Hybrid Flooring Installation Instructions

Materials shall be installed in accordance with Current AUSTRALIAN STANDARD 1884
Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles- Installation practices.
Please read and follow all instructions before you begin the installation.

HYBRID installation instructions for professional installers. Whilst Armstrong Flooring Hybrid Floors are designed for easy, hassle-free installation, we recommend installation by professional installation experts to ensure warranty coverage.
Always stack boxes of Hybrid floors flat and never on their ends. This includes during transport to site and during all stages of handling. Locking profiles can be damaged even when still in the box. Please secure boxes correctly during transport and handle boxes carefully.

This product is for internal use only - it is not suitable for outdoor use or areas subjected to continually wet conditions.

NOTES TO THE INSTALLER:
Hybrid Flooring is now included in the Australian Standard: AS1884:2021 – Resilient sheet and tiles installation practices (5.8 Hybrid modular flooring), installation must be undertaken in accordance with the Standard, the following installation instructions and any applicable local government or building and construction codes current at the time of installation. Please ensure you understand the relevant sections of the Standard as they apply to the below installation instructions.

Warranty exclusions will affect the purchaser/end consumer of this flooring if the below instructions are not understood and followed correctly. Industry accepted, best practice principles for Floating Floor installation always apply.

Hybrid floors have a waterproof surface by design. However, their installation method does not create a waterproof membrane/floorcovering. They should not be installed in any wet area that requires a total flooring system comply with AS3740 as per the National Construction Code 2019 V2 Parts 3.8.1.1 & .2. This includes all areas with floor wastes. If in doubt, check with your local building certifier.

This product requires a floating floor Installation. Install all permanent fixtures & fittings prior to installation of this product, leaving the required space for expansion and contraction. Furniture or other heavy items 200kg or greater should not be placed on the floor.

WARNING:
Resilient floorcoverings, adhesives and underlays manufactured in or imported to Australia prior to 1 January 1984 may contain asbestos. If it cannot be definitively established that the previous flooring coverings, adhesives and/or underlay do not contain asbestos you should avoid creating dust and should not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast or mechanically chip or pulverise the existing floorcoverings, adhesives or underlay, and the previous flooring should only be removed by an appropriately licensed asbestos removal contractor. Always wear appropriate PPE when installing the floor. Suitable eye, ear and respiratory protection should always be worn when cutting and finishing any flooring type.

Moisture in subfloors
The base subfloor (Concrete & Timber) must be measured for moisture content according to the current Australian Standard 1884 Appendix A (or Appendix B where applicable). For any subfloor showing a moisture value above these limits, a suitable damp proof membrane / moisture suppression system must be used.

Subfloor Quality
Concrete and timber subfloors must meet overall surface quality as per AS1884:2021 3.1.4, The subfloor must be firm, hard, flat, level, smooth, dry, clean, and dust-free and be prepared dependent on your subfloor type.

Subfloor preparation
Any subfloor rectification or preparation must comply with the current AS1884 and underlay or underlayment manufacturer's instructions.
Where a subfloor surface is rough (such as but not limited to chipboard and concrete subfloors with a CSP of 4 – AS1884:2021 Appendix E) Use a minimum 200-micron builder's plastic under the planks. The attached underlay can grip on rough subfloors preventing product expansion and contraction, leading to post-installation performance issues.

NOTE:
Concrete subfloors with a CSP 4 or greater should be assessed and prepared to provide a suitable substrate ready for hybrid flooring installation.

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Existing Ceramic Tiles

May be installed over provided they are sound, well secured, unbroken, and grout lines are no wider/deeper than 3mm. Overall surface quality as per AS1884:2021 3.1.4 must be maintained. Where existing ceramic tiles are of nonconformance, they must be repaired or prepared to provide a suitable substrate for the installation of hybrid flooring. Please refer to your underlayment supplier for further advice and system specifications.

Soft floorcoverings and existing floating floors

These are NOT suitable substrates, floor coverings, underlays and adhesives must be removed prior to installation of hybrid floor coverings.

Acoustic, rubber and Cork Underlays

Hybrid flooring is designed with an integrated acoustic underlay adhered to the product as standard. The use of any additional acoustic, rubber or cork underlay systems is not approved. If these underlay types are existing, they must be removed inclusive of adhesive residues prior to installation of Hybrid flooring system.

Underfloor heating

Hybrid flooring can be installed over underfloor heating systems, these must be constructed so that the temperature at the products interface does not exceed 28°C.
Refer to underlayment manufacturer for preparation and system specifications.

The underfloor heating must be commissioned and conditioned for a minimum 7 days before installation commences. It should then be switched off 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after installation. The temperature can then be gradually increased to a maximum 28°C at no more than 2°C per day to the desired temperature as per AS1884.

Other existing subfloors

Please consult your distributor and or underlay / underlayment supplier(s) for further advice and system specifications.

