

# Installation instructions

## LOOSE LAY "LVT" FLOORING

Thank you for choosing our product. When properly installed and cared for, your 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.

### 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

PPE, spacers, straight edge, ruler, pencil, tape measure, utility knife and a 1.6mm V notched trowel if installing with adhesive.

### BEFORE INSTALLING LOOSE LAY PLANKS

- 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 planks.

- 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 should be acclimatised for at least 24 hours prior to installation. It is suggested to take the planks out of the box and stack them in small piles in the internal area it will be installed in for the duration of the acclimatisation period.
- For floor surfaces exceeding 150m<sup>2</sup> or lengths exceeding 14m, expansion strips are recommended 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.
- Avoid installing LVT planks if under severe conditions (less than 15°C, more than 30°C).

## JOBSITE CONDITIONS

- Visit the jobsite to confirm conditions and floor measurements. Always check the flooring material to ensure that they are the correct LVT product, colour and they are all the same.
- The subfloor must be clean of dust, dirt, and debris. A quick vacuum and a lightly damp mop can be done prior to installation, ensuring it is completely clean and dry prior to commencement. In addition, the subfloor must be dry, smooth, structurally sound and free of paint, varnish, existing adhesives, oil, grease, solvents and other extraneous material.
- Ensure your subfloor is completely dry and must not have any moisture prior to installation.
- Any cracking on the subfloor should be filled with suitable filler compounds and sealers.
- Lightweight concrete should be avoided by adding more reinforcing agent to it.
- Wood subfloors should be standard double layer construction, with a finished thickness of at least 25.4mm and should have 457.2mm of well ventilated air space underneath. Crawl spaces should be insulated and protected by a vapor barrier.
- Be careful of installation on and around nail holes or uneven places. Ensure the surface is flat.
- Do not install it on a heating panel.

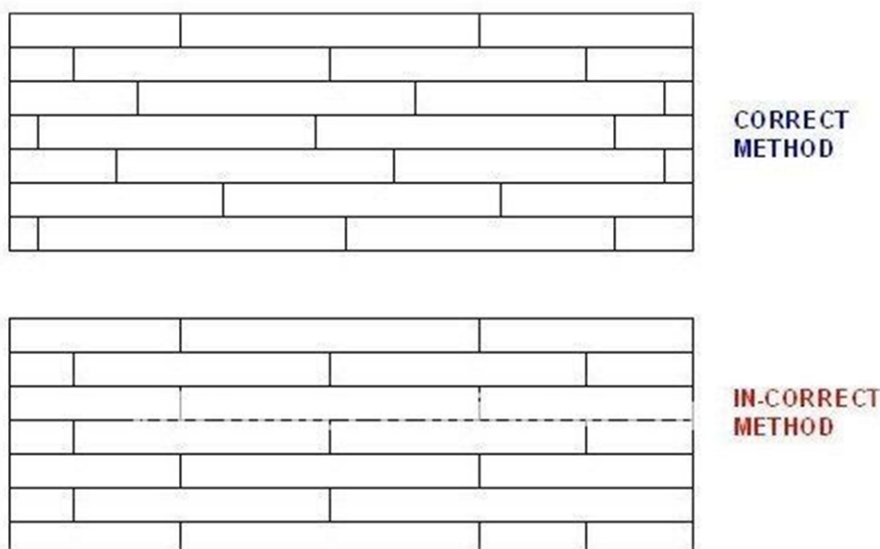
## INSTALLING LVT

- It is recommended that LVT is installed between a room temperature of 18°C - 25°C. If installing LVT in temperatures that are lower than the recommended room temperature, install it loosely by using a spacer of appropriate thickness to install them in regular space.
- On the contrary, when installing them in temperatures higher than the recommended temperature, install them tight to each other.
- Installing LVT at the end of the wall, leave around 2mm to 5mm gap between the product and the wall, depending on the size of the installing area. These spaces can be covered with base molding, skirting or quads. If you choose to install the flooring tight around the wall ensure it is a snug fit installation and not

overly jammed in or else this can cause damage to the planks. Installing LVT planks tight around the walls should only be done in areas that have a stabilised temperature and doesn't see severe temperature. If this area will see severe temperatures then it is recommended to leave the suggested gaps around the walls as mentioned above.

- It is advisable to install LVT planks with an appropriate vinyl plank adhesive. We recommend that you apply either a hard set or pressure sensitive vinyl adhesive around the edges of your wall and in a grid like pattern every where else. This ensures to prevent movement of your floor after installation.
- Lay the first row of planks vertically in position and keep the joints tight until you get to the end of the wall and cut the piece to fit in snug. The plank can be cut with a Stanley knife by marking the top of the image, then scoring the top with the Stanley knife cutting enough to get through the wear layer. Once you have scored the plank then proceed to bending the plank on a hard edge until it snaps in half. Cut the underside of the plank with your knife until you slice through the plank to separate the 2 pieces.
- Proceed with the second row in the same manner ensuring you stagger the planks and use different length planks to start the row every time. Do not use a plank smaller than 20cm in the beginning of your row, this helps maintain a 20cm gap between your joints to prevent damage. The random installation process also guarantees a more natural timber floor appearance. (Refer to image 1.1)
- Remember to always use the machine cut ends on the joins and not the manually cut pieces as the joins will need to butt up perfectly to one another. If this is not done correctly, your floor will be defective allowing easy water ingress and other issues to occur.

1.1. Please see diagram below of the staggering process:



## WARRANTY & MAINTENANCE

We provide a 25 Year Residential Warranty and a 15 Year Commercial Warranty for our Loose Lay 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.

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