



HARMONY
TIMBER FLOORS

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

SPC HYBRID VINYL



www.harmonytimberfloors.com



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR HARMONY SPC HYBRID VINYL FLOORING

Harmony Flooring Installation Guidelines are to be read in conjunction with the recommendations outlined by The Australasian Timber Flooring Association.

[The Australasian Timber Flooring Association | ATFA
https://www.atfa.com.au](https://www.atfa.com.au)

Step 1: PRE-INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

Please handle, transport, and unload the flooring with care. **Do not drop boxes on the ends as this could break the locking system or stand the boxes upright as this could cause the flooring to bow. The boxes need to be stored flat at all times.** The flooring should be stored in a cool and dry place. Always store the flooring flat, not leaning up against the walls as it could cause the flooring to bow. The flooring should not be delivered to site until the building has been closed in with windows and doors, and until cement work, plastering, painting, and all other materials are thoroughly dry. Proper temperature control needs to be in place during and after installation and can be achieved by circulating the air with fans, opening windows and doors, running air conditioners etc. Do not install the flooring in areas that are subject to extreme seasonal temperature changes, where you cannot control the temperature. Please note that when installing the flooring in areas that are subject to large amounts of sunlight, that the windows are tinted or window furnishing installed and drawn at the time of the day when most exposed to sunlight. Failure to do so could result in UV fading of the floor and excessive expansion.

Step 2: MOISTURE TEST

Before installing the flooring over a concrete or a particle board subfloor, check the subfloor for moisture in several areas using an appropriate qualified commercial moisture meter. Prior to installation commencing it is critical to check the moisture content of the subfloor. For concrete slabs, the moisture reading of the subfloor should be around 2.5% or lower for an older concrete slab and no more than 3.9% for a new concrete slab. Check the subfloor for moisture in several areas using an appropriate qualified commercial moisture meter. If the moisture contents fall outside of this range, additional drying of the subfloor will be required. It is advisable that if the moisture content of the subfloor falls outside of the recommended ranges that the subfloor be sealed with an appropriate sealant. Please note that the sealants only act as a vapor barrier and not a moisture barrier or waterproofing membrane. The responsibility for checking the moisture contents of the subfloor lies with the installer and this information needs to be documented via marking the readings on the subfloor which are to be photographed and dated. A number of readings are required to be taken around varying locations on the subfloor. One or two readings will not suffice. If there are any areas of particular concern, then these need to be addressed before installation commences. It is to be noted that large cracks in the concrete slab will need to be addressed prior to installation commencing by the relevant qualified tradesman.

Step 3: SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The preparation of the subfloor is a critical component in order to ensure a successful installation process.

The subfloor must be structurally sound, free of deflection or excessive movement, permanently dry, level, smooth, clean and free of any foreign contaminants such as paint, dust, dirt, grease, oil, old adhesive residue etc. Do not install the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring over any type of carpet.

Never install an underlay, as this will cause the flooring to be spongy underfoot and could cause the floorboards to unclip or the locks to break. **Installation of an underlay will void all warranties for the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring.**

The subfloor must be structurally sound and level to within 2mm over 3 lineal meters in any direction as SPC hybrid vinyl flooring is a much thinner product and tolerances are lower. Please also note when installing SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, it is critical that builder's black plastic with a minimum 100µm gauge is installed prior to installation of the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. This is necessary in order to ensure that the SPC hybrid Vinyl flooring can move freely without the underlay backing grabbing onto the subfloor and preventing it from expanding. Failure to follow these instructions will void all warranties for the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring.

When installing the builders' black plastic overlap the joins by 100mm and tape them down with duct tape. Furthermore, run builder's black plastic up the walls by approximately 20mm or even more depending on the size of the skirting or molding being used. Movement and squeaks to the subfloor should be well fastened with ring nails or screws to the floor joists. With regards to floor levels, high spots must be sanded/grounded flat and low spots filled with a leveling compound with a minimum compressive strength of 3000 psi or greater. It is important to follow the leveling compounds application instructions and ensure they are suitable for the application purposes.

