

Installation Instructions

Vinyl Plank

ATTENTION:

Please review all the information before installing this product, all factors need to be considered when choosing product and adhesive. Safe working practice must be followed throughout installation. PPE should be worn as required. Warranty claims are subjected to following installation instructions and care & maintenance recommendations.

A. GENERAL

1. Vinyl planks are suitable for use in residential settings or commercial areas, such as hotels, conference rooms, health care, childcare, education, 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 potential for flooding, such as saunas or outdoor areas.
2. Vinyl planks are not suitable for installation in garages, as discolouration of the surface of the planks can occur as a result of prolonged contact with rubber.
3. All vinyl planks installed in wet areas including bathrooms and laundries do not meet the National Construction Code (NCC) and Australian Standard 3740:2021.
4. Inspect all planks in good lighting before installation. Defective planks must not be installed, otherwise it is recognised as the acceptance of all visual and obvious defects.
5. Changing temperature during different seasons can cause changing in dimensions. Visible joints between planks are a characteristic of vinyl flooring.
6. 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.
7. It is highly recommended that all planks for the same flooring project are to be ordered at the same time. Compatibility of the planks in the repeated order cannot be guaranteed.
8. Ensure that the post installation floor is protected from other trades.
9. Dunlop Flooring strongly recommends that installation is to be carried out by a professional installer
10. Ensure that the flooring is installed according to Australian Standard AS 1884:2021 and adhesive manufacturer's directions.

B. PRE-INSTALLATION

Acclimatisation:

1. Always handle, store and transport Vinyl planks carefully to prevent distortions. Store and transport cartons on a flat surface in neat stacks. The product, adhesive and subfloor should ALL be maintained for a minimum of 24 hours at the same temperature between 15-28°C and relative humidity (RH) between 35-75% in the room in which it is to be installed. The room temperature must also be kept between 15-28°C during installation. Refer to the adhesive manufacturer's post installation for curing requirements.
2. Vinyl planks must be removed from packaging and rested flat or stored flat and be allowed to acclimatise in the room the installation is to occur. As part of the acclimatisation process, dry laying is the optimum way to acclimatise the product to the subfloor
3. Acclimatisation is critical because vinyl is reactive to temperature change. As it heats up, it will grow, while when cooling it will shrink. As such, the planks must be brought to the correct temperature range before the job and kept there until the adhesive has fully cured. This will prevent gapping and peaking of your planks while the adhesive is drying.

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Subfloors:

- Careful attention must be paid in order to minimise the risk of problems occurring with flooring post installation. All subfloor preparation must comply with Australian Standard AS1884:2021.
- All substrates must be structurally sound, plain, smooth, clean and dry.
- Structurally Sound: This product can be installed onto concrete subfloors and existing timber subfloors, provided they are not cushioned and are dimensionally stable (Refer to Timber Subfloor section). Existing floor coverings are not considered to be a structurally suitable subfloor. (For existing ceramic tiled floor coverings please see Tiled Floors)
- Plain: Deviations in any subfloor level must not exceed 4mm under a 2 lineal metre straight edge. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound.
- Smooth: Must not exceed 0.5mm over a 150mm straight edge. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound.
- Clean: Ensure the subfloor is clean and free from all contaminant materials such as grease, oil, paint, existing floorcoverings and their adhesives, curing or parting agents, any surface treatment, particularly oxides, mark-out paints, wax crayons which could adversely affect adhesion, discolouration or any other detrimental effect shall be removed from the subfloor via mechanical means. 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 1884:2021 a maximum of 80% RH for concrete subfloors and 10-14% moisture content for wood subfloors. A high reading of RH or Moisture Content (MC) will affect the integrity of the subfloor and the bonding of the adhesive.
- The final responsibility for determining if the subfloor is adequately suitable for the installation of the flooring lies with the installer of the product.

Timber Floors:

- Vinyl planks should not be directly installed on particleboard or strip timber subfloors. You will need to overlay such subfloors with plywood, Masonite, MDF/HDF flooring or suitable underlayment designed to stabilise the particleboard. Please ensure that the stabilisation process complies with Australian Standard AS1884:2021 and the particleboard/underlayment manufacturer's instructions.
- Existing timber floors should be securely fixed to minimise the risk of squeaking.

Tiled Floors:

- This also includes Existing Terrazzo, Ceramic Tile, Marble, Slate and other non-porous surfaces.
- The floor must be sound and firmly fixed, and any loose or powdery material removed from the joints.
- The surface should be thoroughly washed to remove any surface contaminants and any cracks should be cleaned out and rectified according to Australian Standard AS1884:2021.
- The surface may also need some mechanical abrasion to enable the smoothing underlayment to key to the surface.
- Dunlop Flooring recommends a self-levelling underlayment of at least 3mm thickness to provide a uniform surface and porosity for acrylic adhesives prior to the installation of the resilient floor coverings, to remove grout lines and achieve the required smoothness and planeness as per Australian Standard AS1884:2021. Please note that patching compounds will not be sufficient for this purpose due to the risk of 'telegraphing'.
- The smoothing underlayment supplier will advise on the correct product to use from their range that suits both the end use application and subfloor construction. If applicable, they will also advise on the correct primer to apply.

