Installation Guidelines (Royal 8.5mm Hybrid Flooring)

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

Expansion Gaps

Expansion gaps of 10mm should be left around the perimeter of a floating hybrid floor. This gap provides space for the flooring to expand and contract if required. If the installation area is greater than 15m in length or 15m in width raft size, it is recommended to install a 200um black builder's plastic film and also provide for an extra 0.5mm expansion gap per extra metre. 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.

Water-Resistance & 200um PE Film / Builders Plastic

Hybrid floors are considered "waterproof" for the purposes of an indoor floor covering, but it does not mean it can be a substitute for a moisture barrier or is impervious to sustained water / moisture exposure, particularly from beneath the floorboard. The use of a 200um PE moisture barrier is required on all subfloors prior to installation.

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 50 sqm in size i.e. no unseparated areas exceeding 50 square metres.

These expansion gaps should also be left around any other fixtures e.g. pipes, under doors and at doorsteps.

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.

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 trim is a two piece trim as supplied by Royal Floors.

- **Border End Trim or L Angle**
  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 piece universal adjustable trim, or a flexible adhesive fixed L angle in shorter runs.

- **Ramp / Reducer**
  Bridges floor coverings of two different heights and allows for up to 40mm height variations between two floor types. These may be two piece trims or flexible adhesive fixed trims.

Colour Variation

Hybrid 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 all floating flooring products is 200kg per square metre. 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.

Water-Resistance & 200um PE Film / Builders Plastic

Hybrid floors are considered “waterproof” for the purposes of an indoor floor covering, but it does not mean it can be a substitute for a moisture barrier or is impervious to sustained water / moisture exposure, particularly from beneath the floorboard. The use of a 200um PE moisture barrier is required on all subfloors prior to installation.

Silicone & Sealants

Flexible sealants and soft silicone with flexibility are only suitable as fillers for areas where skirting boards or scotia cannot be placed. Please note that areas with flexible sealant still require an expansion gap of at least 3mm, generally should not have a run larger than 6m, not in direct sunlight or be exposed to significant heat, and the direct opposite side is recommended to have a standard 10mm expansion gap, covered with skirting or scotia

If installed in the laundry or in wet areas, a complete seal with flexible silicone of the perimeter is required. This is to prevent water flooring in and under the floor at the perimeter. Please check with the National Construction Code and local building codes for further requirements.

Fixed Cabinetry & Heavy Objects

Heavy objects should not be placed on top of a floating floor, as they may restrict natural movement. Kitchen island benches require the floor to be cut in, and heavy items such as pianos, fish tanks, filling cabinets should not be placed on top of hybrid flooring.

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. Royal hybrid 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 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 should meet 3 criteria:

- **Flat**
  A general guideline is the subfloor deviation should not be more than 2mm over 1 lineal metre or 4mm over 2 metres, as measured by a straight edge. 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. Although the Royal hybrid is waterproof, it is still susceptible to odours and mould growth from beneath if the subfloor is wet.
- **Stable**
  The subfloor needs to be firm and not not display any movement (which may be the case in older timber-based floors, and squeaking or creaking may indicate this). Our 6.5mm Hybrid is not recommended on timber-substrates, unless certain there is no movement or risk of future movement in the substrates.

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. Sometimes installers / retailers choose to proceed with installation, and the sole responsibility for the warranty will be from the installer / retailer.

Additional Underlayment

As Royal Hybrid is supplied fitted with high density IXPE foam underlay on the underside, the use of other underlays is not recommended. However, if underlay is required, warranty can be provided with a high density and low compression 3mm rubber underlay.

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. Note: Flexible adhesive fixed trims e.g. L angles are not recommended when underfloor heating is present and sufficient expansion gaps of between 8 - 10mm is required against walls.

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. It is recommended for timber strip, particle board or other high friction subfloors, use 200uM builder's plastic over the entire surface to reduce friction and jamming and make sure the acoustic underlay does not adhere or get jammed to the subfloor if building movement occurs. This is also recommended where there is exposure to heat sources or rapid temperature changes e.g. sunlight and heaters.
- 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 (1/2)

- Begin the first row with a whole plank. Saw off both the long and short tongue from the first plank.
- Put the plank with sawn sides against the walls. Put spaces of at least 8mm against the wall but no thicker than the size of your skirting / scotia profile (this could be offcuts of flooring). Generally, between 8 - 10mm expansion gap is recommended, or more if you have a larger span.
- Slide the next plank into the first plank and push downwards and forwards. It should automatically fall into place. Use a tapping block and push the board in tightly.
- You will need a saw to cut the planks, such as a jigsaw, crosscut saw or circular hand saw. Ensure that the end joints of the planks in two successive rows are never in line, and they are staggered by at least 15cm.
- Click lock the first plank of the second row into the previous row. Click the short side of the panel into the previous plank and tap them together with a tapping block.
- 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.
- There must be an expansion gap between the last row and the wall. Where it's challenging to install, you can use a pull bar and tap it with a mallet.
- If you encounter any obstacles e.g. pipes, make sure to cut around them and leave expansion gaps.
- Remove all spacers.
- Install the skirting board or the scotia. Never attach this to the floor, it should be attached to the wall (generally with a nail gun and / or adhesive). Ensure the skirting / scotia covers the flooring expansion gap by at least 3mm to facilitate contraction of the floor in cold environments.

Installation (2/2)

- In situations where staircases are involved, it is recommended to use Royal Floors' matching hybrid stair nosing. Stair noses must be permanently bonded using a full spread trowel adhesive as per the Building Code's requirements for stairs & landings. The product cannot be floated in these circumstances and Royal Floors' stair nose does not have the underlay pre-attached, to facilitate a permanent bond. We also recommend the acoustic underlay to be removed for both the tread and riser for a permanent bond.