If areas are required to be built up in order to achieve a uniform finished height throughout, ensure that plywood sheeting is used. Install the plywood in a brick bond pattern with a 6mm expansion gap around the perimeters. Each plywood sheet must be adhered to the subfloor with construction adhesive and fixed to the subfloor with either screws when dealing with a particle board subfloor or construction anchors for concrete subfloors. The fixings will require a minimum 15mm grab into the particle board subfloor and 25mm into a concrete subfloor. Ensure that any height variance between the plywood sheeting does not exceed 0.75mm. Finally, ensure that the edges of the floorboards do not sit directly over the 6mm expansion gap between the plywood sheeting to avoid excessive movement on the edges, which could cause them to snap or creak.

Step 4: BEFORE INSTALLATION

Unpack 80% of the flooring that you will be installing on the day, sort out the floorboards into colours/shades and lengths where applicable. Prior to installation of the flooring, set it out by roughly placing the floorboards out in a manner that is pleasing to the eye, ensuring a random mix of colours/shades and lengths. Our quality control procedures at the factory ensure that very few, if any boards are defective when delivered to the consumer. However, it is important to remember that the installer should inspect each floorboard prior to installing them for potential defects, damage etc. which could occur through handling, human error, transport or manufacturing error. If any are found, these should be removed and returned to Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd to be exchanged or refunded if found to be defective. Alternatively these floorboards can be installed in areas such as underneath the dishwasher or fridge or in cupboards, where often these defects can be cut out. Please note if defective floorboards are installed without informing Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd of these defects, it is the installer's responsibility to remove and replace them.

Warranty claims will not be accepted for defective flooring that has been installed. It is critical to check each floorboard prior to installation commencing for any defects.

Please note that not all jobs are the same and some consumers have specific requirements that they want met. If the consumer has any specific questions they wish addressed, please feel free to contact Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd prior to installation commencing. Furthermore, if the consumer wants to install their flooring outside the parameters of Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd installation instructions, they need to consult Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd prior to installation commencing and obtain clarification in order to ensure that all warranties are upheld. If the consumer fails to work within Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd installation instructions, this could have an impact on the warranties and failure to comply fully with them will result in the product warranty being null & void in part or in full.

Step 5: INSTALLATION

Tools required include the following: Pencil, Tape Measure, Multi-Tool for undercutting the door jambs or alternatively a Handsaw, Utility Knife, Pull Bar, Hammer, Rubber Mallet, Rubber Tapping Block, Spacers/Wedges, Jigsaw, Drop Saw, Table Saw, Broom, Dust Pan, Vacuum and relevant Safety and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

It is important to note that SPC hybrid vinyl flooring can only be installed via the Floating Method of Installation. For stairs only, the underlay backing needs to be removed, along with the old adhesive from the floorboard. Then, using a flexible adhesive the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring can be adhered to the stairs. Before applying any adhesives ensure the substrate is clean and free of chemicals, solvents, paint, old adhesives etc. in order to ensure proper adhesion.

Please note that SPC hybrid vinyl flooring cannot be installed over battens.

Please note that an underlay cannot be installed under the under the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring as it will cause the flooring to be spongy and the floorboards could unclip or the locks to break. Failure to adhere to this requirement will render the warranty null and void.

Stage 1

Follow steps outlined in Step 1: Pre-Installation Procedures and check the moisture contents of the subfloor as discussed in Step 2 Moisture Test.

Proper temperature control needs to be in place during and after installation and can be achieved by circulating the air with fans, opening windows and doors, running air conditioners etc.

Stage 2

Seal the subfloor if required. Install builder's black plastic as discussed in Step 3: Subfloor preparation as well as rectify levels if required. Never install an underlay, as this will cause the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring to be spongy underfoot and could cause the floorboards to unclip or the locks to break. Installation of an underlay will void all warranties for the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring.

Stage 3

Unpack the boxes as described in Step 4: Before Installation. Remove any skirting if applicable and undercut the door jambs with either a Multi-Tool or Handsaw, using an off cut of the flooring as a guide to achieve the correct heights.

