

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 3740:2021. To ensure the joints between the plank comply to the NCC, a water proofing floor sealer is to be applied as per AS 3740 Clause 2.4.3(b).

Pre-Installation

- Pre-Installation should comply with **Australian Standard AS1884:2021**.
- During the installation process, your flooring should be protected from direct sunlight by use of curtains or blinds to assist throughout the installation period. If these options are not possible, use paper or cardboard to screen incoming sunlight through the windows.

A) ACCLIMATISATION

- The product, adhesive and subfloor should ALL be maintained at the same temperature (15-28°C) in the room in which it is to be installed for a minimum 24 hours pre installation. The room temperature must also be kept between 15-28°C during installation and **refer to adhesive manufacturers curing requirements for post installation curing requirements**.
- Always handle, store and transport Vinyl carefully to prevent distortions. Store and transport cartons on a flat surface in neat stacks.
- Vinyl planks must be removed from packaging and rested flat or stored flat and allowed to acclimatise in the room the installation is to occur.

B) SUBFLOORS

The requirements below 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 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 sub floors, provided they are not cushioned and are dimensionally stable (Refer to Timber Sub floor section). Existing floor coverings are not considered to be a structurally suitable subfloor. (For existing ceramic tiled floor coverings please see subsection **B.2) 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 1mm 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.

***Note:** 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 and the bonding of the adhesive.

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 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 underlayments designed to stabilise particleboard and the stabilization process complying with **Australian Standard AS1884:2021 and particleboard/underlayment manufacturer instructions**.
- Existing timber floors should be securely fixed, to minimise the risk of squeaking.

B.2) 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 cleaned out and rectified 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.

B.3) HEATED SUBFLOORS

Always refer to the underfloor heating system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance on installing vinyl 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 ACOUSTIC UNDERLAYS

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

C) LAYOUT & DRY LAYING

- **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.**
- 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 determine the sizes of cuts along parallel walls in the area.
- 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.
- 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 tile or plank from the wall.

D) ADHESIVE SELECTION

Adhesive Recommendations

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 plank's.

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, the use of Nexus NA870 adhesive significantly added to the installation lifespan, and will reduce the risk of gaping, curling and shrinking of the LVT planks (common features of a thermoplastic product). **For more information please see our website.**

- Dunlop Flooring 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.
- 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.

- It is critical to obtain a minimum of 95% adhesive transfer to the back of the planks whilst the adhesive is still wet. Please adhere to the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines on trowel size.
- This can be achieved by adherence to the open time of the adhesive and use of a 45Kg, three sectioned, steel roller.
- Working and open times of adhesives may vary based on job conditions, substrate, temperature and humidity. Please refer to adhesive manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Please refer to the Dunlop Flooring recommended adhesive list which can be obtained on Dunlop Flooring Online (DFO) or your Dunlop Flooring Representative.

Installation

- Ensure you have read and understood all the subfloor requirements detailed in the previous section.
- It is recommended that the installation take place at the lower end of temperature range (15-28 °C) that the installation environment will experience. This aids in minimising thermal induced dimensional changes.
- 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 moisture barrier manufacturer's instructions for installation.
- **Do not leave an expansion gap** when installing vinyl planks; Planks must be butted up tight against perimeter walls on all sides.
- Caulking and silicon is not to be used around the perimeter of the installed area,
- Always use cut edges against the walls and the factory-machined edge against the adjacent planks.
- **Roll the entire installation progressively** in both directions using a **45Kg, three sectioned, steel roller**, complying with the adhesive manufacturers recommended open time.

Similar to natural flooring products, man-made 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, particularly adhesive application.

Finishing Off

- The perimeter of the floor can be finished by refitting any pre-existing trims that were removed for installation.
- 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.



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

