

## INSTALLATION GUIDE

HERRINGBONE SMART LAY VINYL PLANKS

### ***Important Information***

*It is important to employ safe working practices and use safety protection gear when installing flooring, such as protective eyewear and clothing, safe footwear, and respiratory protection gear.*

*Please note that this guide should be followed closely as it is designed in respect to the Serfloor Herringbone Smart Lay Vinyl Plank specifications. Failure to comply with the instructions can result in the floor peaking, cupping, sinking, breaking, and chipping, and in these instances the warranty will not apply. It is recommended that you use professional installers for our products. Installation must be done in accordance with AS/NZS 1884-2021 Floor coverings – Resilient sheets and tiles – Installation practices. Incorrect installation or preparation of the subfloor will void your warranty.*

### **Subfloor types**

All subfloor types must be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paints, oils, or old adhesive residue. Curing agent and hardeners can cause bonding failure and should not be used. Do not use solvents or citrus based solutions to remove and clean residue or marks, as it will affect the vinyl flooring.

All subfloor types must be flat with a maximum deviation of 4mm under a 2m straight edge, 2mm over 1m, and 1mm over 20cm. There should be no high or low spots throughout the area where the vinyl flooring will be installed.

- **Wooden subfloor:** Existing wood-based subfloors such as timber strip flooring, plywood, OSB, chipboard, particle board and Masonite must be structurally sound and secured. Repair any loose boards or squeaks before proceeding with the installation. There should be no movement in the subfloor both vertically and horizontally.  
The moisture levels must be checked in at least 3 different areas per 100sqm prior to installation, with a maximum moisture content of 14%. If the levels are too high, a moisture barrier must be used to cover the entire subfloor.
- **Concrete subfloor:** Concrete subfloor must be fully cured for at least 60 days.  
The moisture and PH levels must be checked in at least 3 different areas per 100sqm prior to installation, with a maximum RH level of 75% (or 2.5% for impedance meter), a maximum moisture emission of 15g/sqm/24h, and a pH level between 5 and 9%. If the levels are too high, a moisture barrier must be used to cover the entire subfloor.
- **Underfloor heating:** Vinyl flooring is suitable for hydronic in-slab under-floor heating that is 12mm away from the vinyl flooring only. No other floor heating system or methods are allowed, this includes electric under-floor heating and hydronic in-screed heating.  
The underfloor heating system must be operated for at least 14 days prior to acclimatisation to reduce residual moisture in the concrete. The system must be switched off 48h prior, during, and 48h after installation.. After installation, the system can only be increased in increments of 2°C per 24h. The maximum surface temperature of the concrete should never exceed 27°C.

Above heating (such as open fireplace, electric heaters, or prolonged exposure to direct sunlight) requires strict attention as proximity to extreme heat may result in plank deformity or glue failure and won't be covered under warranty.

Note: Heating mats are not recommended for vinyl planks.

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- **Tile subfloor:** Tiles and grout lines need to be firm, dry, clean, sound, and secure. Any loose tiles must be repaired and grout lines wider and/or deeper than 2mm must be levelled.
- **Vinyl-based subfloor:** Only install over single layer hard set fixed resilient tile and sheet vinyl if it can't be removed. Do not install over existing Loose Lay, floating floor, or cushion backed vinyl floor.
- **Underlay:** Additional acoustic underlay is not usually necessary for residential applications. If additional underlay is required to meet code or body corporate requirements, a rigid acoustic underlay can be used, such as rubber or cork up to 3mm.

The below subfloors are not accepted and will need to be removed before proceeding with the installation:

- Wood-based subfloor installed directly on concrete
- Textile flooring such as carpet
- Cushion-backed vinyl flooring
- Any floating floor, including existing hybrid, laminate, vinyl, timber, etc.
- Painted floor – remove loose paint or other finishes
- Slate tiles must be either removed or levelled prior installation
- Asbestos and asbestos adhesive residue must be removed by a professional abatement company

### Subfloor flatness

Please ensure that the subfloor is thoroughly checked for flatness throughout the entire area as incorrect preparation of the subfloor will void your warranty.

All subfloor types must be flat with a maximum deviation of 4mm under a 2m straight edge, 2mm over 1m, and 1mm over 20cm. There should be no high or low spots throughout the area where the vinyl flooring will be installed.



### Wet areas

Vinyl flooring is suitable for use in most residential wet areas. Please check with your local Building Code to confirm suitability for installation in bathrooms, laundry, and powder rooms.

Vinyl flooring is waterproof from the top down and must not be installed in areas that have potential for flooding or high moisture content, such as outdoors, in pool areas, saunas, conservatories, sun rooms, or in other rooms that are continually wet.

To ensure that water will not get under the vinyl flooring, the planks must be glued, and the perimeter sealed with a flexible silicone sealant.

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### Adhesive

Serfloor Australia recommends the use of Ardex AF-171 universal adhesive for most installation of our Vinyl plank products.