Pre-installation

AS1884 Section 4 General conditioning and installation procedures. It is the responsibility of the installer to;

• Visually inspect all materials in optimal lighting to confirm it is the correct design, colour, batch, quality, free from defects and quantity as ordered. If the material or batching is incorrect or where defects are apparent, the supplier must be contacted before the material is installed.

Complaints and claims regarding clearly identifiable defects will not be accepted after installation.

• Ensure the site and products have been acclimatised and conditioned to AS 1884 and manufacturers requirements.

• Ensure the subfloor has been assessed and prepared to AS1884 and manufacturers system specifications to provide a substrate ready for the installation of resilient floor coverings.

Acclimatisation of material

Whilst our hybrids are extremely stable, extreme temperature variations during installation must be avoided to prevent post-installation performance issues.

Flooring products and installation materials should be allowed to condition in the room where installation is to take place as per AS1884:2021 4.1.1 – On-site storage and conditioning. HVAC systems, where available, should be in operation during the acclimatisation and installation period.

Exposure to direct sunlight should be avoided during the acclimatisation and installation process by means of window coverings or temporary measures.

For optimum performance, room temperature should always be maintained between 15°C-28°C.

Arranging the planks / tiles

Hybrid flooring is randomly distributed in print and colour variation. Some designs contain a higher variation than others. To prevent clusters of print and or colour shading areas, the product should be unboxed and shuffled. Dry lay the product and review prior to installation to ensure a balanced distribution.

Installation

Our Angle/Angle locking system (under licence from Unilin BV) is the safest, strongest, and easiest click system. Traditional angle/angle installation and side engagement using a tapping block can be achieved successfully. Always use a tapping block, and never strike the product directly.

1. Subfloor preparation and hybrid flooring installation should not begin until all other trades have completed their work.

2. The following tools will be necessary – pencil, utility knife, tape measure, ruler/straight edge, carpenter's square, saw, spacers, pull bar, hammer, rubber mallet, tapping block, drill and spade bit (for cutting around pipework).

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3. Please consider and plan your installation:

a. MINIMUM 10mm expansion gaps are required to all fixed, vertical surfaces – Use 10mm spacers to all vertical surfaces during installation to ensure expansion gaps are maintained. This includes island benches, fixed cabinetry/appliances, and under ALL doorframes including wardrobes.

b. The first and last row need to be >40mm width. This may require trimming/scribing your starting row. Where you have trimmed a board down to less than half its width, glue the end-lock using Type A seam sealer or similar PVC cold welding fluid.

c. Your first three rows are the championship rows – make sure they are plumb and square with your installation space. Continue to check regularly throughout installation using a stringline.

d. Treat each installation as unique. Large open runs in stable environments will require less control measures than smaller, more complex installations. Single room installations up to 20m x 15m can be installed without expansion breaks. Expansion breaks and transitions should always be considered and provided for in multi-room installations.

e. Planks should be fitted with random staggered end joints with a minimum 300mm between short ends. Checking your end joint staggers and pattern repeats regularly.

f. Materials should be taken from a minimum of three boxes and shuffled to ensure a good mix/blend of colour and design.

g. Once completion of floor installation remove all spacers from perimeters prior to installing trims, accessories or skirtings.

4. Trims and accessories:

a. Make sure all trims allow the appropriate minimum expansion requirement of 10mm.

b. Make sure where the flooring meets the trims that the colour is visually similar.

c. Scotia, beading, or skirtings used to cover expansion gaps shall be fixed directly to the wall or vertical surface, leaving a minimum 0.5mm gap between the floor surface and base of the scotia, beading or skirtings to allow the floor covering to raft (Expand / contract)

d. Do not glue trims to the flooring. This is the same as not leaving expansion. Always fix trims to the subfloor

e. Do not use Silicon or any form of sealant to cover, fill or hide expansion gaps. Silicon is an adhesive. This may void the Armstrong Flooring product warranty.

f. Never install fixtures or fittings (i.e. door stoppers, door tracks, cabinetry etc.) through the floor covering this will prevent the floor coverings ability to expand and or contract, leading to post-installation performance issues.

5. Stair installation:

a. Match the stair nosing with similar coloured boards for both riser and treads.

b. Make sure stair substrate is cleaned in accordance with adhesive manufacturer's instructions. Bond/adhesive failure is not a product fault.

c. Stair riser and tread pieces are to be stuck directly to the substrate using a non-foaming polyurethane adhesive.

d. Remove the underlay from the back of the boards to ensure proper adhesive bond and height match with stair nosing.

e. Install risers first, then treads/stair nosing.

f. Top step – this will require a nosing/trim that allows for minimum 10mm expansion of the surrounding floor.

g. Do NOT allow foot traffic until the adhesive has fully cured – check adhesive manufacturer's instructions for curing times.

6. Finishing the job:

a. Make sure the floor has been swept/vacuumed post installation.

b. Advise customer to provide protection to the feet of all moveable furniture.

c. Do not drag or slide furniture into place, always lift or use a trolley.

d. Inform and provide customer with care and maintenance procedures of their new flooring.

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