

Installation Instructions

Vinyl Plank

GH Commercial Vinyl Plank Installation Guidelines should be reviewed by installers prior to commencement of installation. All installations should be in accordance with AS1884 and these instructions. Should you have any queries in relation to the below recommendations, please contact your retailer or GH Commercial representative.

GH Commercial vinyl plank floors have been tested and are recommended for use with adhesives in the **GH Commercial Adhesive Recommendations** list and GH Commercial cannot guarantee the performance of products installed with any other adhesives.

PRE-LAYING CHECKS

It is the installer's responsibility to verify that the product and accessories supplied is the correct product, colour, pattern and quantity. Prior to installation, each plank should be carefully checked in good natural light for any obvious visual defects. Never install defective product (unless agreed by a GH Commercial representative). If the product is incorrect or has any visual defects or damage, contact the retailer or GH Commercial representative. Generally, GH Commercial will not be responsible for any visible defects after the flooring has been cut and/or installed.

SITE TESTING AND CONDITIONING

Concrete sub floors must be tested in accordance with AS1884 for moisture using the relative humidity in-situ probe test and pH. RH levels should not exceed 75% and pH levels should not exceed 10. Moisture testing results to be recorded and retained by installers or supplied to building owner for retention for duration of product warranty period.

GH Commercial vinyl planks (and any adhesives if being used):

- Must be allowed to condition on site in its original (unopened) state for a minimum period of 24 hours, in a dry, well ventilated area with an air temperature between 18°C and 28°C and relative humidity between 35% and 75%.
- The temperature and humidity must remain within this range for the entire installation period and a minimum of 48 hours after installation completion.
- Boxes should be stored no more than 3 high to avoid damage and maximise acclimatisation.

The ambient relative humidity of the area where the products are to be installed needs to be assessed given this can strongly determine the type of adhesive or any other proprietary product required to complete the installation successfully. This may require covering the windows to prevent any fluctuations of temperature during or after the installation to prevent thermally induced changes to the product.

SUB FLOOR PREPARATION

Sub floors must be level and smooth and dry and free of dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint or any other materials which could adversely affect the adhesion of the LVP's to the sub floor.

Concrete floors must be cured and completely dry, with a surface free of trowel marks and surface irregularities. For existing timber, plywood and primed particle board subfloors, any loose boards should be re-fixed and damaged boards replaced, then if required, sanded to a level, smooth and dust free surface.

All subfloors must be thoroughly checked for the following:

1. Planeness - When a straightedge 2 metres long is placed at rest at 2 points 2 metres apart, no part of the surface shall be more than 4mm below the straightedge.
2. Smoothness - When a straightedge 150mm is placed at any position at rest at two points on the surface, no part of the surface shall be more than 1mm below the straightedge.

Depressions and cracks must be filled using a suitable (taking into account the traffic loads) approved levelling compound in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions. All protrusions must be levelled. Any expansion joints in concrete slabs should not be installed over and a suitable expansion joint trim or system should be used. If water is used to clean the subfloor, a moisture test must be conducted in accordance with AS1884 prior to installation.

A primer or cementitious coat must be used when adhering resilient flooring directly to particleboard subfloors as not doing so will adversely affect the bond. Resilient sheet and tile finishes are not normally considered a suitable surface for adhering resilient floor coverings and should be removed. If this cannot be achieved, careful assessment is required as to whether the existing floor is to acceptable standards to adhere the new flooring.

For installations where underfloor heating is used, the surface temperature must not exceed 27°C or have any floorcoverings upon it to fluctuate above this. Refer to AS1884 clause 4.1.3 for scope of preparing and conditioning the sub floor pre and post installation. Please contact your retailer or GH Commercial representative to confirm suitability and further installation recommendations.

Wet rooms can be installed, however where a floor waste is installed the planks can be difficult to form to the floor gradient correctly. Suitability/compatibility of the product with all local building codes must be assessed. Where an underlay is required in a wet area, it must be a fibre cement underlay. Adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for wet rooms must be followed.

ADHESIVES

Use only adhesives set out in the GH Commercial Adhesive Recommendations list. Special consideration should be given to the type of adhesive used in areas subject to extremes in temperature fluctuations (e.g. north facing floor-to-ceiling windows) or prolonged direct sunlight. Some examples may be as follows; windows/doors with continuous full sun exposure, heaters/fireplaces, laundries, bathrooms, areas of high water spillage etc. GH Commercial recommends a HT Hard-Set adhesive or PU adhesive for these applications.