For areas that may be exposed to high moisture, high levels of humidity, direct sunlight, high temperatures, and/or high temperature fluctuations, the use of a suitable adhesive will be required. Please follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

### Acclimatisation

The room that the flooring is to be installed in should be acclimatised to 18-27°C and 30-65% RH for a period of at least 24 hours before installation. HVAC system, if present, must be in operation 24h prior, during, and 24h after installation.

Once the rooms are at the required temperature and humidity level, remove the planks from the boxes and stack them in neat piles (no more than 3 boxes high) as well as the adhesive that will be used, in the room they will be installed in, for 24 hours prior to installation.

Do not attempt installation if it is less than 18°C or more than 27°C.

The environment post installation should be controlled and maintained between 18°C and 27°C for the life of the product.

### Tools required

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Chalk line (optional)
- Stanley knife
- 35-45kg roller
- Hard set vinyl adhesive
- 1.6 V-notch trowel

### Installation

Prior to installation, it is important to determine the layout of the flooring. Typically, the herringbone pattern runs in the direction of the longest wall.

It is important to work out of several boxes to mix the patterns while installing.

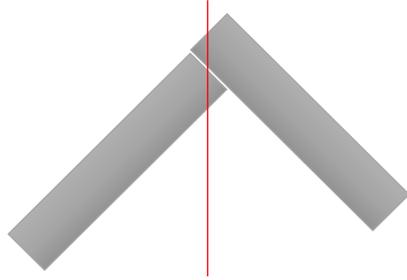
- First 2 rows: Find the centre of the room and draw a line from one end of the wall to the other to ensure your first 2 rows are straight. This can be done with a chalk line, laser, or pencil.  
Tips: Start your installation in the hallway for the best results.

Evenly spread the adhesive along the centre line using a 1.6mm V notch trowel. Please follow the instructions of the adhesive, that can be found on the tub. It can take 10-15 minutes to become tacky - the time it takes for the adhesive to become tacky depends on the substrate porosity and ambient temperature in the room.

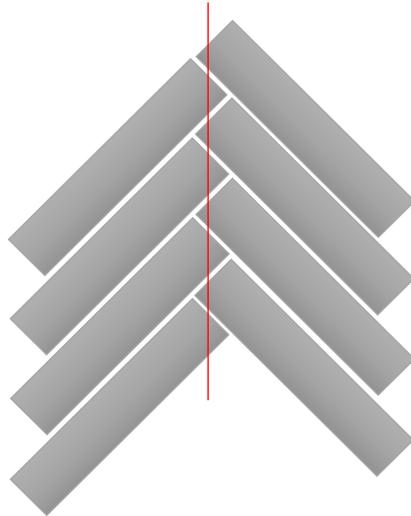
Once the adhesive is ready, start placing the planks side by side, at a 90° angle so that they are aligned with your marked centre line (see below).

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Continue installing the planks, ensuring that they are following the centre line.



Apply hand force pressure over the top of the plank evenly moving your hand in a forwards and backwards motion. This ensures the plank will get a strong bond with the adhesive.

- Subsequent rows: Continue installing the planks at a 90° angle from the adjacent pieces, ensuring they are kept straight, and the pattern is mixed for a better visual aspect.
- Loose lay: Smart Lay Herringbone can be installed with no adhesive, but it is recommended to start the first 2 rows with adhesive to ensure the planks don't move while installing. A strip of adhesive is also recommended every 4m and around the perimeter of every room/cabinetry to ensure stability.
- Border: Borders are a personal choice and are purely for aesthetic reasons. They can be installed before or after laying the herringbone pattern, but it is more common to do them after to ensure a clean cut of the herringbone pattern.

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- **Finishing:** With a roller, go over the entire floor to ensure a strong bond between the vinyl planks and the adhesive. Avoid traffic for at least 24h and avoid mopping for 72h (or as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer).

Re-install the skirting boards if they have been removed. Filler such as silicone can be used to cover any gaps around the perimeter for a clean finish.

## Maintenance

- Always keep the ambient temperature between 18-27°C
- Clean the floor from debris daily and wipe spills promptly
- Protect your floor from direct sunlight to avoid discolouration
- Use entrance mats to protect your floor against micro-scratches, dirt, and moisture, ensuring that they are not rubber backed to avoid discoloration of the planks
- Avoid dragging furniture or other objects across the floor. Use floor protector pads to prevent scratching.
- Protect your floor from office chairs by using a mat, ensuring that they are not rubber backed to avoid discoloration of the planks
- Do not use vacuums without a soft bristle head, or one that has a dirty or damaged head, as it may cause scratching of the vinyl planks
- Clean using a damp mop with clean water and a diluted neutral-PH floor cleaner. Avoid using bleach-based detergents as they can cause discolouration. Do not use detergents, abrasive cleaners, or “mop and shine” type of cleaning products