

# Installation Instructions for Hybrid Flooring



## A: GENERAL

1. Australian Wood Company Pty Ltd Hybrid planks are suitable for use in residential settings or commercial areas such as hotels, conference rooms, healthcare, childcare, education, small offices, small department stores, boutiques, and lobbies. This product is designed for internal installation only – it is NOT to be installed in areas that have potential for flooding, such as bathrooms, laundries, areas with floor waste, saunas, or outdoor areas. This product is not suitable for installation in garages. ALL Hybrid / Rigid Core products installed in wet areas including bathrooms and laundries do not meet the National Construction Code (NCC) and Australian Standard 3740:2021

2. Inspect all planks in good lighting before installation. Defective planks must not be installed, otherwise it is recognized as acceptance of all visual and obvious defects.

3. Hybrid planks grow and shrink with temperature changes. It is important to condition and install the flooring between 15-28°C to prevent excessive growth and contraction during periods of high and low temperatures.

4. Special attention needs to be given to areas where direct sunlight from floor to ceiling windows can significantly raise the temperature of the floor. It is recommended that blinds, tints, or window curtains are used to protect the floor from the heat of the direct sun.

5. Adhesives, silicone, and caulking compounds are not to be used for this product as it is a click floating system. Adhesives or any other materials that restrict expansion and contraction of the floor raft will void warranties.

6. Do not install kitchen benches, cabinetry fittings or heavy items on top of the Hybrid planks. This will pin the floor in place and prevent it from floating freely.

7. Install a 200-micron plastic sheet over rough subfloors such as chipboard to ensure the product's backing does not get caught on the rough subfloor and provides the required movement capability required for a floating floor.

8. Australian Wood Company Pty Ltd strongly recommends that installation is to be carried out by a professional installer.

9. Maintaining the temperature within the recommended installation temperature is crucial. Special attention needs to be given to the properties that are closed for extended periods.

10. Australian Wood Company Pty Ltd hybrid floors must be installed using a floating floor system – they need to be able to move. Ensure expansion gaps allow for movement, and furniture items exceeding 200kg are not placed on the floor

## B: PREPARATION

### Acclimatization

10. It is best practice to acclimatize planks on site where they will be installed for 24 hours prior to installation. The temperature must be kept between 15-28°C and relative humidity (RH) between 40-65%. The temperature of the boards, room and subfloor must also be kept between 15-28°C during installation. Store and transport cartons on a flat surface in neat stacks. Subfloor

11. All substrates must be, structurally sound, plain, smooth, clean, and dry (Australian Standard AS1884:2021).

12. Structurally Sound: This product can be installed onto concrete subfloors and existing timber sub floors, provided they are not cushioned and are dimensionally stable (Refer to Timber Sub floor section). Hybrid Planks can be installed over existing PVC, Linoleum and Ceramic Tiles. Carpet, carpet underlay and/or existing floating floors are not suitable subfloors, Foam underlays, floating floor underlays are not to be used with hybrid planks as it may compromise the locking system. The hybrid comes with its own built-in underlay; no additional underlay is required.

13. Plain: Deviations in any subfloor level must not exceed 0.5mm under a 3 lineal meter straight edge. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound.

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**14. Smooth/Abrupt deviation tolerance:** Must not exceed 0.5mm over a 3000mm straight edge on concrete, wood, and slate subfloors. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound.

**15. Clean:** Ensure the subfloor is clean, the subfloor should be vacuumed thoroughly to remove any loose materials, prior to installation. Maximum Raft size for an Australian Wood Company Pty Ltd Hybrid Floor is 12m (L) & 12m (W).

**16. Dry:** It is essential that the moisture content of any subfloor complies with Australian Standard 1884:2021 a maximum of 80% relative humidity (RH) for concrete subfloors and 10 – 14% moisture content for wood subfloors. A high reading of RH or Moisture Content (MC) will result in an installation failure.

**17.** If proper testing is not being performed, install a continuous damp-proof PE Film (builders' plastic) of 200 micron between the subfloor and Hybrid LVT flooring.

**18.** A new concrete floor must dry at least 1 week per 1cm (about 0.39 in) thickness up to 4 cm (about 1.57 in). Thickness over 4 cm (about 1.57 in) requires twice as much drying time. For example, a 6 cm (about 2.36 in) concrete subfloor must dry for at least 8 weeks (about 2 months). As the drying times are dependent on climate conditions and the ventilation of the building, these timings are only indicative.

**19. Timber sub floor:** Hybrid planks can be installed on particleboard or strip timber subfloors; however, the installation of a 200-micron black builders' plastic must be installed under the Hybrid Planks to ensure the product's backing does not grip on the fibrous subfloor. Existing timber floors should be securely fixed, to minimize the risk of squeaking.

**20. Tile sub floor:** For existing Terrazzo, Marble, Slate and other textured non-porous surfaces, the surface should be plain and smooth. For existing Ceramic and Porcelain Tiles grout joints wider than 1mm (about 0.04 in) and deeper than 1mm (about 0.04 in) should be filled with an appropriate levelling compound. The floor must be sound and rigidly fixed, and any loose or powdery material removed from the joints. Any loose tiles should be removed and repaired to a structurally sound condition.

