



Q F L O O R S

Exquisite Flooring

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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ENGINEERED HYBRID FLOORING

# Installation instructions

## ENGINEERED HYBRID FLOORING

Thank you for choosing our product. When properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years.

**WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEAD-BLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC“CUTBACK” ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.**

These products may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material.

See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

Please read all the instructions before you begin the installation. We recommend that you use a professional installer to install this flooring. For warranty purposes, the installation of this flooring must comply in accordance with AS/NZS 1884-2012 Floor coverings Resilient sheets and tiles-practices.

### I. GENERAL PREPARATIONS

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

After installation, make sure that the flooring is not be exposed to temperatures less than  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  or greater than  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

It is preferable to lay boards following the direction of the main source of light. For the best result, make sure to always work from 2 to 3 cartons at a time, mixing the planks during the installation.

**TOOLS REQUIRED:** Spacers, rubber mallet, ruler, pencil, tape measure, utility knife.

- Prior to installation, inspect material in daylight for visible faults or damage. We will NOT accept claims regarding faults or defects after installation and only within 7 days of receiving goods.
- Check if subfloor and site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied, do not install, and contact your supplier.
- Flooring products can be damaged by rough handling before installation. Exercise care when handling and transporting these products.

Transport and handle the flooring planks carefully to prevent any damage. Store cartons flat, never on the side edge or you risk damaging the click mechanism.

- Flooring products can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper lifting techniques when handling these products. Whenever possible, make use of material-handling equipment such as trollies or material carts. Never lift more than you can safely handle, get assistance.
- Calculate the room surface prior to installation and plan an extra 5 - 10% of flooring for cutting waste.
- The environment where the flooring is to be installed is critically important with regard to successful installation and continued performance of the flooring products. The flooring is intended to be installed in interior locations only. These interior locations must meet climatic and structural requirements as well.
- Flooring should only be installed in temperature-controlled environments. It is necessary to maintain a constant temperature before, during and after the installation. Portable heaters are not recommended as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.
- This product does not need acclimatisation.
- For floor surfaces exceeding 150m<sup>2</sup> or lengths exceeding 12m, use expansion strips or specified moldings to allow for expansion and contraction. Not doing so can possibly lead to permanent damage of the floor due to extreme weather conditions.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Flooring may be installed with a direct glue-down method on approved wooden (or) concrete substrates that are on or above grade only. Use only premium pressure-sensitive vinyl flooring adhesive. Please consult with adhesive manufacturer to determine if suitable for use with this material.

For glue down method follow adhesive manufacture installation instructions.

## II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

- Inspect your subfloor before you begin, it must be clean, dry and level upto 3mm within 3 meters. Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, any foreign matter and contaminates.
- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.
- Although this floor is waterproof, it is not aimed to be used as a moisture barrier. The subfloor must be dry. Moisture emission from subfloor cannot exceed 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test in accordance with ASTM F1869-04 or ASTM F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity not to exceed 75%.
- This product is also not to be installed in areas that have a risk of flooding such as saunas or outdoor areas.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Radiant Heat: Radiant heat systems must have a minimum of 1/2" separation from the product. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 30°C. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

In-floor Radiant Heat: Flooring can be installed over 1/2" embedded radiant heat using the floating or glue down method.

When employing the direct glue down installation method, DO NOT include a 6-mil poly vapor barrier in the assembly. Flooring material must be adhered directly to the subfloor. Flooring should NEVER be glued to a polyfilm vapor barrier.

- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.
- Failure to turn the heat off may result in significantly shortened working time of the adhesive.
- Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system. Moisture emission from subfloor cannot exceed 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test in accordance with ASTM F1869-04 or ASTM F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity not to exceed 75%.
- Make sure that the temperature in the room is at least 15°C during installation.
- Floor temperature must not exceed 30°C.
- Once the installation has been completed, the heating system should be turned on and increased gradually (5 degree increments) until returning to normal operating conditions.
- Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.
- Failure to strictly follow adhesive manufacturer's guidelines may result in failure and void the warranty.

Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath the floors. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath the floors could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install the flooring over embedded radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the guidelines listed above.

## WOOD SUBFLOORS

- If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wooden floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation.
- Nail or screw every 15 cm along joists to avoid squeaking.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6-mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth.
- We recommend laying on wooden floors crossways to the existing floorboards.
- All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.

## CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Floors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. Curing agents and hardeners could cause bonding failure and should not be used.
- Depressions, deep grooves, expansion joints and other subfloor imperfections must be filled with patching & leveling compound.
- Concrete substrates must be flat within 2mm in a 2 meter radius or 3mm within a 3 meter radius. The substrate should not slope more than 25mm every 3 meters in any direction.
- Moisture and alkalinity tests should be performed on all concrete substrates regardless of grade level or age of slab. Perform either ASTM F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity (RH) test or ASTM F1869 Calcium Chloride Moisture Test (MVER: Moisture Vapor Emission Rating). Perform pH test per ASTM F710 to determine alkalinity of the slab.

