

## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

National Select Floors recommends installation by a professional flooring contractor or skilled tradesperson and must follow the Australian Standards for flooring installations. All installations must also be performed in accordance with National Select Floors installation guidelines. If you have any concerns regarding the installation process, please contact your reseller.

Please ensure that the goods received contain the correct product, codes, range size and colour. If the product appears to be doubtful in appearance, DO NOT install and promptly report to your flooring reseller to initialise the review. Once installed, all goods are considered to be checked and accepted by the installer and/or homeowner; National Select Floors assumes no responsibility for any cost or warranty claims relating to the installation of defective or incorrect products.

National Select Floors will not be responsible for issues that may occur due to insufficient subfloor preparation or unsatisfactory installation methods.

### KEY INSTALLATION POINTS

- Floating installation method only.
- Recommended expansion tolerance up to: Lengthwise 8m x Width 8m.
- For indoor use only and is only guaranteed for use as a floor covering.
- Can be installed below, equal or above ground level.
- Standard wastage to allow for extra 10%.
- To be installed around heavy items such kitchen island benchtops, unit carcass, and any heavy fixed to the floor carpentry.
- NOT to be used in wet and humidity areas such as bathrooms, laundry, sauna.
- DO NOT install on existing floating floors of any type including carpet, carpet tiles, hybrid flooring, laminate, loose lay and perimeter fastened sheet vinyl.

### JOB SITE DELIVERY AND STORAGE

- Ensure that all boxes contain the correct product, codes, range, and colour.
- Keep cartons in a dry covered area, away from sunlight or adverse conditions.
- Flooring packs should always be stacked with the bottom of the box facing down; never stack boxes on their sides, vertically and/or leaning against a wall.
- Protect corners of boxes from damage.

## **ACCLIMATISATION**

The intention of acclimatisation is to bring the temperature of the new flooring close to that of the indoor environment. Where possible, it is recommended to acclimatise the flooring in the unopened boxes for a minimum of 48 hours in the area where it is going to be installed.

- DO NOT open the box ends for the intention to acclimatise, it may affect board end-joint tolerances.
- DO NOT open the packs of flooring until the day of installation. You may open to inspect, then re-tape the box again and continue acclimatisation.

## **SUBFLOOR PREPARATION**

The subfloor refers to the surface over which the flooring will be installed and requires preparation before any flooring installation. The installer must ensure that it is sufficiently flat, dry, sound and secure. Subfloor must be clean and free from dirt and debris prior to installation.

### **Floor Levelling**

The subfloor should be relatively flat, with a maximum allowable variation of 3mm in height (valleys/peaks) over a 3m diameter. Floors must be levelled to meet this specification prior to installation. Level by filling depressed areas with floor leveling compounds and sanding or grinding down any raised areas.

When using applied levelling compounds please refer to the manufacturers instructions for those products. Such products along with the adhesives and moisture barriers need to be compatible and are usually available from the same manufacturer to ensure warranties are maintained.

### **Concrete Subfloors**

Concrete subfloors must be properly cured and allowed to dry for at least 90 days prior to installation. Test concrete subfloor for moisture content prior to installation, slabs should be less than 4% by impedance meter or below 85% in-slab relative humidity.

General floating floor methods, the foam underlay of choice may have a moisture barrier incorporated (check with manufacturers spec sheet). If not present, a polyethylene moisture barrier (black builders plastic) can be used and lap jointed on top of the concrete slab. This is the same for floors laid on plywood installed over concrete slabs.

### **Wooden Subfloors**

Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and be screwed or nailed to supporting beams or fixed to concrete. A wooden subfloor may be timber boards

or sheet flooring of particleboard or plywood and the typical moisture content usually between 9% and 13%.

For subfloors on the lower level with soil beneath, this requires greater consideration to prevent rising moisture. A site assessment of the subfloor space is necessary as damp soil and inadequate ventilation may lead to moisture related problems to the installed floor.

### **Tiled Subfloors**

Check to ensure that the subfloor is sufficiently flat and there is no evidence of moisture. A moisture barrier (black builders plastic) may be placed and lap jointed top of the tiled subfloor underneath the foam underlay.

### **Subfloors with Underfloor Heating**

Adorn Laminates can be installed over slabs with embedded hydronic and diffuser plate heating systems. Prior to floor installation, newly installed subfloor heating systems need to be used to dry the concrete before the floor can be installed.

- The heating system is switched on at least 2 weeks before laying the floor and then switched off 48 hours prior to installing the floor. At the surface of the subfloor the temperature can be a maximum of 27°C.
- A moisture barrier coating is to be applied across the entire slab.
- A week after the floor is installed the heating system is turned back on with the temperature gradually increasing by no more than 2°C per day, until the subfloor's surface reaches a maximum temperature of 26°C. Use the same steps in reverse when turning off each time the heating system is utilised.
- While hydronic heating is in use, whether increasing or decreasing the temperature it should be by only 1- 2°C per day.

