



Installation Guidelines

⚠ ATTENTION OWNER / INSTALLER

Please carefully read and adhere to the following instructions before installing the flooring. Failure to do so may result in voiding the warranty of the product.

◆ **Quality Check**

Before installation, thoroughly inspect the flooring material to ensure it meets the requested quality standards. Verify that the material is free from defects and matches the desired specifications.

◆ **Quantity Verification**

Prior to starting the installation, confirm that the quantity of flooring is accurate and sufficient for the project. Double-check the quantity to avoid any shortages during the installation process.

◆ **Colour and Finish Confirmation**

Verify that the flooring material matches the specified colour, finish, and sheen level.

◆ **Job-site and Substrate Requirements**

Must ensure that the job-site environment and sub-surfaces meet or exceed all applicable standards. Refer to the installation instructions section inside the carton for specific requirements. It is crucial to follow the recommendations of the construction and materials industries, as well as local codes.

By carefully following these instructions, you will help ensure a successful installation and maintain the validity of the warranty.

Areas of Attention

Water-resistance

Aquafloor is an extremely water-resistant modified-laminate floor and has 7 days of water-resistance when installed according to these installation guidelines. It can be considered waterproof from all ordinary surface water-exposure i.e. spills and accidents. Please ensure:

- ◆ The flooring must be installed on top of a relatively flat subfloor i.e. <3mm variation over 1m for complete effectiveness of the surface moisture seal.
- ◆ The flooring must be installed on top of an underlay with a minimum 200uM moisture barrier separate or pre-attached with an overlap and security taped with moisture-resistant tape, to prevent accumulation of subfloor moisture.
- ◆ If the floor is installed in a high humidity area, additional expansion allowance is recommended, as the floor is still a timber-based product and may dimensionally adapt to the environment.
- ◆ After installation, humidity in the installation site should be controlled to reduce expansion and contraction.



Do not install this laminate floor in wet areas such as the shower, bathroom, laundry, toilets or areas subject to regular moisture or water. The floor is not designed for outdoor usage and is not warranted against flooding or unnatural occurrences e.g. extended exposure to moisture.

Underfloor moisture can damage all types of flooring and the floor should not be installed unless the substrate (including levelling compound) is completely dry i.e. the cement moisture content should be below 2.5% and wood-based substrates should be below 10%.

Expansion gaps

Expansion gaps of 10 - 12mm should be left around the perimeter of a floating laminate floor and around any fixtures e.g. columns or pipes. This gap provides space for the flooring to expand and contract if required. It is important not to have any direct lateral contact between the flooring and solid structures e.g. walls, cabinets and fixtures.

Around the perimeter of rooms, the use of scotia and skirting boards are recommended to cover the expansion gaps. Make sure to install these skirting boards against the wall and not to the floor.

In areas of high humidity, it is recommended a larger expansion gap is provided e.g. 12 - 14mm. This may apply to locations such as Darwin and Northern QLD. For lower humidity areas such as Melbourne or Hobart, between 10 - 12mm would be sufficient.

Compartmentalisation

If an installation is greater than 12m in length or 8m in width, you will require transition trims such as a flat cover trim to provide for additional expansion and contraction space. Allow an extra 1 - 2mm expansion gap for every extra 1m of width over the standard raft size.

Large multi room installations should be compartmentalised i.e. separated at doorways. This gap is then covered with a cover trim. Consult your retailer or contractor if you are unsure about the required locations.

Additionally, ensure that the compartments are no larger than 60 sqm in size i.e. no unseparated areas exceeding 60 square metres.

Installer Expectations

The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. The inspection of the entire floor should be done prior to installation and it is expected the colour, finish and quality is inspected before installation. Use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects. If the flooring is not acceptable, contact your dealer immediately.

Before commencing any installation, ensure the environment of the job site and the condition and type of the subfloor are acceptable. Everfloor does not assume any responsibility for job failures resulting from or associated with incorrect installation or maintenance.