**21. Heated sub floor:** Always refer to the underfloor heating system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance on installing Hybrid flooring and the compatibility with their system. It is not recommended to install hybrid plank flooring over an electrical underfloor heating system. For Hydronic underfloor heating systems, the following

instructions should be complied with, (a) Before installing over the newly installed heating system, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the subfloor (b) Once this has been completed, switch off the heating system for installation of the flooring (c) It is recommended that the heat be applied in a gradual manner after installing the flooring (d) Ensure the surface temperature never exceeds 28c.

**22. 3mm (about 0.12 in) Rubber & Cork acoustics underlays:** Hybrid flooring is a floating floor which must float freely on the sub floor. A cork or rubber crumb acoustic underlay may cause friction with the foam backing on the planks. 200-micron black builders' plastic must be installed under the Hybrid Planks to ensure the product's backing does not grip on the cork or rubber underlay. Australian Wood Company Pty Ltd recommends 3mm (about 0.12 in) Advantage 3 underlay.

**23.** Hybrid Planks are manufactured to a consistent length with a limited pattern repeat. To achieve the most natural and realistic finish the planks should be laid randomly across the floor. This will result in a more natural looking floor, minimizing pattern repeat.

**24.** The boards should be fitted to run the length of the longest, straightest wall. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel to the length of the hallways. Before laying commences, carefully measure the length and width of the rooms and hallways, plan the layout so the floors look balanced and ensure borders are not less than half a plank width from the wall.

## C. INSTALLATION

**25.** A perimeter expansion gap of a minimum of 10 mm (about 0.39 in) is required around perimeter walls, permanent fixtures (benches, cabinetry, door frames, pipes, etc.). This gap can be covered with skirting, scotia, or other profiles available. No fillers such as silicone or caulking agents are to be used in the installation of Hybrid Flooring, as it will not allow the floor to float, expand and contract as it is designed to do. Skirting boards and door frames must be removed or undercut to allow for expansion. Never attach the skirting boards or scotia to the floor. This method does not allow the floor to expand and contract under the skirting boards/scotia. A clear visible gap between flooring and skirting boards/scotia, trims must be maintained. Firm fitting of skirting boards/scotia can also restrict the expansion and contraction of the boards. It is recommended a scotia / skirting of 15mm (about 0.59 in) – 20mm (about 0.79 in) is used as the floor may contract during colder periods / seasons allowing for coverage. Australian Wood Company Pty Ltd offer a

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matching 20mm (about 0.79 in) scotia for our Hybrid Plank ranges, that will cover these expansion gaps.

**26.** Compartmentalization: In doorways/opening between adjoining rooms, the use of expansion joints must be utilized to compartmentalize the flooring to allow the area in the adjoining room to expand and contract independently. An individual raft cannot exceed 15m in length and 10m in width and must be compartmentalized by expansion joints.

**27.** These planks utilize an innovative 5G Angle to Angle locking mechanism. For more information and installation videos please visit Valinge 5G installation instruction website.

**28.** It is recommended to use an angle of between 20–30° when installing long and short sides. The boards can be installed using angle technique either pulling or pushing the boards to engage.

**29.** Firstly, angle the short side male into the female by supporting the plank at an angle of 20 – 30 °, once engaged, lower the plank to the subfloor. Secondly, slide the board toward the long side of the next board you want to engage into. Push / Pull the short end forward to get as close as possible to the long side of the board you are going to connect to. This should be done as straight as possible to allow the short end to join to slide towards the long side of the board it is to be joined to, without friction or damage. Thirdly, once the long side of the plank being added is as close as possible and lined up / parallel to the long side of the plank it is to be joined to. Ensure the male is in the female the whole way along the long join. Then engage by pushing or pulling into place. The board should now sit flat. Visually check for no gapping or lipping. Run your hand along the joins to ensure it is smooth and level and tap with a rubber mallet if necessary.

**30.** Start with the first plank that will be installed in the corner. For planks of the first row, remove the click profile on the long side that will allow the plank body to sit directly next to the wall. Any side of a plank that is directly next to a wall must have its click profile removed, to ensure the required expansion gap of 10mm (about 0.39 in) is maintained.

**31.** To make the start of the installation easier, assemble the first 3 rows away from the wall. Then slide the first 3 rows in the wanted position close to the wall with the required 10 mm (about 0.39 in) distance spacers in place. Take a string line and hold it alongside the installed planks to check and adjust the straightness of your installed first 3 rows. It is recommended to make added checks throughout the installation.

**32.** Note: End joins should never be closer than 300mm (about 11.81 in) to the end joins of parallel rows (offset). This weakens the stability of the floating installation and affects the aesthetics of the finished install.

## D. Finishing Off

**33.** At doorways, a door threshold strip is to be used to protect the edges of the floor and supply a decorative transition from one floor type to another.

## Important Notice Regarding Warranty:

Any faults that occur because of failure to comply with these installation instructions will not be covered by the product warranty. The products must be inspected prior to installation and any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate replacement prior to the flooring being installed. Australian Wood Company Pty Ltd will not be responsible for installation cost claims where flooring was installed with obvious defects. To enjoy the peace of mind of this product's warranty and ensure the optimum performance of your floor, you must comply with all instructions relating to preparation, subfloor, installation environment, installation method, and ongoing care and maintenance of the floor.

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