### **EXPANSION GAPS, JOINTS & TRIMS**

Laminate flooring can be affected by a variety of factors which include relative humidity changes and daily temperature conditions. Flooring expansion and contractions will be expected, therefore perimeter expansion allowance and control joint expansions are important. Some larger floor areas will require an expansion trim to reduce movement pressure to break up the area and allow for expansion and contraction as individual sections. The installer will need to assess the best options.

- Recommended expansion tolerance up to: Lengthwise 8m x Width 8m.
- Allow minimum 10mm expansion gaps around wall perimeters, vertical fixtures, pipes, pillars, island bench and when adjoining with different floor types.
- Aluminium trims can be used as expansion trims and control joints.

- Skirting boards and scotia should only be fixed to the wall or cabinets, never directly fixed to the installed floor.

## **BEFORE INSTALLATION**

- Room temperature of the installation should be between 10°C and 30°C and the relative humidity between 45% and 65%.
- Flooring must be installed in a temperature-controlled environment.
- Ideally, remove any skirting boards and reinstall after installation. If you plan to keep or are unable to remove skirting, use scotia or aluminium trims to cover expansion gaps.
- Undercut door jambs, allow for 10mm expansion.
- Install your flooring in ample lighting to observe imperfections such as sheen differences and visible defects or damage prior to and during installation.
- All carpets, carpet pads and carpet tacks must be removed, check for any nails and anything that may affect the flooring installation.

## **TOOLS REQUIRED**

Tape Measure; Utility Knife; Circular Saw or Flooring Cutter; Multi Tool; Rubber Mallet; Tapping Block; Pull Bar; Space bar; Spacers; Ruler; Pencil; Safety Glasses; Broom or Vacuum Cleaner; Hardwood Floor Cleaner.

## **INSTALLATION FOR FLOATING FLOOR**

The subfloor must be prepared in accordance with the '**SUBFLOOR PREPARATION**' section above.

- Roll out the foam underlay and lap joint each row with moisture resistant adhesive tape. Follow instructions provided by the underlay manufacturer. Maximum underlay thickness is 5mm.
- Begin with the grooved side of the board facing the wall from where the installation will start.
- Use spacing wedges regularly along the length of the starting wall with an expansion gap of at least 10mm between the first row of boards and the wall.
- Snap a chalk line from the chosen wall to determine how straight the wall is. The starting point is important to ensure that visual effects of non-parallel and bowed walls are minimised, and this also necessitates that boards cut adjacent to walls remain as wide as possible.
- Floors are usually laid lengthwise down hallways and consideration needs to be given to this to see that the floor is installed parallel to hallway walls. The location of the control and expansion joints also needs to be considered. You should begin the laying of the flooring by starting at a corner of the starting wall.

- Start the next row with a piece left over from the previous row or with a board that is at least 450mm shorter or longer than the first board in the previous row. The end joints of the adjoining boards should be staggered by at least 450mm.
- Do not install the boards in a brick like pattern as random end joints are considered to provide a more pleasing appearance.
- The laying continues row by row until the opposite wall is reached. In most cases, the final row will not be a full board width, so the boards will need to be trimmed along their length and that the 10mm expansion gap to the wall needs to be maintained (remove the tongues if present).
- When laying the last row, before putting the boards into place with wedges and using a spacing bar. Use protective blocks or flooring offcuts to protect the wall and boards from spacing bar damage. Place the floorboards as low to the wall as possible and use the spacing bar to force the boards into position.
- Skirting boards and scotia can then be fixed to the wall or cabinets, it is important that scotia trims are never directly fixed to the installed floor.

### **INITIAL CARE (within 24 hours of installation)**

- Thoroughly sweep or vacuum with soft bristles.
- Take care when placing furniture and appliances over your new flooring.
- Avoid dragging heavy objects or furniture across the floor. When moving appliances or furniture, lay a protective item such as cardboard, lift and walk furniture across.
- For heavy items, it is recommended to use smooth, non-staining fabric-faced furniture sliders or to move furniture over sheets of plywood or cardboard to prevent damage.
- Protect your flooring by covering furniture legs with felt protectors.

### **HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITIES**

To sustain warranty and ensure quick and easy service in the event of a claim, the following requirements must be met:

- Flooring must be installed according to National Select Floors Installation Guidelines.
- Use appropriate and safe cleaning products.
- Keep at least five (5) planks of the flooring product after installation for repairs and possible testing purposes.
- Retain and be able to provide the original sales receipt or documentation confirming proof of purchase, details of purchase & installation date of the product.

### **WARRANTY**

PLEASE REFER TO WARRANTY ON OUR WEBSITE