

Installation Instructions Laminate Flooring

Please read the below instructions before you begin installation

Armstrong Flooring laminate flooring must be installed in accordance with these instructions, and other applicable national standards or building codes at the time of installation.

Armstrong Flooring laminate flooring requires a floating floor installation. Install all permanent fixtures and fittings prior to flooring installation, leaving required space for expansion and contraction. Furniture or other heavy items 200kg or greater should not be placed on the floor.

Armstrong Flooring laminate floors have a waterproof surface by design. However, their installation method does not create a waterproof membrane/floorcovering. This product is for internal use only - it is not suitable for outdoor use or areas subjected to continually wet conditions or with floor wastes.

Whilst Armstrong Flooring Laminate Floors are designed for easy, hassle-free installation, Armstrong Flooring recommends installation be undertaken by a professional flooring installer.

Important note to the installer

- **Inspect the laminate flooring before cutting/installation:** The flooring materials should be inspected in a well-lit area to ensure correct product, colour, pattern and quantity (as ordered), that given areas are from the same batch and there are no obvious transit damage, manufacturing defects or other visual faults.
- Armstrong Flooring reserves the right to refuse an adjustment or claim for materials that are cut or installed where a reasonable inspection of the materials before installation would have identified the fault.

Do not cut or install any damaged or defective material unless accepted, agreed and approved by all parties concerned.

Subfloor Preparation

- Subfloor preparation and laminate flooring installation should not begin until all other trades have completed their work.
- The subfloor must be firm, hard, flat, level (2mm over 1000 mm), smooth, dry (75% or less relative humidity), clean and dust-free and should be prepared dependent on your subfloor type. Do not install over existing floor coverings as this may void warranty and/or result in failure of the flooring.

NOTE: Existing resilient floor coverings may contain asbestos – see the 'WARNING' panel set out later in these instructions.

Installation Preparation

- Whilst our laminate floors are extremely stable, extreme temperature variations during installation must be avoided to prevent post-installation performance issues. Acclimatise laminate flooring on site stacking flat on the floor for 48 hours prior to installation. Packs should not be opened until the day of installation. The temperature range must be maintained for 48 hours before installation, during installation, and 48 hours after installation between 15°C to 28°C and a relative humidity between 35-75%.
- Always stack boxes of laminate floors flat. 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.
- Dry-lay the first 2-3 rows and then step back and inspect the overall effect. Armstrong Flooring laminate 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, the flooring should be unboxed and shuffled. Dry lay the flooring to check prior to installation for correct random staggering and balance of pattern distribution.

Heated Subfloors

- Armstrong Flooring laminate flooring can be installed over hydronic radiant heated subfloors provided **the temperature at the surface of the slab does NOT exceed 28°C**. Laminate floors should not be installed over electrical radiant heated subfloors as the speed of temperature changes can negatively impact the floor.

If installing over a heated subfloor:

- Prior to the installation, the heating should be turned on for a minimum of 7 days prior to installation to remove traces of residual dampness that may be present in the subfloor.
- Heating should be turned off 48 hours prior to and during the installation to allow the subfloor to return to recommended installation temperature range.
- Heating should not be turned on until 48 hours after completion of installation to allow the adhesive to set and fully cure. Temperature can then be increased by 2 degrees per day until desired temperature is achieved.
- Maximum heating conditions should be avoided for a period of 7 days post completed installation, underfloor heating can cause localised hot spots that may be detrimental to the newly laid floor coverings.

Installation

- It is critical the floor is installed over a quality 2mm moisture barrier underlay. The underlay should run at least 50-100mm up all vertical surfaces and be trimmed back after installation. All joins must be completely taped with moisture resistant tape.
- Armstrong Flooring's angle/angle locking system (under licence from Unilin BV) is a strong, safe and easy click system. Install using traditional angle/angle installation and side engagement using a tapping block. Never strike the product directly.
- Consider and plan your installation:
 - MINIMUM 10mm expansion gaps are required to all fixed, vertical surfaces – use 10mm spacers to all vertical surfaces. This includes island benches, fixed cabinetry/appliances, and under ALL doorframes including wardrobes.
 - 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.
 - Planks should be fitted with random staggered end joints with a minimum 300mm between short ends. End joint staggers and pattern repeats should be checked regularly. Materials should be taken from a minimum of three boxes to ensure good mix/blend of colour and design.
 - 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.
 - 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 13m x 13m can be installed without expansion breaks. Expansion breaks and transitions should always be considered and provided for in multi-room installations.
- If cutting any planks, dust extraction and/or respiratory protection must be used. If using a hand saw, planks should be cut with the wear surface up, or if using a power saw, wear surface down.
- Should the product be used in an area subject to any moisture, the area should be isolated with an internal expansion break at the doorway/threshold and expansion gaps in the area subject to moisture filled with 5mm foam and flexible, mould resistant silicone.
- Once completed, remove all spacers from perimeters prior to installing trims, accessories and/or skirtings.

Stairs

- Stair nosing should be matched with similar coloured boards for both riser and treads.
- Make sure stair substrate is cleaned in accordance with adhesive manufacturer's instructions. Bond/adhesive failure is not a product fault.
- Stair riser and tread pieces should be stuck directly to the substrate using a non-foaming polyurethane adhesive.
- Install risers first, then treads/stair nosing.
- Use tape and weights to hold the stair components in place whilst the adhesive sets.
- Top step – this will require a nosing/trim that allows for minimum 10mm expansion of the surrounding floor.
- Do NOT allow foot traffic until the adhesive has fully cured – check adhesive manufacturer's instructions for curing times.

Trims and Accessories

- Make sure all trims allow the appropriate minimum expansion requirement of 10mm.
- Make sure where the flooring meets the trims that the colour is visually similar.
- Laminate flooring, like all floating floor systems, needs to be able to expand/contract to prevent post-installation performance issues:

- Scotia should be fixed directly to the wall or vertical surface leaving a minimum 0.5mm gap between the floor surface and based on the scotia, beading or skirting to allow the floor to expand/contract.
 - Endcap and T Mould are to be glued directly to the sub-floor following installation of the total floor.
 - NEVER glue trims to the laminate flooring.
 - NEVER install fixtures or fittings (eg door stoppers, door tracks, cabinetry, etc.) through the flooring as this will prevent the flooring's ability to expand/contract.
- **Unless specifically recommended as part of wet area installations, 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.**

Post Installation

- **Clean-up:** Sweep/vacuum post installation.
- **Protect** the floor post installation and before final builders handover using a non-waterproof flooring protector.
- Download a copy of the Armstrong Flooring Care and Cleaning Instructions for laminate floors (available at www.armstrongflooring.au or www.armstrongflooring.co.nz) for review by occupiers of the property. Occupiers should be aware to provide protection to the feet of all moveable furniture.

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 floorcoverings, 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.

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