

Installation Guidelines

Important note; each project should be installed by a professional flooring contractor or skilled tradesperson. The installation process and method selected is the responsibility of the contractor. You must be satisfied that the contractor is qualified to carry out your site installation.

A thorough understanding and inspection of specific site conditions should be undertaken by the installer prior to commencing work. Site specific circumstances along with climatic extremes may require more complex installations methods and maintenance. If applicable, under floor inspections should be carried out before installation. **Also note:** our Ultimo Vinyl Planks are suitable for installation with Under-Floor heating. **Only Hydronic In-Slab systems installed and operated as per the heating system manufacturers' installation and operating instructions will meet our warranty provisions.** Floor performance remains at owner's risk if you proceed. **Heat and moisture suitable adhesives are required for In-Slab Heating, Residential, Light Commercial and Wet Area installations, (Bathroom and Laundry).** Carefully read the Adhesive Manufacturers instructions to make sure the surface you are bonding to is covered by their comprehensive warranty provisions.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES THOROUGHLY BEFORE COMMENCING INSTALLATION:

Ultimo Luxury Vinyl Planks are uniformly manufactured and dimensionally accurate without the need of a click or locking profile to assist with plank connection. Ultimo planks can be easily aligned to assist with the overall speed of the install. **The final fixing is achieved by bonding the planks onto a reputable brand of highly moisture resistant Pressure Sensitive (PS) adhesive. This will secure the planks for normal traffic loads. Permanent perimeter bonding may be necessary in high temperature locations, generally areas exceeding, 40 + degrees Celsius, such as direct sunlight exposure in hot climates.**

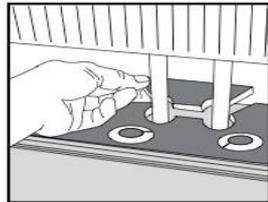
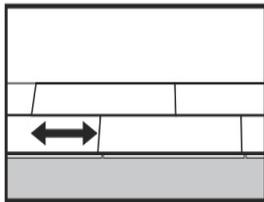
- 1. As indicated a PS method of installation is required for residential applications.** The pressure sensitive adhesion method is recommended largely due to the varied climatic conditions experienced throughout Australia and New Zealand. When installed correctly it will provide a lasting and durable floor surface. Areas exposed to consistent 40c + high temperatures should be adhered with a permanent adhesive.
- 2. Light Commercial installations will require a permanent vinyl plank adhesive due to the higher traffic loads.**
- 3. Substrates,** Ultimo is suitable for installation across a wide variety of common substrates that include Concrete, Plywood, Particleboard, Cork, Cement Sheet and Ceramic Tiles etc. **Confirm that the adhesive you have selected is appropriate for the surface you are bonding onto.**
- 4. As per Australian Building Regulations, AS 1884-2012,** preparation for floor substrates indicate that sub-floors need to be dry, flat (approx. 3 mm over a 3 m radius) and free of any likely contaminants or substances that could reduce the effectiveness of the install and the PS adhesive or show through the surface of the vinyl planks. **For timber based substrates** they should be sound with any loose planks or uneven surfaces sanded and or screwed to avoid future movement and noise.
- 5. Concrete surfaces** should be flat and dry, please check for slab moisture content, less <2.5 % MC content is required for optimum performance then sealed with water based compatible moisture sealer suitable for PS Adhesive. Any leveling compound should be left to dry before commencing installation.
- 6. Ceramic Tile surfaces** should be sound, no loose tiles with grout lines filled to avoid transfer patterns appearing in the surface of the vinyl planks.
- 7. Particleboard;** for new or old particleboard the surface needs to be securely screw fixed to avoid future noise transfer **All surfaces and edges need to be fully sanded and moisture sealed with a compatible adhesive sealer prior to any application of pressure sensitive or permanent bond adhesive. Please check that the adhesive you have selected is suitable for bonding Vinyl onto Particleboard.** Guidelines must be strictly followed to comply with warranty provisions.
- 8. For existing strip timber floors** or similar the surface needs to be level and flat any loose planks, sub-floor joists or bearers should be securely screwed or nail fixed to avoid future noise transfer and movement. All surfaces and edges need to be fully sanded or covered with Masonite, FC sheet or similar low thickness plywood prior to application of adhesive. This is a normal residential Building Regulation and should be strictly followed to comply with warranty provisions.
- 9. Site storage and acclimatisation.** Ideally the cartons should be delivered to site at least 24 hours before installation commences. Cartons must be stored in a cool, shaded and protected dry place (ambient temperature of 18 – 25 Degrees Celsius). **Never open the packs until the day of installation, ideally remove what is expected to be installed during the day at least 30-60 minutes prior to use.** Do not stack excessively high or unevenly as this may result in plank deformity hindering assembly times. During winter months cartons should be left in their original unopened cartons to acclimatise at room temperature for at least 48 hours.

