



## INSTALLATION GUIDE

### Loose Lay Shortboard

## LOOSE LAY SHORTBOARD 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.
- ❖ In circumstances where underlay is being used, we recommend using hard rubber underlay only. Other underlay may cause the planks to bow.
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Stanley knife
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ 1.6mm V Notch Trowel
- ❖ Straight Edge
- ❖ Square
- ❖ String/chalk line
- ❖ Hard set vinyl adhesive

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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 24 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, 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.
- ❖ Repair any damaged areas, holes, gaps, 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 loose lay shortboard 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
  - 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.
- ❖ If the wall is straight the planks can be laid right up next to the wall or skirting.
  - 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, use the chalk/string line to create a straight edge. You will need to back fill the gap between the wall and planks once the floor is laid to ensure the planks do not move.

#### Step 2

- ❖ Using a 1.6mm V notch trowel, spread the adhesive onto the floor (evenly spreading the adhesive).
- ❖ We highly recommend you use our recommended adhesive with our Loose Lay Shortboard product as we cannot guarantee other brands will work satisfactorily with our product.
  - Please note: It is important to know the type of adhesive you are using as each adhesive by type/brand may have different structures and; therefore, may need to be applied differently.
  - Please ensure you consider the directions advised by the adhesive type/brand you are using.

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### Step 3

- ❖ Once the adhesive has become tacky (the adhesive will have a chewing gum like consistency if you touch it), the planks can then start to be laid on the adhesive. It can take 10-15 minutes to become tacky, the warmer the temperature, the quicker it will become tacky. The time it takes for the adhesive to become tacky depends on the substrate porosity and ambient temperature in the room.
- ❖ If planks are being laid over a non-porous surface such as vinyl and sealed/painted concrete, a pressure sensitive vinyl adhesive will need to be used instead. Please contact the adhesive manufacturer for instructions on which adhesive best suit your circumstances.

***\*DISCLAIMER REGARDING STAIR INSTALLATIONS:*** *If you are installing your new flooring on stairs, each plank must be glued with hard set adhesive.*

### Step 4

- ❖ Lay the first row of planks in position, remember to face any planks that have been manually cut towards the wall to ensure the planks join in nice and tight.
- ❖ Ensure your first row is straight before commencing with the second row as this is vital to sustain a straight line in successive rows.
- ❖ To cut the planks use a straight edge or a plank and place it on the marked area where the cut needs to be made. Keeping the front image facing upright score the plank with your Stanley knife and snap it down on a hard edge. If the plank does not snap off completely cut the plank from underneath and follow through until the pieces are separated.

### Step 5

- ❖ Begin laying the second row of planks down and at this point you need to use different size pieces to begin staggering the floor to create a random appearance, you can potentially use the last cut piece from your first row as the first piece for your second row.
- ❖ Keep in mind the piece you are using is to be more than 20cm as all the joins in the floor need to be apart by a minimum of that distance.

### Step 6

- ❖ Continue installing the remaining rows following the same instructions above and keeping note of all the requirements.

## Finishing

- ❖ Once all the flooring is laid you can then install the removed moulding or skirting.
- ❖ If you have undercut the jambs or laid the planks up against the moulding or skirting, you can install beading around the perimeter for a clean finish.