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Heated Subfloors:

20. Always refer to the underfloor heating system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance on installing vinyl flooring and the compatibility with their system.
21. Electrical underfloor heating system: It is not recommended to install vinyl plank flooring over an electrical underfloor heating system.
22. Hydronic underfloor heating system: This is acceptable provided the following instructions are complied with:
23. (a) Before installing over the newly installed heating system, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the subfloor. (b) Once this has been completed, switch off the heating system for installation of the flooring. (c) It is recommended that the heat be applied in a gradual manner after installing the flooring. After installing the flooring, increase the temperature in 5-degree increments per day.
24. Ensure the surface temperature never exceeds 28°C.

Acoustic Underlays:

25. *For details on acoustic requirements please contact your Dunlop Flooring representative or Dunlop Flooring on 1800 622 293.*

Layout and Dry laying:

26. Dunlop Flooring recommends dry laying to produce the optimum appearance. It is necessary to carefully plan and set out the planks. It is best practise to dry lay the floor so that it can be determined whether the appearance of the pattern is acceptable and to determine the sizes of cuts along parallel walls in the area.
27. Dry laying also assists in acclimatisation and complying with open time of the adhesive. 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. We recommend that you install the planks using a mix from several

different cartons.

28. 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.
29. Before laying commences, carefully measure the length and width of the rooms and hallways. Plan the layout so the floors look balanced and to ensure borders are not less than half a tile or plank from the wall.

Adhesive Selection:

30. Dunlop Flooring luxury vinyl planks must be adhered using a HARD-SET (PERMANENT) ADHESIVE that is recommended by the manufacturer.
31. Following comprehensive testing by Dunlop Flooring on leading adhesive brands in the market, Dunlop strongly recommends the use of Nexus NA870 hard-set adhesive when installing Dunlop vinyl planks. The tests carried out by Dunlop Flooring demonstrated that NA870 installed according to the adhesive guidelines provided a superior bond strength, assisting product stability and performance. Testing has shown that the use of Nexus NA870 adhesive significantly added to the installation lifespan, and it will reduce the risk of gapping, curling and shrinking of the Vinyl planks (common features of a thermoplastic product). For more information, please see our website.
32. If the floor is expected to be exposed to moisture, high levels of humidity, significant direct sunlight or large temperature fluctuations, a full spread two-part polyurethane or an epoxy adhesive is required. Examples of these settings: windows/ doors with full sun exposure, heaters/ fireplaces, laundries, bathrooms, areas of high- water spillage etc.
33. It is critical to obtain 100% adhesive transfer to the back of the planks whilst the adhesive is still wet (as per AS 1884 2021 Appendix F.3). Planks should be rolled in both directions progressively within 15 minutes of being laid into wet adhesive with a 45Kg, three sectioned, steel roller.
34. Planks should be checked at regular intervals to ensure they are being laid to ensure they meet the required adhesive transfer rate of 100%.
35. To help ensure the planks go into a wet bed of

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adhesive, it is recommended that the planks are dry laid in preparation for quick installation into wet adhesive. This ensures that the rolling will be effective at spreading out the trowel lines of adhesive and reduces the issues associated with late placement (poor bond strength).

36. Please adhere to the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines on trowel size.
37. Working and open times of adhesives may vary based on job conditions, substrate, temperature and humidity. Please refer to adhesive manufacturer's installation instructions.
38. Please refer to the Dunlop Flooring recommended adhesive list which can be obtained on Dunlop Flooring Online (DFO) or from your Dunlop Flooring Representative.

C. INSTALLATION:

1. It is recommended that the installation should take place at the lower end of the recommended temperature range (15-28 °C). This aids in minimising thermal induced dimensional changes.
2. 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 suitable moisture barrier prior to the installation of your vinyl flooring. Follow the moisture barrier manufacturer's instructions for installation.
3. Do not leave an expansion gap when installing vinyl planks. Planks must be butted up tight against perimeter walls on all sides.
4. Caulking and silicon is not to be used around the perimeter of the installed area.
5. Always use cut edges against the walls and the factory-machined edge against the adjacent planks.
6. Roll the entire installation progressively in both directions using a 45kg, three sectioned, steel roller, complying with the adhesive manufacturer's recommended open time.
7. Expansion and contraction of vinyl products are significantly reduced through compliance with our installation guidelines, particularly with the adhesive application.

D. FINISHING OFF:

1. The perimeter of the floor can be finished by refitting any pre-existing trims that were removed for installation.
2. At doorways, a door threshold strip is to be used to protect the edges of the floor and provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.