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

This floor is considered a “waterproof” floor, and will not be damaged by any amount of water-exposure i.e. spills and accidents from ordinary residential or commercial use (in non wet areas). The floor has been tested to maintain it’s complete structural integrity after prolonged exposure to water and will not bubble or distort in shape or proportion.

For clarity, this floor is resistant to all water-accidents. However, flooding or unnatural acts such as an entire room to be surrounded in water for unusually long periods of time is not warranted and not considered ordinary usage.

Please note the floor is not designed for external usage, wet or high-humidity indoor areas e.g. shower, bathrooms, sauna rooms, swimming pools. Underfloor moisture can damage all types of flooring and the floor should not be installed unless the leveling compound is completely dry. If the substrate is concrete, the cement moisture content should be below 2.5% and for wood-based substrates, below 14%.

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 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 with an overlap and security taped with moisture-resistant tape, to prevent accumulation of subfloor moisture.

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.

Compartmentalisation

If an installation is greater than 10m in length or 10m 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 trims are available in Universal Cover and Flat Cover, and can be supplied by Everfloor.

- **End / Border / C / 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 component universal adjustable trim. The end border is the most recommended trim, and can be supplied by Everfloor.

- **Ramp / Reducer**
  Bridges floor coverings of two different heights and allows for up to 40mm height variations between two floor types.

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.

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 WoodGuard is 300kg per square metre (higher than the standard for general floating floors, at 200kg per sqm). 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.

Installation Site and Storage Instructions

Keep in mind the following when assessing an installation site:

Suitable Area & Water-Resistance

This flooring can be installed at ground level, above it, or below it. WoodGuard flooring is waterproof for ordinary household usage, but should not be installed in water-exposed areas such as pool areas, saunas, conservatories, sunrooms or areas that are exposed to heat above 27 degrees celsius.

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 meet 3 criteria:

- **Flat**
  A general guideline is the subfloor deviation should not be more than 4mm over 1 lineal metre or 6mm over 2 metres, as measured by a straight edge (any uneveness above 1mm per lineal metre, may result in some noticeable movement or creaking noises, but will not impact the performance and integrity of the floor). 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 12%. Additionally, the subfloor should be free of mould.

- **Stable**
  The subfloor needs to be firm and not 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 ties 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

Underlay is already pre-attached, do not use additional foam underlays underneath WoodGuard, as they will result in movement and damage to locking systems. Only high-density rubber underlays are suitable underneath WoodGuard. For complete assurance and warranty provisions, please only select from EQ312, EQ512, EQ515, EQW512 & EQW1012 rubber underlays 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

1. All hybrid/laminate flooring installations require a moisture barrier. Run the moisture barrier in the same direction as the hybrid/laminate panels with the body of the foam butted side by side. Tape the seams together with moisture-resistant tape.
2. Begin laying in the left hand corner & use spacers to maintain an expansion gap of 10 12mm minimum between the wall & the flooring (in areas of high humidity or longer continuous runs, we recommend providing for a larger expansion gap ie 12 - 15mm against all perimeters). For every metre above the standard raft size of 10 x 10m, an extra 1 - 2mm is recommended to be added. The first floorboard should be placed on the floor with the long (tongue) side facing the wall.
3. To attach the second floorboard insert the end tongue of the second floorboard into the end groove of the first floorbcard at a 45° angle Lower the floorboards flat to the floor & line the edges up carefully. To visualise how to click the planks together, please scan the QR code at the top of this page.
4. Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last floorboard. Fit the last floorboard by rotating it 180° (pattern side upwards) & place it next to the row you are completing. Mark where it needs to be cut (remember to leave a 10 - 12mm minimum expansion gap) then saw off the excess, fit as described in step 3 above.
5. If using a hand saw cut with the decorative side up but if using a jig or circular saw, have the decorative side down to avoid chipping.
6. Begin the next row from the left by using the off cut piece from the previous row as this will assist in creating a staggered effect. Off cut pieces should be a minimum of 200mm & always ensure the end joint offsets are at least 400mm.
7. To start the second row push the longer tongue side of the floorboard into the shorter groove side of the very first installed floorbcard at a 45° angle. When lowered the floorboard will click into place.

8. Attach the second floorboard of the new row on the long side at a 45° angle & click into place leaving a small gap on the short end next to the short end of the previous floorboard.
9. Tap horizontally on the end of the second floorbcard of the new row using a tapping block to close the end gap between the floorboards (being careful not to over tap) until the panels touch. Continue with the rest of the floor as described above.
10. To fit the last row, lay a floorboard upside down & using a ruler measure the space that needs to be cut - remember to allow 10 - 12mm for spacers to provide an expansion gap - cut the floorboard & attach into position. Continue with the rest of the floor as described above.
11. Door frames & heating vents also require an expansion gap. Cut the floorboard to the correct length then place the cut board next to its actual position & use a ruler to measure the area to be cut - mark accordingly. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion gap on each side.
12. Trim the bottom of door frames as necessary to allow clearance over the newly laid floorboards.