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Helpful Tips;

Tools required will include; Chalk String Line, 3 m Straight Edge, Commercial quality sharp knife for scoring and cutting, metal / wooden square, pencil , tape measure, and double sided tape and PS Adhesive. A small hand roller and a minimum 35 - 50kg + roller to smooth out undulations will be necessary. **Cutting tip;** Always cut / score from the face of the plank to avoid damaging the visual surface .It's best to use a solid utility knife blade as they are more likely to provide a precise , clean cut. This will help you achieve a professional look and keep your plank waste to a minimum. Cheap throw away knives that use snap off blades are not tough enough to handle the cutting pressure required to score and cut through the glass fiber construction.

10. **Each plank should be carefully checked prior to installation. Please confirm batch colour is consistent with the specified colour as selected / purchased by the client. Do not install defective planks.**
11. You will need to establish a starter row that has been aligned from a chalk line running lengthways within the room. **Do not start your floor installation against an existing wall as it may not be straight.** Generally a starting row should be planned a small distance from a long wall to allow for as many full width planks to be used. Periodic alignment inspections must be carried out throughout the installation.



12. **A staggered pattern** of plank installation is recommended. Starting with a cut plank of approx. 300 mm will provide the best visual outcome and importantly is the most waste efficient method of install. Parallel plank joints should then be at least 150 -300 mm away from the adjoining plank. This provides a natural plank appearance and enhances the dynamics of the installation. For Radiator pipes, installation at radiators. **Drill the holes 10 mm larger** than the diameter of the pipes. Cut out the panel (with the thinnest blade possible) as per diagram. Install the plank as per normal. Glue the cut out piece back again. **Refer above diagrams.**

13. To blend and balance batch variation the installer should always work from several open cartons to create a balanced visual for the installation. Planning the install areas is a critical part of the project. **Planks should be orientated to run in the direction of the longest walls starting from the corner furthest from the entrance.** This will enhance the visual appearance and will enable the installer to work professionally in the workspace whilst the floor is being installed. Hallways ideally should run lengthways.
14. For plank cutting, initially score with a sharp solid knife blade and then with the second cut push through the core structure and glass fiber element of the plank. Fold back and snap off the trim. Make sure all intermediate plank cuts are at 90 degrees to the edge of the plank.
15. **In preparation for gluing the surface-temperature of the sub-floor at installation should be at least 10-12°C but never exceed 27°C. For optimum performance the ideal relative humidity should be 45% to 60 % but never below 30% or consistently exceeding 60%.** If there are large west facing openings or windows facing direct heat it is recommended that coverings be placed over the openings or windows to restrict the heat during the install.