Trims

Appropriate aluminium trims to help facilitate expansion / contraction and to adjoin other floor coverings are required for an appropriate installation. The primary groupings of trims are:

✦ Flat / Cover / Universal Trim

Bridges two floor coverings or allows for an expansion gap in a long run of flooring. It is also suitable for small differences in height between two floor coverings. The recommended trim is a two piece trim as supplied by Everfloor, or a flexible adhesive fixed one-piece trims are also suitable for areas with runs shorter than 15m.

✦ End / Border / C / L / U Trim

Finishes up the floor against a fixture or to meet other floor coverings. The recommended trim is a C or U shaped trim, or a two piece universal adjustable trim, or a flexible adhesive fixed L angle is also suitable where runs are less than 15m.

✦ Ramp / Reducer

Bridges floor coverings of two different heights and allows for up to 40mm height variations between two floor types. These may be two piece trims or flexible adhesive fixed trims.

Colour Variation

Laminate flooring have limited colour variations between batches, however, each board has several unique prints, and it is expected that the customer understands and accepts this upon ordering the product. Colour variations are not a defect in the product, and if any undesirable planks exist, need to be removed by the installer and if necessary, additional material can be ordered.

Environment

Please note the flooring must be installed in a regulated and liveable environment to prevent possible damage not covered by warranty i.e. it should not be installed more than two weeks prior to occupation of the home. The floor is designed to perform in an environmentally controlled environment. The environment of installation should be maintained as per our Care and Maintenance guidelines, and should not be exposed to extremes in humidity or temperature.

Movement

As a floating floor that will move naturally, some minor sound may be present i.e. joint crackling or creaking. This is expected of floating floors and is not a major fault.



Weight Restrictions

To maintain the integrity of your flooring and prevent damage, please follow the weight restriction and furniture placement recommendations below:

◆ Maximum Weight Capacity

Recommended weight capacity for all floating flooring products is 200kg per square metre. Please ensure that the total weight placed on the floor does not exceed this limit. Exceeding the weight capacity can lead to structural issues and damage.

◆ Furniture Positioning

When positioning furniture or heavy objects on the floor, make sure to place the base or feet in the centre of the boards rather than directly over the joins. This distribution of weight helps to distribute the load evenly and prevents damage to the flooring. Avoid concentrating heavy objects on specific areas of the floor.

◆ Movement Restriction

Be mindful that placing heavy objects over a large area can restrict the natural movement of the flooring. This restriction can result in undesirable effects such as squeaking, gapping between boards, cupping, or even failure of individual boards. Distribute weight evenly and allow for proper floor movement.

Adhesive Fixed Installation

As a modified laminate-based product, floating installation is the most recommended method of installation. However, adhesive-fixed (glue down) installations are acceptable in circumstances where floating installations may not be suitable, such as areas under high weight-loads, situations where locking systems may be compromised and stair landings, risers and treads.

If adhesive fixing the floor, the same diligence and process as glue-down timber should be taken. Aquafloor is water-resistant, but not waterproof and subfloor moisture must be tested to be below 2.5% MC for cement and 10% MC for timber. The subfloor flatness requirements are consistent with floating installations, but adhesive thickness and application may assist with reducing impacts of unevenness.

The Installer accepts final responsibility for assessing site-suitability for any installation.

Installation Site and Storage Instructions

Keep in mind the following when assessing an installation site:

Installed Last

The flooring should be the last thing to be installed, and should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and all other materials, such as cement work, plastering, and painting are completely dry. The concrete and plaster should also be cured and at least 60 days old. Check the basement and underfloor crawl space to ensure that they are dry and well-ventilated to prevent moisture damage.

Handle and Store with Care

Handle the flooring with care, and do not stand on the ends of boxes to avoid damage to the locking systems. Store the flooring in a dry place, but not directly on concrete or near outside walls. Place the cartons in the installation area.

Do not store directly on concrete or near outside walls. Cartons should be placed in the area of installation.



Subfloor Requirements

Subfloor requirements as per standard floating flooring installations, that broadly should meet 3 criteria:

◆ Flat

A general guideline is the subfloor deviation should not be more than 3mm over 1 lineal metre or 6mm over 2 metres, as measured by a straight edge. Note flatness is a more important requirement and level is generally less important, therefore a 2m straight edge should be used to check for flatness than level. Of particular importance is the elimination of any localised unevenness such as humps, dips or roughness, as this may lead to breaking of the joints movement and noise, and potential damage to the joints in the floor.

