



INSTALLATION GUIDE

Engineered Hybrid Click Lock

Longboard

ENGINEERED HYBRID CLICK LOCK LONGBOARD INSTALLATION GUIDE

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 is only a guide and we always recommend that you use professional installers for our products. Installation must be done in accordance with AS/NZS 1884-2012 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 Guide before you begin installing your new flooring.

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.
- ❖ If you have a timber subfloor, we recommend laying down Masonite or self-leveller first to help minimize movement and then laying the vinyl floor over this.
- ❖ Ensure a 10-12mm gap is left around the outside of each room, including doorframes, pipes, cupboards etc.
- ❖ In circumstances where the span is more the 15m long (e.g. across a hallway), an expansion gap will be needed to break the span. 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 the 15m.
- ❖ Heavy objects on the floor, edging strips attached to the planks in door frames or where the floor meets other flooring, may restrict movement of the planks and prevent the floor from expanding and contracting. This may result in peaking or separation of the planks.
- ❖ 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 and tapping block
- ❖ Pull Bar (optional)
- ❖ Table Saw, Jig Saw or Mitre Saw (optional)

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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's less than 18°C or more than 27°C.
- ❖ Make sure your floor is thoroughly cleaned from all contaminants (sweeping, vacuuming and damp mopping may be required).
- ❖ Ensure the subfloor is dry, flat, even, firmly fixed, stable, clean and free from debris, nails, grease, old adhesives and any chemical substances.
- ❖ 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.
 - *Any uneven surfaces will need to be levelled with levelling compounds or other material suitable for the application, please talk to a professional for the best advice for your subfloor.*
- ❖ Repair any damaged areas, holes, gaps and indentations by using a compound or anything recommended by your specialist. The floor will need to be level throughout the area that will be covered with the new flooring.
- ❖ Remove any carpet, cushion vinyl, floating laminate, needle felt, parquet and the like.
- ❖ Plan out:
 - the direction the planks will be laid;
 - the starting point;
 - how you will stagger the planks; and
 - what lengths you will be using.
 - *Please note: Do not use a piece shorter than 20cm for the staggering of the planks.*

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.

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Step 3

- ❖ After laying the first plank, lay the second plank in position by inserting the tongue on a 45-degree angle. Be sure to use a tapping block, never use the 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.

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

Step 4

- ❖ 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 first, then pressing the plank down, locking it into the previous row. Then tap the plank on its end with a 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 must 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.

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 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.

Tips to remember:

- ❖ Due to the nature of the product, it will expand and contract with temperature changes. Some movement can be expected to occur once your floor is laid and it climatizes to its environment. On some occasions gaps or peaking may appear between boards if extreme temperature fluctuations have occurred. The amount of

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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.

Here are some useful tips to help you achieve the best finish for your floor.

- ❖ **Subfloor:** Timber subfloors such as yellow tongue, timber planks and chipboard are more inclined to move than Masonite, Plywood or a cement based or concrete floor. Timber subfloors expand and contract with temperature changes and this can have a direct impact on the floor. If you have a timber subfloor such as these, we recommend laying down Masonite or ply sheeting first to help minimize movement and then laying the floor over this.
- ❖ **Temperature:** Our Engineered Hybrid Click Lock is designed to move as whole floor space. Humidity will have the biggest impact on floor movement. High humidity in summer will cause the planks to expand. In winter low humidity can cause the floor 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. The best way to help combat this is to ensure a 10-12mm gap is left around the outside of each room including doorframes, pipes, and cupboards etc. The floor then uses this space to expand and contract. If this space is not there, the floor will still move, but instead of using the expansion gap you have provided it will find the weakest point in the floor, which is usually where the planks click together, and gaps or peaking will appear. This can happen on the long and short ends of the plank. If the span is more the 15m long (across a hallway for example) an expansion gap will be needed to break the span. 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 the 15m. Sometimes heavy objects on the floor will stop the floor being able to move, as will edging strips that are attached to the planks in door frames or where the floor meets other flooring such as tiles or carpet. If the floor is running through multiple rooms and gaps are not left around door frames, the planks can pull apart in or near the doorway. This is because, as the floor has moved its meet resistance from the door frame, the floor does not stop moving just because the doorframe is there, instead it will find the weakest point in the floor and the planks will begin to separate to accommodate the movement. In winter this show as gaps between the planks, in summer the planks will bubble up or “Peak” which is why it is important to leave the expansion gap around the perimeter of the room to avoid future issues.
- ❖ **Installation:** Installation methods can also be a contributing factor. A 10-12mm gap must be left around all edges of each room, including doorways, pipes, and cupboards etc. Many people make sure they do this around the wall but forget areas around other edges or where the floors meet carpet or tiles. Sometimes people accidently glue or silicon the edge of their planks to the edging they use to cover the gap between the planks and the tiles or carpet. When the floor moves in this area it will not be able to do so at the edge, so it will find another avenue which is usually between planks nearby.