

Airstep Flooring Luxury Vinyl Plank (Direct Stick) installation guidelines should be reviewed by installers prior to commencement of installation. All installations should be in accordance with current standard for installation of floorcovering AS/NZ1884-2012, as well as, any current best practice including the latest technical developments. Should you have any queries in relation to the below recommendations, please contact your retailer or Airstep Flooring representative.

1. Pre-Installation Checks

On receipt of materials and prior to installation, verify that the material is the correct product, colour, pattern and quantity ordered. Prior to installation, each plank should be carefully checked in good natural light for any damage or any obvious visual defects in the material. Please note: Colour, grain and texture variation from sample may occur. If the product is incorrect or has any visual defects or damage, contact your retailer or Airstep Flooring representative immediately. Never install defective product. Claims for visual defects can only be accepted prior to installation and cutting.

2. Site Testing and Conditioning

Airstep Flooring Vinyl Planks must be allowed to condition on site for a minimum period of 24 hours, in a dry, well ventilated area with an air temperature between 18°C and 28°C. The temperature must remain within this range for the entire installation period and a minimum of 48 hours after installation completion. The ambient relative humidity of the area where the products are to be installed needs to be assessed given this can strongly determine the type of adhesive or any other proprietary product required to complete the installation successfully. This may require covering the windows to prevent any fluctuations of temperature during or after the installation to prevent thermally induced changes to the product. Boxes should be stored no more than 5 high to avoid damage and maximise acclimatisation.

3. Subfloor Testing and Preparation

3.1 Concrete subfloors must be tested in accordance with AS1884-2012 for moisture using the relative humidity in-situ probe test and pH. RH levels should not exceed 75% and pH levels should not exceed 10.

3.2 Subfloors must be level, smooth, dry and free of dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint or any other materials which could adversely affect the adhesion of the planks to the subfloor.

3.3 Concrete floors must be cured and completely dry, with a surface free of trowel marks and surface irregularities and thoroughly checked for the following:

a. Planeness - When a straightedge 2 meters long is placed at rest at 2 points 2 meters apart, no part of the surface shall be more than 4mm below the straightedge.

b. Smoothness - When a straightedge 150mm is placed at any position at rest at two points on the surface, no part of the surface shall be more than 1mm below the straightedge.

Depressions and cracks must be filled using a suitable (taking into account the traffic loads) approved levelling compound in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions to avoid show through or underlying defects.

3.4 All protrusions must be levelled. If water is used to clean the subfloor, a moisture test must be conducted in accordance with AS1884-2012 prior to installation.

3.5 For existing timber, plywood and particleboard subfloors, any loose boards should be re-fixed and damaged boards replaced, then if required, sanded to a level, smooth and dust free surface.

3.6 Resilient flooring should not be adhered directly to particleboard subfloors as this will adversely affect the bond and a suitable primer then a cementitious coat is required to proceed with the installation as set out in AS1884-2012, 4.1.3.

3.7 Resilient sheet and tile finishes are not normally considered a suitable surface for adhering resilient floor coverings and should be removed. If this cannot be achieved, careful assessment is required as to whether the existing floor is to acceptable standards to adhere the new flooring.

3.8 For installations where underfloor heating is used, the surface temperature must not exceed 27°C or have any floorcoverings upon it to fluctuate above this.

Refer to AS1884-2012, 4.1.3 for scope of preparing and conditioning the subfloor, pre and post installation. Please contact your retailer or Airstep Flooring representative to confirm suitability and further installation recommendations.

4. Adhesives

Recommended adhesives by the manufacturer for use with vinyl planks is suggested along with consideration to specific site conditions that could affect the overall performance of the floor. Special attention should be given to the type of adhesive used in areas subject to extremes in temperature fluctuations or prolonged direct sunlight. Some examples may be as follows; windows/doors with continuous full sun exposure, heaters/fireplaces, laundries, bathrooms, areas of high water spillage etc. It is highly recommended you contact the relevant adhesive manufacturer to confirm adhesive suitability and application.

Installation Instructions

5. Installation Procedure

5.1 Prepare the subfloor in accordance with AS1884-2012 and as set out in these installation instructions. Plan the direction of the area to be installed to maximise the visual appearance once installed. The direction of the plank grain should be confirmed and the installation should be balanced from the centre of the area to minimise waste.

5.2 To minimise shade variation, mix and install product from several different packs alternately. Before applying adhesive, loosely lay a small quantity of product, view from a distance that allows you to clearly see the overall effect.

5.3 When installing planks, the starting point should be marked out at a perpendicular axis adjacent to the longest straight wall. Installations containing connecting areas and link-ups may require a number of perpendicular axes.

5.4 Application rates and methods for adhesives must be determined by the installer as this will be subject to subfloor conditions. For further information regarding application rates, recommendations and warranties, please contact your adhesive manufacturer.

5.5 Adhere areas into workable sections. At 23°C this will usually be the amount of flooring that can be laid within 20-25 minutes. However, this will decrease if the temperatures are higher. Again, observe the adhesive manufacturers guidelines.

5.6 The planks should be fitted together tightly but without excessive pressure and cut flush to walls and fittings.

5.7 The perimeter tiles/planks should be fitted last ensuring they do not apply any pressure to adjacent tiles. These perimeter tiles should be no less than 50mm in width.

5.8 When a section has been installed it should be rolled in both directions using at least a 45kg roller or 3-section roller of equivalent weight to ensure a full adhesive transfer rate of no less than 95%. For smaller areas, use a hand roller to achieve the same transfer result.

5.9 Once fully installed all exposed edges should be protected by means of a diminishing strip or other suitable moldings.

5.10 To remove any visible traces of adhesive, contact the adhesive manufacture for the recommended removal method.

5.11 Traffic or wet cleaning should not be allowed on the installation for at least 24hrs to allow the adhesive to reach its full bond strength. Please refer to relevant adhesive manufacturer for curing time frames.

6. Post Installation

If construction works are still underway, the floor should be protected from site debris, dirt, soil, traffic etc. by use of a protective surface (e.g. sheet plastic, hard boards etc.) If using adhesive, it is recommended that plywood be placed over the floor during the removal or replacement of furniture or any heavy objects within 48 hours of the installation.

Please be careful to ensure no condensation occurs and any adhesive tape or protective material does not affect the aesthetics of the finished installation. Use window coverings to protect the floor from heat and fading under direct sunlight. Dramatic temperature fluctuation of the floor could cause joints to lip or gaps to occur.

These guidelines are intended to assist in achieving an optimum installation. Any variation to the recommendations above by installers may affect any warranties.

For further information, please contact your retailer or local Airstep Flooring Representative.