- Moisture emission from subfloor cannot exceed 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test in accordance with ASTM F1869-04 or ASTM F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity not to exceed 75%. If results are higher than referenced, then a minimum 6mil polyethylene plastic moisture barrier must be applied.
- The Warranty does not cover discoloration from mold or from flooding, floods, leaking plumbing or appliances, water entering through sliding glass doorways, as well as floor covering failure due to hydrostatic pressure or moisture vapor emission.

## EXISTING FLOORS

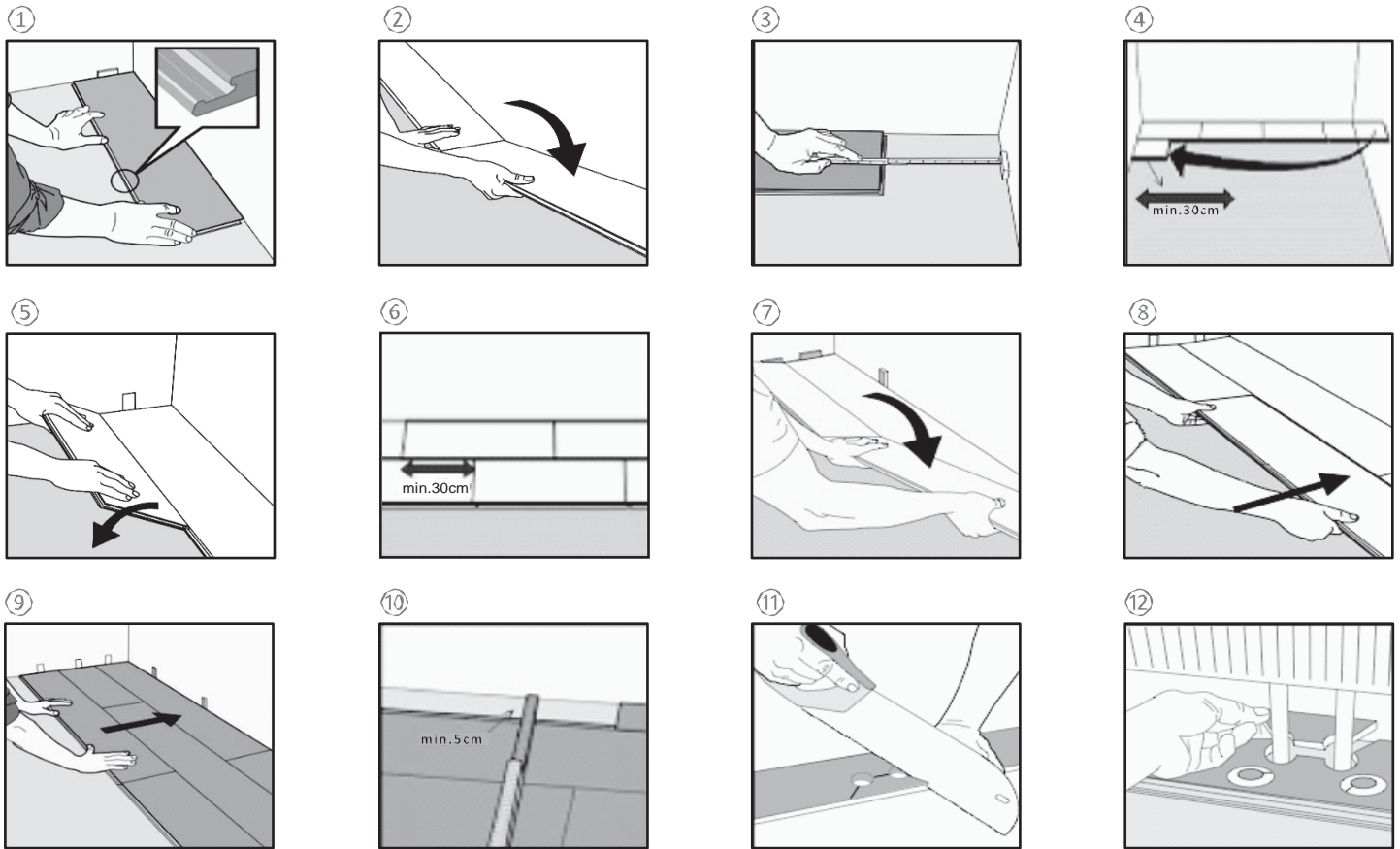
- The flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat, dry, securely fastened, and structurally sound.
- Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will diminish the products inherent strength in resisting indentations.
- Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.

## DO NOT INSTALL OVER

- Hardwood flooring / wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.
- Any type of carpet.
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring.
- Floating floor of any type, loose lay, and perimeter fastened sheet vinyl.