Stage 4

Commence installation working from left to right placing the spacers/wedges at the ends and edges where the flooring meets the walls. It is critical to leave expansion of a minimum of 9mm around the perimeters of the flooring, depending on the size of the area. If possible, cut and remove the base of the Gyprock approximately 10mm up from the subfloor in order to gain an extra 10mm expansion. For areas large than 6 meters in width and length, the floor may need to be compartmentalized. Please contact Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd for clarification in this regard.

Stage 5

Start the first row of floorboards with the bottom locking system facing towards the installer and away from the wall. Once the first floorboard has been installed and the Spacers/Wedges placed at the ends where the flooring meets the walls, lock the butt joints (short end of the floorboards) together by inserting the top lock into the bottom lock at an angle and drop in place.

Tap the butt joint gently with an off cut piece of the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring (underlay side facing down), using a rubber mallet. This is to ensure that the butt joints are securely locked together. Run your fingers over the butt joints to ensure they are sitting flush, which will indicate that they are securely locked together. NEVER hit any of the locks directly, without using an off cut piece of the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring (underlay side facing down) with a rubber mallet, as it could cause the locks to break. Also NEVER hit the locks to hard as it could cause the locks to break.

Continue this procedure until you get to the end of the row. Cut the last floorboard with a Utility Knife and Steel Ruler, Drop Saw or Guillotine. A Utility Knife and Steel Ruler or a Guillotine will be a cleaner option. Use a Pull Bar and the Hammer to lock the final floorboard in position. Failure to close the gaps will compromise the locking system. However, do not hit too hard as it could damage the locks on the butt joints. Once the first row has been installed, use the leftover piece of the cut floorboard and start your next row with it, ensuring that the spaces between the butt joints are at least 25-30 cm apart. Also ensure that the piece starting the row is not smaller than 30cm. If starting a row with a new floorboard, ensure you cut the lock off first. Lock the long edge of the starter floorboard by inserting the top lock into the bottom lock at an angle and drop in place. Ensure a Spacer/Wedge is placed at the end where the floorboard meets the wall. Tap if required using the off cut piece of the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring (underlay side facing down) and the rubber mallet. Now line up the next floorboard with the butt joint of the recently installed floorboard being placed approximately 1mm short of the adjoining butt joint. Then lock the long edge of the floorboard in and if necessary use an off cut piece of the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring and the rubber mallet to secure in place. Place a off cut piece SPC hybrid vinyl flooring (locks cut off) against the exposed butt joint and hit across in the direction of the boards, with a hammer ensuring the butt joints lock in securely. Hit firmly, but not too hard. Run your fingers over the butt joints to ensure they are sitting flush, which will indicate that they are securely locked together.

These procedures are then replicated throughout the installation process. When cutting around built-in cabinetry or fitting the floorboards underneath the door jambs, use either a Utility Knife or Jigsaw to make the cuts, ensuring the relevant expansion has been left at all times.

Stage 6

Fix the skirtings to the walls, not to the flooring. If you chose to leave the skirting in place, fit a molding to the skirting, not the flooring to cover the expansion. Against any built-in cabinetry, fit a molding to cover the expansion. Install transition strips against the tiles, carpet, windows and sliding doors etc. ensuring that the floorboards are not adhered to the subfloor if the Floating Method of Installation is being used. Use a flexible adhesive or a clear silicone to fix the transition trims. Please discuss the different transition strips with your supplier so they are able to advise you of the best choices in this regard.

Stage 7

On completion of the installation process, sweep up large pieces of debris and dispose of in a responsible manner. Vacuum the remaining debris up, ensuring that the brushes our out on the vacuum head.

For further hints and guidelines please feel free to visit the ATFA website at www.atfa.com.au.

