

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 appearance and 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

Suitability of Installation Areas

Vinyl planks are ideal for residential or commercial spaces, however, it is designed for internal installation only. It's commonly installed in hotels, healthcare, offices, conference rooms, retail and education facilities. Vinyl planks are a waterproof product, but they are not suitable in areas prone to flooding or high moisture such as saunas or outdoor spaces. Vinyl planks installed in wet areas e.g. bathrooms and laundries do not meet the National Construction Code (NCC) and Australian Standard 3740:2021.

Furthermore, vinyl planks are not recommended for use in garages or areas exposed to rubber (such as car tyres), as prolonged exposure to rubber can cause discolouration of vinyl surfaces.

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 a liveable environment.

Temperature Control

Fluctuations in temperature throughout different seasons can lead to dimensional change, a common occurrence in vinyl flooring and may lead to visible joints between planks in colder temperatures. The installation must not be rushed and installed at the "median" temperature of a space i.e. the middle temperature, and the environment must be maintained for 48 hours prior and post installation. After

installation, the temperature in the space must be kept within 7 degrees above and below the temperature of installation to avoid excess expansion or contraction.

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. Royal Floors does not assume any responsibility for job failures resulting from or associated with incorrect installation or maintenance.

Colour Variation

Vinyl flooring has 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.

Underlayment

Rubber underlay is not recommended with vinyl plank flooring due to interactions between rubber and PVC. Please contact Royal Floors for underlay recommendations.

Installation Site and Storage Instructions

Please proceed to final page for the simplified Vinyl Installation Checklist. Follow all instructions and check off the Vinyl Installation Checklist to ensure full warranty on your installation.

Keep in mind the following when assessing an installation site:

Pre-Installation

As vinyl is a "softer" floor covering, always handle and store vinyl planks with care to prevent distortions. Cartons must be stored on a flat surface in organised stacks. As a PVC based product, there will be temperature-driven expansion and contraction, hence the product and adhesive should be **maintained at a consistent temperature that is the median temperature of the space and relative humidity (RH) between 35-65% for at least 48 hours in the installation room.** This is typically between 18 – 20 degrees.

Vinyl planks should be laid flat or stored flat in the room where the installation will take place to allow for acclimatisation. We recommend separating the rows of boxes and not stacking more than 4 boxes high with good airflow to maximise the acclimatisation

Suitable Area & Water-Resistance

This flooring can be installed at ground level, above it, or below it. Royal Floors Vinyl flooring is waterproof for all indoor areas, but should not be installed in pool areas, saunas, conservatories, sunrooms or areas that are exposed to heat above 27°C.

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.

Subfloor Requirements

Subfloor requirements as per Australian Standard AS1884:2021: Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles – Installation practices, which in summary requires all substrates to be structurally sound, plain, smooth, clean and dry.

◆ Flat

A general guideline is the subfloor deviation should not be more than 4mm over 2 lineal metres, as measured by a straight edge. Note flatness is a more important requirement and level is generally less important, therefore a 150mm straight edge should be used to check for smoothness and there should not be a more than 1mm variation. Of particular importance is the elimination of any localised unevenness such as humps, dips or roughness.

◆ 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%. Although vinyl plank flooring is waterproof, high RH or MC will affect the subfloor, the bonding of the adhesive and the floor itself.

◆ 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). Subfloor movement may cause damage to the floor covering and is not covered by warranty. Note that existing floor coverings are not considered a suitable subfloor.

◆ Clean

The subfloor must be free from all contaminant materials such as grease, oil, paint, existing floor coverings, remaining adhesives, dust etc. that may impact the adhesion of the floor. The subfloor should also be vacuumed thoroughly to remove any loose substances prior to installation. If water is used to clean the subfloor, a moisture test must be performed to ensure it has dried sufficiently for the adhesive to be effective.

ⓘ SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF SUBFLOORS

◆ Timber Floors

Vinyl planks cannot be installed directly on particleboard or strip timber subfloors, and need to be overlaid with plywood, masonite, MDF/HDF, fibre cement or other suitable underlayments that stabilise particle board. Fix the sheets with fasteners at 100mm intervals around the perimeter, and at 150mm centres throughout the board. Then use a feathering compound to smooth out any open sheet joints and achieve the required flat, even surface. Existing timber floors should be securely fixed, to minimise the risk of movement.

◆ Tiled Floors

For tiled, terrazzo, ceramic, slate, stone, marble or other non-porous surface, the floor must be self levelled with minimum thickness of 3mm according to the levelling compound manufacturer's instructions. The surface needs to be thoroughly cleaned, abraded and primer to receive the levelling compound. We do not recommend patching or feather compounds due to insufficient strength and the risk of telegraphing. This will provide a flat and porous surface suitable for vinyl plank adhesives

◆ Cement / Screed Floors

Confirm moisture content of the subfloor is less than 75% RH and if moisture is higher, a damp proof layer can be applied after repairing any imperfections. Make sure to measure, record and keep moisture testing results.

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

Underfloor Heating

Suitable for installation with hydronic in-slab under-floor heating systems only. Electrical and in-screed underfloor heating systems are not recommended, and only warranted by application.

The surface temperature from underfloor heating must not exceed 27°C and the wattage should not exceed 60 watts/m². 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.

Before installing over the newly installed heating system, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the subfloor. Once this has been completed, switch off the heating system for installation of the flooring 48 hours before, during and after installation. Maintain the room temperature at a consistent median temperature of the space prior to installation.

