

Background on Flooring and Water-Resistance

Flooring & Water-resistance

From a technical perspective, there is no 100% waterproof flooring solution. In some cases, modern marketing and sales have overinflated the water-resistance of certain types of flooring. From a scientific point of view, there is no such thing as a 100% waterproof timber floor or laminate floor, as both timber or laminate will expand and change shape when exposed to water. Whilst there are PVC-based floors, such as SPC hybrid or vinyl sheet or plank that are considered waterproof, however, when put to the test, they can still be affected by prolonged exposure to water.

For example, even a waterproof floor that does not absorb water will likely accumulate damage due from mould and mildew from prolonged exposure to moisture. Contrary to popular belief, even hybrid flooring is not unaffected by water, but for the purposes of ordinary usage, it can be considered a waterproof flooring solution.

Timber and Water

Timber historically has been and forever will be the most desirable and premium flooring and furniture option. However, most timber floors are extremely susceptible to moisture and temperature changes. Whilst some timber floors increase water-resistance on the surface through a lacquer and tighter joints, these are only partial solutions, whereby their coreboard is still extremely susceptible to moisture.

Solutions to Increase Water Resistance

These solutions solve the surface “spill” problem, but do not solve relative humidity i.e. “moisture in the air” problem, nor the coreboard expansion problem. These solutions could be deemed a great surface “band aid” solution, but they do not completely solve the “core” problem.

HydroPro® Timber

For the first-time in history, we have been able to develop the HydroPro® Timber floor, which is an engineered real timber or bamboo floor, that has far superior stability and water-resistance compared to any comparable product. HydroPro® was granted an Innovation Patent by IP Australia in 2019 and has been thoroughly tested in Australia for several years, paving the way for mass production which commenced in early 2023.

HydroPro® Water Warranty

Super Water Resistant

HydroPro® is a virtually “waterproof” floor when installed properly and in suitable areas of the home or commercial area. It has a “waterproof” warranty for the life of the floor and is warranted against damage from ordinary spills and water exposure. For the purposes of indoor flooring in predominantly non-wet areas of the home (which does not include bathrooms, shower, saunas etc), HydroPro® is a “waterproof flooring” solution. HydroPro® in rigorous scientific testing demonstrates almost no expansion and contraction with moisture, with no measurable change in length, width and thickness after 24 hours complete submersion into water.

After 7 complete days of submersion, there is only an insignificant change in thickness, but no measurable changes in length or width. Notably the floorboard maintains its structural integrity and can still be installed i.e. clicked into other boards. This demonstrates no damage to the structure of the floor, however, the colour of the timber itself will darken with water damage. This is the best result ever achieved by an engineered timber or bamboo floor.

Surface and Bevel Seal

We maximise water-resistance by sealing the timber or bamboo surface completely with lacquer, making the surface waterproof. For the bevels, we roll our lacquer deeply into the bevels and / or apply additional wax to seal the bevels, making it waterproof or extremely water-resistant.

Waterproof HydroPro® Core

Our patented HydroPro® core is completely waterproof and will not expand or contract due to exposure to moisture or complete submersion in water.

Water Warranty

Household spills and water on the floor will not result in warping, twisting, cupping or changes in shape of the overall flooring. HydroPro® flooring is suitable for installation in areas of the house exposed to surface water such as the kitchen and in hallways connecting bathrooms.

What It Does Not Cover

However, the timber surface is susceptible to absorbing water if sawn, because our EverGuard™ lacquer has been sawn off and timber is a natural porous material after all. Timber is still subject to colour change, weakening or decay from mould or fungi with prolonged exposure to water. Therefore, it is recommended to wipe up spills and water as soon as possible.

Our water warranty does not cover the floor being submerged in water for extended and unusual periods of time. This includes flooding, appliance failure, or bathroom leaks that result in unusual exposure to water. Timber or bamboo will absorb moisture after all, and typically will darken or weaken after exposure to water. Changes in colour in the timber due to moisture or water cannot be prevented.