SAFETY AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- When installing any products supplied by Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd, the installer is to wear the relevant PPE, which includes Ear Muffs, Eye Protection, Gloves and a Respirator Mask with a filtration system that is conform to Australian Standards. It is recommended to get any Respirator Masks properly fit tested. This is of particular relevance when cutting the flooring. This is the responsibility of the installer to ensure this is followed at all times.
- When installing any products supplied by Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd on constructions sites, the installer is to wear the above recommended PPE and any other PPE required in accordance with the construction site guidelines, such as Steel Caps, Visibility Vests, Long Sleeve Shirts, Long Pants, Hard Hats etc. This is the responsibility of the installer to ensure this is followed at all times.
- When cutting any products supplied by Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd, the installer is required to attach a vacuum to the equipment in order to reduce the spread of dust. This is the responsibility of the installer to ensure this is followed at all times.
- When working with any adhesives, solvents, chemicals etc. it is essential that the installer refer to the Safety Work Method Statements (SWMS) and Data Sheets provided by the companies manufacturing these products before using them, in order to ensure that the correct guidelines are followed when in use. This is the responsibility of the installer to ensure this is followed at all times.
- When using power tools, it is essential that the installer consults the manufacturers' guidelines before using the power tools in order to ensure they are using them correctly and for their intended purposes, thus avoid risk of injury. This is the responsibility of the installer to ensure this is followed at all times.

HANDY INSTALLATION TIPS

- **Read the instruction first** – Before commencing the installation process, read the manufacturers' instructions and guidelines for all products to be used first and consult your supplier if you are uncertain of anything. Our Installation Guidelines can be found on our website at www.harmonytimberfloors.com.
- **Direction of the flooring** - Usually you will want to orientate the floorboards in the direction of the major source of incoming light, so that light is shining down the length of the floorboards, or install the floorboards with the length of the room. Sometimes these to situations do not work in unison, in which case the consumer will need to take into account things like expansion or the overall look they want to achieve.
- **Skirting** – A far more professional outcome is achieved when the skirting is remove prior to installation commencing and reinstalled on completion of the installation process. It is also highly recommended to undercut the architraves unless they are steel architraves that are structural. Where a client does not wish to remove the skirting, a molding or scotia can be fixed to the skirting. Never nail the timber beading or scotia to the flooring as this could cause expansion issues. When fixing the skirting or kickers etc. it is extremely important not to push hard down on the skirting. Gently sit the skirting or kickers on top of the flooring and fix to the walls. Failure to do this could cause expansion issues and the flooring may not be covered by the manufacture warranty. Furthermore, by using an 18mm skirting as opposed to an 11mm skirting will gain extra expansion

and possibly reduce the need for expansion joints. It is also advisable to undercut the Gyprock where possible in order to gain an extra 10mm expansion.