When using underfloor heating, it is required that the temperature is gradually increased to a maximum of 27°C at no more than 2°C per day to the desired temperature.

Ensure the correct adhesives are used and retain evidence:

- ◆ FLOOR+ F2000
- ◆ FBall Styccobond F44
- ◆ FBall Styccobond F49
- ◆ FBall Styccobond F58

Installation Environment

Temperature Control

The installation should also occur in the same environment as pre-installation (Temperature 15–28°C, RH 35 – 75%) and it must be maintained for 48 hours after installation to allow the adhesive to cure. Please also consult the adhesive manufacturer’s guidelines for post-installation curing requirements.

Fluctuating temperatures can result in natural expansion and contraction of PVC in vinyl, causing the adhesive to cure in an expanded or contracted state. If the installation site is expected to direct sunlight, installers should block out windows during installation and for 48 hours after installation.

Adhesives

The correct application and curing time of the adhesive is the most critical to maintain suitability

Areas	Adhesive Recommendations
General residential and commercial areas	Full trowel installation with compatible adhesives (refer to installation guidelines) FLOOR+ F2000 Vinyl & Resilient Adhesive F. BALL F44 Styccobond Adhesive F. BALL F58 Styccobond Adhesive F. BALL F48 PLUS – High Temperature (for areas of high temperature variation and areas with exposure to sunlight)
In front of windows or areas with large temperature fluctuations (floor-to-ceiling windows, heaters / fireplaces)	F. BALL F48 PLUS Only
Exposed to higher moisture or humidity	Waterproof two-part polyurethane or epoxy adhesive. Consult Royal Floors: info@royalfloors.com.au

Installing (1/2)

- ◆ Plan the direction and visual appearance – it is recommended to “dry lay” or “loose lay” the product first (without adhesive) to ensure the visual appearance is acceptable prior to troweling adhesive and laying the floor.
- ◆ Measure the room to find the centre line. Vinyl should start from the centre line for a symmetrical installation

Installing (2/2)

- ◆ Royal Floors vinyl can easily be cut with a utility knife or guillotine from the print-side. If using a utility knife, after running the cut, you can bend and snap the plank.
- ◆ It is recommended the entire floor area should be divided into small sections, leaving the perimeter tiles unadhered until the main body has been installed. When a section has been installed, it should be thoroughly rolled in both directions. It is recommended the boards run the length of the longest, straightest wall
- ◆ Use a V1 (1.6mm) trowel, using 1L to cover approximately 5m². Only spread adhesive to workable sections, which at 23°C, this will usually be the amount of flooring that can be laid within 20 – 25 minutes. Most adhesives have a “tack off” time, around 5 – 10 minutes, where they become slightly sticky before planks should be pressed down. Follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions.
- ◆ Press products down firmly and within 15 minutes, they should be tightly fitted together, however, without significant pressure
- ◆ Use a roller of at least 45 kg to roll over the planks in both directions to apply extra pressure.
- ◆ It is recommended after a period of 45 – 60 minutes to roll the floor again.
- ◆ Planks must be installed while the adhesive is still wet (and slightly tacky), ensuring sufficient transfer after rolling.
- ◆ Remove any excess adhesive immediately by using alcohol or alkaline water.
- ◆ Once the installation is complete, the exposed edges should be protected with finishing trims or other suitable mouldings.

Early trafficking should be avoided, as this will disturb the adhesive bond. Refer to the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions, but this should be between 12 – 24 hours.

Vinyl Flooring Installation Summary Checklist

This summary will reduce common issues such as lifting or gapping of planks due to installation practices. Refer to your supplier for detailed and complete installation guidelines.

Step	What To Do	Why It Matters
Test substrate	Moisture test the substrate with a calibrated digital hygrometer and ensure the substrate is clean and meets standards. Concrete should not exceed 75% RH and timber must not exceed 12% MC.	High moisture may weaken the adhesive and any contaminants on the subfloor will affect adhesion.
Acclimatise vinyl	Leave LVT in the room for 48 - 72 hours. The median temperature of the site (across all seasons) should be the acclimatisation temperature. The surface of acclimatisation must be a flat surface.	Allows it to adjust to the room's environment and allows the planks to settle into a flat state.
Ensure compatible adhesive	Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions exactly	Insecure bonding will result in movement and gapping.
Control environment during and after installation	Keep room at consistent temperature and at 35-65% RH. Keep room condition and temperature consistent post-installation for 48 hours. Avoid HVAC shutdowns or direct heat for 72 hours. Ensure the vinyl is installed at the median temperature of the space.	Prevents expansion / contraction during and after installation.
Check adhesive transfer to the back of the vinyl	Periodically check complete adhesive transfer to the backing of the plank.	Adhesives may cure i.e. "dry" during the laying process and may not grab the plank if not "wet"
Block direct sunlight during installation	Cover windows during and after installation for 48 hours.	Direct sunlight can cause thermal expansion, creating gapping or buckling.
Prepare subfloor	Ensure it's dry, flat ($\leq 3\text{mm}$ over 2m), and clean.	Uneven surfaces cause movement and lifting
Leave expansion gaps	Leave 3mm gaps at walls and fixed objects	Allows for expansion without forcing tiles apart
Roll the floor	Use a 45 - 68KG roller post-installation in both directions within 15 minutes of being laid.	Ensures full adhesive contact and avoids bubbles
Avoid early heavy loads	Wait 48 hours before placing furniture	Allow curing without movement