◆ Dry

The subfloor of concrete should not exceed 75% RH when tested in accordance with AS1884-2012, the subfloor of wood must not exceed 10%. Additionally, the subfloor should be free of mold.

◆ Stable

The subfloor needs to be firm and not display any movement (which may be the case with movement in older timber floors, and squeaking or creaking may indicate this).

The flooring can be installed over many existing fixed (not loose or floating) floor coverings such as ceramic tiles, PVC tiles and linoleum. In the case of ceramics, the grout lines should not exceed 3mm in width or depth.

Note: If the subfloor does not meet these recommendations, the warranty will be voided by Everfloor. Sometimes installers / retailers choose to proceed with installation, and the sole responsibility for the warranty will be from the installer / retailer.

Underlayment

Most suitable density foam, rubber, cork and other composite underlays are suitable with Aquafloor. For complete assurance, please select underlay from the [EVERQUIET®](#) range.

Underfloor Heating

Suitable for installation with hydronic in-slab under-floor heating systems only. The surface temperature from underfloor heating must not exceed 27 degrees celsius and the wattage should not exceed 60 watts/m².

Please note proximity to heat exposure from open fires or enclosed heating units may result in plank deformity and irreparable damage, and is not covered by warranty. Turn on the heating system for 3 weeks prior to laying the floor and then switch off 48 hours before installation. When turning on the heating system, increase the temperature by 2 degree increments each day until you reach the correct temperature and follow the same process when reducing the temperature.



Installation Instructions

Pre-Installation & Planning

- ✦ Inspect all planks in sufficient light before and during installation. Planks with visible defects must never be used. Once installed, the planks are considered accepted by the installer and the end customer.
- ✦ Ensure the subfloor is smooth, permanently dry, clean and free of all foreign matter.
- ✦ Lay out the underlay over the area of installation, according to manufacturers' instructions.
- ✦ Roll out the underlay across the room and tape the overlaps in the joins. If using rubber underlay without a moisture barrier, it is recommended install 200um PE moisture barrier prior beneath the rubber underlay prior to installation.
- ✦ Make sure the panels are mixed when installing, so you have sufficient pattern variations.
- ✦ Check that the doors can still open and close after the floor and underlay have been installed, with a minimum gap of 1 cm, to allow for natural expansion and contraction.

Installation

- ✦ Begin the first row with a whole plank. Saw off both the long and short tongue from the first plank.
- ✦ Put the plank with sawn sides against the walls. Put spaces of at least 10mm against the wall but no thicker than the size of your skirting / scotia profile (this could be offcuts of flooring). Generally, between 10 - 12mm expansion gap is recommended, or more if you have a larger span.
- ✦ Drop the next plank into the end of the first plank and push downwards and forwards. It should automatically fall into place with a click. Use a tapping block and push the board in tightly.
- ✦ You will need a saw to cut the planks, such as a jigsaw, crosscut saw or circular hand saw. Ensure that the end joints of the planks in two successive rows are never in line, and they are staggered by at least 15cm.
- ✦ Click lock the first plank of the second row on the long side into the previous row and drop it downwards until you hear a click.
- ✦ There must be an expansion gap between the last row and the wall. Where it's challenging to install, you can use a pull bar and tap it with a mallet.
- ✦ If you encounter any obstacles e.g. pipes, make sure to cut around them and leave expansion gaps.
- ✦ Remove all spacers.
- ✦ Install the skirting board or the scotia. Never attach this to the floor, it should be attached to the wall (generally with a nail gun and / or adhesive). Ensure the skirting / scotia covers the flooring expansion gap by at least 3mm to facilitate contraction of the floor in cold environments.
- ✦ In situations where staircases are involved, it is recommended to use Everfloor's matching laminate stair nosing. Stair noses must be permanently bonded using a full spread trowel adhesive as per the Building Code's requirements for stairs & landings. The product cannot be floated in these circumstances and underlay must not be used to facilitate a permanent bond.