floating freely.
- No fillers such as silicon or caulking agents are to be used around the perimeter of the installed area, as it will not allow the floor to float, expand and contract as it is designed to do.
- Never attach the skirting boards or scotia to the floor. This method does not allow the floor to expand and contract under the skirting boards/scotia.
- These planks utilise an innovative Valinge 2G locking mechanism. For more information and installation videos please see Valinge 2G Install Instructions.



*This link will take you to an external video source:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4RmlaUsA1k>*

- Planks are to be laid from left to right. Choose your starting corner and place your first plank against your spacer wedges to maintain the required expansion gap of 10mm. On the long side of the plank the groove should be facing towards the room, with the tongue facing the wall.
- Continue installing the remainder of the first row in the same fashion until you reach the end of the room, and cut a plank to length, ensuring that you maintain the 10mm expansion gap.
- Install the first plank of the second row by angling the tongue of the side-joint into the groove of the first row.
- Slowly lower this plank down whilst maintaining pressure towards the previous row of installed planks. Once locked properly the planks should be sitting flush.
- For the remaining planks in the row, place a one-inch wedge under the first plank of the second row lifting the board to rest at an angle.

- Take another board and angle the new board into the short end of the angled board.
- Once the short end joint is engaged locate the long side join of the new board into the lock of plank of the first row.
- Slide the wedge onto the newly engaged board and continue the process along the second row.

**Note:** End joins should never be closer than 150mm to the end joins of parallel rows. This weakens the stability of the floating installation.

- Should a plank need to be disengaged, **DO NOT** attempt to remove it by simply lifting or pulling the plank up. The plank in need of removal first must be angled to disengage the lock along the length of the plank. Whilst holding the plank on this angle, slide the plank towards you. The end join will allow the plank to slide free.

**Like natural flooring products, Hybrid flooring products also expand and contract with environmental changes like temperature and humidity. Expansion and contraction are significantly reduced through compliance with our installation guidelines.**

## Finishing Off

- The perimeter of the floor can be finished by refitting any pre-existing trims that were removed for installation.
- Remember the use silicon or caulking agents will stop the floor from floating, expanding and contracting and will therefore void the warranty.
- At doorways, a door threshold strip to be used to protect the edges of the floor and provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.