Adhesive Selection;

16. **For Residential installations,** please select and use a reputable brand of highly moisture resistant Pressure Sensitive (PS) adhesive for the general living, kitchen, entertainment and bedroom areas of the home. **For dedicated wet areas, such as bathrooms and laundries and hot zones (higher than 40c +),** a durable water resistant direct bond adhesive is required. Typically Vinyl Plank adhesives suitable for wet areas and higher temperature environments such as in-slab heating installations will provide a permanent bond. In all applications the adhesives must be applied full spread with a 1.6 mm V shaped notched trowel. **Popular brands include; Mapei, Sika and Roberts.**
17. **Light Commercial installations** will require a moisture resistant permanent bond Vinyl Plank adhesive to be used. This is due to the higher traffic and possible rolling loads associated with offices and institutional buildings such as Aged Care, Nursing Homes etc. Any reputable supplier of adhesives can assist with the correct adhesive selection for your intended application. **Remember at all times please read and follow the strict use guidelines as indicated by the Adhesive Manufacturer.**

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- Once the installation has commenced carefully apply the adhesive consistently to avoid lumpy applications that may result in an uneven, undulating finish.
- Use the small hand roller as you go to apply pressure to the planks to improve adhesive contact. Carefully clean any excess adhesive if it shows through the joins or on the surface of the planks. Clean with a damp cloth or PH neutral cleaning wipes.
- The adjoining planks should be butted firmly against each other and neatly pressed against any wall and other fixtures. Avoid tight fitting the planks as this may result in peaking at the seams and joints. Perimeter expansion is not required.
- For Light Commercial installations it is particularly important that the planks are not overly tight as the higher traffic loads and office furniture will certainly create more pressure on the seams and joints.
- Once the main areas have been installed it is important to continue with alignment checks and clean any excess glue or grit of the floor. Then carefully move the heavy roller across the floor surface, this will assist to even out the install and to fully engage the adhesive with the underside of the plank.
- Your Ultimo Vinyl floor is ready to walk on immediately after installation. If the floor requires cleaning immediately after installation please make sure cleaning and maintenance is done as per the instructions detailed below. **Avoid any heavy traffic for at least 24 hours.** Site cleaning should be done using a broom to clear grit and dust and where necessary a damp-dry mop. **Never use an excessively wet or stem mop to clean as it will damage the floor with repeated use.**
- Claims regarding visible defective floor planks must be made prior to installation. **Each plank should be inspected to ensure that the quality is acceptable. No claims relating to visual defects can be accepted after installation.**

CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

You have purchased a high-quality Vinyl Plank flooring product that will not require any special treatment directly after installation. Regular care and maintenance responsibilities are required to better preserve your floor. If you follow these general cleaning and required maintenance guidelines your new floor will perform as intended for many years to come.

- Please ensure that an ideal room-climate is maintained whenever possible. Ideal conditions would provide for approximately, 45-60% Air Humidity and 21-25°C room temperatures. This is a comfortable range for indoor climate and provides for optimal health and assists in the overall performance of the floor.
- Daily cleaning should be done with a smooth floor-broom, vacuum cleaner or static mop. Any sand or dirt should be immediately removed to avoid scratches and damage to the floor surface. Please ensure no metal screws or sharp edges are evident on the vacuum head. **Pet claws should be regularly trimmed to avoid plank scratching and digging damage.**
- Whenever necessary, the floor surface can be cleaned with a well-rung damp-dry mop. **Do not use conventional household cleaning solutions and detergents, they are abrasive and will damage the surface coating.** PH neutral cleaning solutions are required, please observe and follow manufacturer's instructions when cleaning. **Be careful not to over water indoor planter pots.**
- It is important that you affix felt strips or suitable protection under any furniture-bases, chair-legs and commonly movable objects. At entry points and for high traffic areas the use of suitable floor mats to remove entry grit and dirt is recommended. **Avoid the use of rubber, latex or coco fiber mats as they are likely to stain your floor. Non –staining mats should be used.**
- **Roller or castor chairs should not be used directly on the floor surface.** Protective mats must be placed on the floor surface to avoid a build-up of grit under the castors. **Do not drag or push heavy items across the surface of the vinyl plank floor.**
- Remember to use window coverings and or sun blinds to help protect your floor from excessive heat and extreme UV light.
- In case of any plank damage on the surface (e.g. by furniture movement etc.), it is possible to remove damaged planks by pulling up the surrounding area and re-fitting a new plank. Always keep a spare carton of planks for future use.

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