## III. INSTALLATION

- Remove baseboard, quarter-round moldings, wall base, appliances and furniture from room. For best results, door trim should be under-cut to allow flooring to move freely without being pinched. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.
- With a floating floor you must always ensure you leave 9mm gap between walls and fixtures such as pipes and pillars, stairs, etc. These gaps will be covered with trim moldings after the floor is installed. Tip: When installing around pipes, drill the holes 12mm larger than the diameter of the pipes.
- Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. The end joins of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 20 cm apart. Do not install over expansion joints and avoid installing pieces shorter than 30 cm at beginning or end of rows.
- Do not install your kitchen cabinets directly over your floor (excessive weight). The floors structure can be guaranteed as long as the floor can expand and contract naturally as it should.
- Decide the installation direction. It is recommended to install the length direction of the planks parallel to the main light direction.
- Measure the area to be installed: The board width of the last row shall not be less than 50mm. If so, adjust the width of the first row to be installed. In narrow hallways, it is recommended to install the floor parallel to the length of the hall.



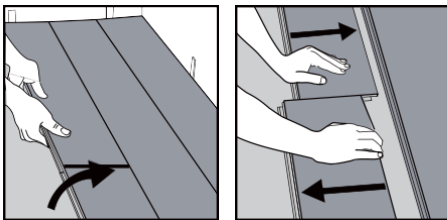
1. After thoroughly cleaning the subfloor, you should begin laying from left to right. Position the first plank so that grooved edge is facing you.
2. Second plank, first row. Drop the short side of the plank in first and then gently tap down the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the adjoining plank until both are level and clicked in. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned. Continue installing the first row until you reach the wall on the right.
3. At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of 9mm to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.
4. Start the second row with the piece leftover from the last plank from the previous row. This small plank should measure at least 30cm, otherwise, cut a new plank in half and use it to begin the second row. Whenever practical, use the piece cut from the preceding row to start the next row.
5. Install the next piece as per image clicking in the tongue and groove edge and drop down until it sits in place.
6. Make sure that end joins of all planks should be staggered a minimum of 20cm away from each other.
7. Click the short side and place it tight to the short end of the left plank.
8. Drop the long side of the plank into the previous row and place it tight to the previous plank with an angle of 30 degrees, and gently tap on the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are at the same height. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned and sitting in place correctly.
9. After the first 2-3 rows of planks are installed, they should be checked with a string line to ensure that rows are still running straight. If they are not, it could be that the starting wall has some irregularities that caused bowing in the installation.

10. Please remember to use a minimum of 50mm for the last piece to the edge of the wall and use spacers between the wall and the floorboard leaving minimum gaps of 9mm.
11. Drill holes if required to install around permanent structures such as the kitchen bench legs rather than placing on top. Avoid excessive weight on the floor!
12. Cut a small section out of the plank as per image to install the drilled plank around structure, close this up with the small cut piece to finish.

## FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

Replace molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface, not through the flooring. At doorways and at other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a “T” molding, or similar, to cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks. Leave a small gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.

## DISASSEMBLING



Separate the whole row by lifting it up delicately at an angle. To separate the planks, leave them flat on the ground and slide them apart. If planks do not separate easy, you can slightly lift up the planks (5°) when sliding them apart.

## WARRANTY & MAINTENANCE

We provide a 25 Year Residential Warranty and a 15 Year Commercial Warranty for our Engineered Hybrid Flooring. For further information about our warranty policy please refer to our website: [www.xqfloors.com.au](http://www.xqfloors.com.au)

- Sweep or vacuum the floor after installation using soft bristle attachments. Regular vacuuming or sweeping of the floors is necessary.
- Clean up any spills immediately to reduce the possibility of ingress.
- Damp mop the floor regularly or as needed and use cleaners that are only recommended for vinyl-based flooring. Alternatively, the best way to mop the floor is using warm soapy water.
- Use correct floor protection for furniture such as felt protectors to prevent scratching and scuffing.
- Place an outdoor mat outside at all entry points to reduce the amount of dirt brought onto the floor. Do not use mats with a latex or rubber backing internally on the flooring since these backings can cause permanent marking and discolouration.
- Protect your floor from harmful UV rays and direct sunlight in order to prevent fading and discolouration from exposure. Preventative measures could be the use of your curtains to block out the direct sunlight or any type of blockers that reduce the harmful UV light and heat on the floors surface.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, bleach or wax to maintain the floor (warm soapy water is best).
- Do not drag or slide heavy objects across the floor (Remember to use felt pads under all furniture that will be on the floor).

## PREVENTIVE CARE

- When moving appliances or heavy furniture it is always wise to lay a plywood panel, or similar, on your floor and “walk” the item across it. This protects your floor from scuffing, gouging and tears.
- Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do NOT use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Place protective mats under of office chairs.
- Use floor protectors under furniture to reduce indentation. As a general rule of thumb, the heavier the item, the thicker the floor protector needed.

## Contact

► Website: [www.xqfloors.com.au](http://www.xqfloors.com.au)

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