The correct application and curing time of the adhesive is the most critical point to maintain product suitability. Please carefully follow the adhesive manufacturer's directions and correctly acclimatise the products.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

To minimise shade variation, mix and install product from several different packs alternately.

Before applying any adhesive, loosely lay a small quantity of product, view from a distance that allows you to clearly see the overall effect. If there is any doubt cease installation/adhesion immediately and contact your retailer or GH Commercial representative.

Where an acoustic underlay is to be installed, follow the instructions of the acoustic underlay supplier and the adhesive manufacturer.

1. Prepare the subfloor in accordance with Australia Standard 1884 and as set out in these instructions.
2. Plan the direction of the area to be installed to maximise the visual appearance once installed. The direction of the tile/plank grain should be confirmed and the installation should be balanced from the centre of the area to minimise waste.
3. When installing tiles the starting point should be marked out at a perpendicular axis adjacent to the longest straight wall. Installations containing connecting areas and link-ups may require a number of perpendicular axes. When installing planks the starting point should be marked out at a perpendicular line adjacent to the longest straight wall.

4. Application rates and methods for adhesives must be determined by the installer as this will be subject to subfloor conditions. For further information regarding application rates, recommendations and warranties, please contact your adhesive manufacturer.
5. If installing directly over particleboard or hardboard subfloors, primer must be used to ensure good adhesive bond. Likewise for concrete subfloors that appear porous. For further information and recommended primers contact your adhesive manufacturer.
6. Use a full spread of a GH Commercial recommended hardset adhesive. Apply using a new VI notch trowel, ensuring that the trowel is replaced or sharpened regularly. Application of the adhesive using a roller is not recommended. NOTE: In areas that may receive exposure to increased surface water or severe temperature fluctuations, it is recommended to use a full spread epoxy. Contact the adhesive manufacturer for recommendations.
7. Adhere areas into workable sections. At 23°C this will usually be the amount of flooring that can be laid within 20 – 25 minutes. However, this will decrease if the temperatures are higher. Again, observe the adhesive manufactures guidelines.
8. The tiles/planks should be fitted together tightly but without excessive pressure and cut flush to walls and fittings. The minimum distance between the ends of planks in adjacent rows should be no less than 150mm.
9. The perimeter tiles/planks should be fitted last ensuring they do not apply any pressure to adjacent tiles. These perimeter tiles should be no less than 50 mm in width.
10. When a section has been installed it should be rolled in both directions using at least a 45kg roller or 3-section roller of equivalent weight to ensure a full adhesive transfer rate of no less than 95%. For smaller areas, use a hand roller to achieved the same transfer result.
11. Once fully installed all exposed edges should be protected by means of a diminishing strip or other suitable mouldings.
12. To remove any visible traces of adhesive, contact the adhesive manufacture for the recommended removal method.
13. Traffic or wet cleaning should not be allowed on the installation for at least 24 hours to allow the adhesive to reach its full bond strength. Please refer to relevant adhesive manufacturer for curing time frames.

POST INSTALLATION

If construction works are still underway, the floor should be protected from site debris, dirt, soil, traffic etc. by use of a protective surface (e.g. sheet plastic, hard boards etc.). It is recommended that plywood be placed over the floor during the removal or replacement of furniture or any heavy objects within 48 hours of the installation.

Please be careful to ensure no condensation occurs and any adhesive tape or protective material does not affect the aesthetics of the finished installation. Use window coverings to protect the floor from heat and fading under direct sunlight. Dramatic temperature fluctuation of the floor could cause joins to lip or gaps to occur.

Floor should be maintained as set out in the GH Commercial Cleaning Guide available at www.ghcommercial.com.

IMPORTANT WARNING:

- ***Asbestos – Prior to any take-up or removal of floorcoverings, adhesives or underlay, you should be certain these do not contain asbestos. If it is known or suspected the previous flooring, adhesive or underlay contains asbestos, you should avoid creating dust and the previous flooring and/or components should only be removed by an appropriately licenced asbestos removal contractor.***
- ***These Guidelines are intended to assist in achieving an optimum installation. Any variation to the recommendations above by installers may affect any warranties.***

For further information, please contact your local GH Commercial representative.