



INSTALLATION Manual

Engineered Hybrid Click Lock

Longboard

INSTALLATION GUIDE

HYBRID LONGBOARD

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 manual should be followed closely as it is designed with the Serfloor SPC longboard specs in mind. 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.

Please read through the entire Installation Manual before you begin installing your new flooring.

Things to be aware of:

- ❖ Due to the nature of the product, expansion and contraction will occur after installation. Gaps or peaking may appear between boards if temperature fluctuations have occurred. The amount of movement a floor experiences is influenced by humidity, temperature, installation methods and the sub floor the product has been laid on. Some maintenance may be required to tighten up the boards after installation.
- ❖ **Subfloor:** Timber subfloors such as yellow tongue, timber planks and chipboard are more inclined to move than Masonite, Plywood, a cement based, or concrete floor. Timber subfloors expand and contract with temperature changes, and this can have a direct impact on your new floor installation. With a timber subfloor, we recommend laying down Masonite or ply sheeting prior to installing your new herringbone floor.
- ❖ **Temperature:** Our Hybrid product is designed to move as a whole floor. Temperature will have the biggest impact on floor movement. High temperature in summer will cause the planks to expand. In winter low temperature can cause the planks to shrink. If the floor is not able to move properly as temperatures change, gaps or peaking can appear at the weakest points in the floor. In order to combat this, ensure a 10-12mm gap is left around the perimeter of each room including doorframes, pipes, and cupboards etc, to allow movement to occur. This gap can then be covered with skirting boards or scotia.
- ❖ **Large areas:** For areas that have a length or width that are over 10m (across a hallway for example), a 10-12mm control joint will need to be applied. This can be done in a doorway to help keep it neat providing the span from one expansion gap to the other is no more than 10m. This gap can then be covered with an expansion trim.
- ❖ **Heavy objects:** Heavy objects, such as kitchen benches, large bookshelves, pool tables, etc, will prevent the floor from moving freely. We recommend installing your kitchen or bathroom benches first and install your hybrid floor around them. We do not recommend placing heavy items on our Engineered Hybrid Click Lock products.

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Installation Tips

Tips to minimise movement caused by factors, including temperature and humidity, subfloor, and improper installation.

- ❖ Ensure that both the room and the new planks are acclimatised to 18-27°C for a period of at least 48 hours prior to installation. This temperature should be maintained prior to, during, and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed.
 - The indoor temperature must *always* be above 18°C and below 27°C.
- ❖ Ensure that your subfloor moisture content is not above the recommended amount according to the current Building Code of Australia and/or relevant state and territory building codes.
- ❖ Ensure a 10-12mm gap is left around the outside of each room, including doorframes, pipes, cupboards etc.
- ❖ Prior to installation, determine whether you will remove old skirtings and replace them with new ones after installation. We leave the choice to reuse old/new skirting up to the installer as they are the ones onsite and best able to determine if they can reuse the skirting.
- ❖ Check all planks before and during installation (if defective planks are installed, the warranty will be void in respect to those planks).

Required Tools and Equipment

- ❖ Safety gear and protective clothing *particularly, safety glasses and safety gloves*
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Stanley knife
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ Straight Edge
- ❖ Square
- ❖ String/chalk line
- ❖ Hammer or rubber mallet (optional)
- ❖ Tapping block (optional)
- ❖ Pull Bar (optional)
- ❖ Table Saw, Jig Saw or Mitre Saw (optional)
- ❖ Spacers

Preparation

- ❖ The room that the flooring is to be installed in should be acclimatised to 18-27°C for a period of at least 48 hours before installation (be maintained prior to, during and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed).
- ❖ Take all the planks out of the box and stack them in piles of about 2 boxes high 48 hours prior to allow them to acclimatise before installation.
- ❖ Do not attempt installation in severe conditions if it is less than 18°C or more than 27°C.
- ❖ Make sure your floor is thoroughly cleaned from all contaminants (sweeping and vacuuming may be required). Do not wash the subfloor prior installation and do not expose it to water.
- ❖ Ensure the subfloor is dry, flat, even, firmly fixed, stable, clean, and free from debris, nails, grease, old adhesives, and any chemical substances.