- **Moisture** – Take the environment in which you will be installing the flooring into account prior to installation. If you are aware of any moisture issues, get these rectified prior to installation commencing. Furthermore, check the moisture contents of the subfloor prior to installation commencing.
- **Silicone** - Do not apply silicone the base of the skirting or around any built-in cabinetry if the Floating Method of Installation is used as there is a strong probability that when the flooring expands, the silicone bead will break. In fact the silicone bead could actually cause an expansion issue; hence silicone work is not permitted for the Floating Method of Installation. If carried out this will affect all warranties for the SPC Hybrid Vinyl flooring.
- **Expansion** – If something goes wrong with the flooring, it is usually related to expansion. Leaving sufficient expansion is critical at ensuring that you do not have any issues with the flooring. Please refer to the above Step 5: Installation for expansion requirements.
- **Creating a random look as opposed to a pattern** - To avoid creating a joint pattern in the flooring, it is necessary to begin installation using starter boards. To create a starter floorboard, cut the floorboard at $\frac{2}{3}$ the length. Start with the $\frac{2}{3}$ length, and then install the full lengths and continue across the room. Use the $\frac{1}{3}$ length to start the next row and continue as above keeping at least a 25-30cm distance between the end joints. Cuts made at the opposite wall should be used for starter floorboards. A starter floorboard should be a minimum 30cm long. If you wish to introduce a pattern then the strongest and most stable pattern is a running brick bond pattern.
- **Fixing of transition strips** – These need to be fixed with a flexible adhesive or clear silicone and where possible fixed to the actual sliding doors, windows etc. and not the flooring itself. Ensure surfaces are clean prior to applying the flexible adhesive or clear silicone in order to ensure proper adhesion.
- **Installing the flooring over existing floor finishes** – Check that the subfloor is stable and level. Flooring cannot be installed over existing carpet, which will need to be removed first. Please note when installing the flooring over tiles, it is important to note that the tiles need to be securely adhered to the subfloor, but this is not a guarantee that this bond will not break further down the track. As a result caution needs to be taken when installing flooring over existing tiles. The same is applicable for linoleum or existing vinyl flooring. Also when installing SPC hybrid vinyl flooring over existing tiles, the size of the grout lines needs to be considered. If the grout lines are too big, then this could cause excessive movement underfoot and the locks could unclip or break. Please refer to Step 3: Subfloor Preparation.
- **Under floor heating** – Under floor heating is permissible, however the temperature cannot exceed 28 degrees Celsius at any given time.
- **Waste Factor** – A waste factor of 10% needs to be allowed for, whilst a 15% waste factor needs to be allowed for when a large amount of angles and curves are involved.
- **Recommended areas of installation** – The flooring can be installed in all areas, excluding wet areas such as bathrooms, laundries, wet rooms, outdoors and areas exposed to excessive amounts of direct sunlight (refer to our Care and Maintenance Instructions). Residential kitchens are not classified as wet areas. If installed in the above mentioned areas, it may void the manufacturer warranty. Please feel free to contact Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd prior to installation commencing if you have any questions in this regard. We would not recommend installation of SPC hybrid vinyl in heavily traffickable areas such as garages because of the weight of the vehicles, unless these areas have been converted to livable areas, where there will not be a weight or movement concern.
- **Fixing items directly to the flooring** – Fixing items directly to the flooring will cause expansion issues and is not recommended. This includes the fixing of track, built-in cabinetry etc. by screwing them or adhering them with non-flexible adhesives directly on top of the flooring. This is particularly relevant to the Floating Method of Installation. The same is applicable when placing extremely heavy items directly on top of the flooring such as built-in cabinetry, a baby grand piano, heavy bookcases,

a billiard table etc. Once again this is of particular relevance to the Floating Method of Installation. If carried out this could affect all warranties for the engineered timber flooring.

- **Broken Locks** – It is important to note that SPC hybrid vinyl flooring is a thin product. As a result great care needs to be exercised when transporting and handling the product as well as during the installation process. Lock breakage is not covered by the products warranty, as well as potential pulling away of the top wear layer where the floorboards are not either locked in properly or where the locks have been broken. Any floorboards that have broken locks should not be installed and the issue raised with Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd. Once installed the responsibility of replacing the damaged floorboards rests with the original installer.
- ***Install the flooring after the other tradesmen have completed their scope of works, to prevent potentially damage the flooring.***
- **Purchasing of spare flooring** – It is strongly advised that the consumer purchase at least a spare box of the flooring that they have purchase, in case any future repairs are required. Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd regularly change their profiling, dimensions and colours of their flooring etc. to meet the needs of the market. Hence we cannot be expected to have stock of old flooring on hand for long periods of time. If a warranty repair is required and the original materials are not available, then the repairs will be carried out using similar flooring.

These installation instructions are part of the Harmony Timber Floors Installation Instructions and failure to comply fully with them will result in the product warranty being null & void in part or in full.

For those SPC hybrid vinyl floors installed by Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd, the warranty of the installation of SPC hybrid vinyl flooring installed via the Floating Method of Installation is valid for a period of 1 year from the date of completion of the works.

Please refer to the Harmony Timber Floors Care and Maintenance Instructions and the Australasian Timber Flooring Association website at www.atfa.com.au, on how to maintain the correct climatic conditions within your home/interior space during the various seasons of the year and extreme weather events in order to avoid any potential expansion issues, cupping, peaking of joints etc. Proper temperature control needs to be in place during and after installation and can be achieved by circulating the air with fans, opening windows and doors, running air conditioners etc.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to visit our website at www.harmonytimberfloors.com or calls us on 1300 725 257.

Please also visit the Australasian Timber Flooring Association website at www.atfa.com.au for further information on installation instructions for your flooring to be read in conjunction with our Installation Instructions.