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- ❖ All substrates need to be level before laying the flooring otherwise you can encounter imperfections in the floor that maybe present during and after the installation. Deviations in the subfloor level must not be greater than 3mm under a 2 metres straight edge.
- ❖ Repair any damaged areas, holes, gaps, raised edges, and indentations by using a compound or anything recommended by your specialist. The floor will need to be levelled throughout the area that will be covered with the new flooring.
- ❖ Remove any carpet, cushion vinyl, floating laminate, needle felt, parquet and the like.
- ❖ In almost all installation, a moisture barrier will be required. Your installer will need to determine which Moisture Barrier Membrane will be best suited to your circumstances.
- ❖ Plan out:
 - the direction the planks will be laid
 - the starting point

Installation

Step 1

- ❖ Use a string/chalk line from one end of the wall to the other to ensure your wall is straight and your planks begin straight when they are being laid.
 - It is recommended to start laying the first row from the left corner of your wall; however, you can begin laying at another point if you are required to.
 - Make sure to measure the total width between the walls divided by the width of the plank to ensure the last piece is reasonable in size when laying it down.
- ❖ If the wall is not straight, please use the chalk/string line to create a straight edge.

Step 2

- ❖ Start installing parallel to the longest straightest wall, normally an exterior wall. Install the flooring pieces left to right. The groove side of the plank should be facing away from the starting wall.
- ❖ Using spacers, leave a minimum gap of 10-12mm for expansion between the flooring and walls, door frames, pipes, and cabinets etc. The space you leave will depend on the distance of the length and width of the floor. You may need to leave more gap depending on the overall span.

Step 3

- ❖ After laying the first plank, lay the second plank in position by inserting the tongue on a 45-degree angle. If you need to tap the planks together, be sure to use an offcut or a tapping block.
 - Never use a hammer on the planks directly, so you do not damage the click system and planks with the hammer.
- ❖ Continue laying the boards this way until you reach the other wall.

Step 4

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- ❖ To start the second row, ensure the plank is at least 20cm longer or shorter than the first plank in the previous row. There should be a minimum of 20cm stagger between any one joint and the nearest joints in adjacent rows. Planks used to start or end a row should be at least 20cm long.
- ❖ Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the tongue side into the groove at a 45-degree angle first, then pressing the plank down, locking it into the previous row. If necessary, tap the plank on its end with an offcut or tapping block to lock it into the previous plank.

Step 5

- ❖ Continue installing rows, working left to right and adding additional planks in each row while maintaining a minimum 20cm stagger between adjacent row joints.

Step 6

- ❖ The last plank in each row should be cut to fit while still maintaining a 10-12mm expansion gap at the wall.

In order to achieve this, you can follow the below steps.

1. Flip the plank over (placing the groove to your left.)
2. Measure the plank by the gap in the row.
3. Mark and cut the plank using a Stanley knife or electric saw.
4. Then flip the plank back over and it will be ready to be tapped into place.
5. You may use the remaining piece to start the next row assuming it is a minimum of 20cm long and leaves a 10-12mm expansion gap.

Finishing

- ❖ Once all the flooring is laid you can then re-install the moulding or skirting.
- ❖ If you have undercut the jambs or did not remove the moulding or skirting, you can install scotia to cover the 10-12 expansion gaps around the perimeter for a clean finish.
- ❖ Be careful not to secure the skirting or beading to the Engineered Hybrid Click Lock Longboard or to lay the skirting or beading to tightly against the floor, this can stop the floor from expanding and contracting from the edge of the wall as it is supposed to and gaps can appear where the boards are clicked together.

***DISCLAIMER REGARDING STAIR INSTALLATIONS:** *If you are installing your new flooring on stairs, each plank must be glued with hard set adhesive and the foam backing must be removed from the planks before gluing.*