



HYBRID PLANKS.

Hybrid Planks Installation Guide

GENERAL CONDITIONS

A good preparation is essential for a smooth installation. Airlay Floorcoverings (Airlay) Hybrid Flooring Site and Installations conditions should comply with AS/NZS 1884: Floor Covering – Resilient Sheet and Tiles Installation Practices at the time of installation. Airlay Hybrid Flooring is a floating laying flooring system. It can be installed on hard and flat surfaces such as concrete, ceramic tiles, vinyl, timber floors, plywood or particle board if the floor is structurally sound, clean, level, smooth, dry and does not have any large cracks. It cannot be installed over soft coverings such as carpet as well as existing floating floors. Airlay Hybrid Flooring is suitable for use in residential setting and is designed for internal installations only.

Although Airlay Hybrid Flooring are designed for straightforward and hassle-free installation, Airlay recommends that installation be carried out by a qualified professional flooring installer. Airlay Hybrid flooring features a waterproof surface by design; however, the installation method does not form a waterproof membrane or seal. Therefore, this product is not suitable for areas prone to excessive moisture, such as saunas, outdoor spaces, or environments with floor drains or consistently wet conditions. It is intended for indoor use only.

ACCLIMATISATION

For optimal performance, Airlay Hybrid flooring should be installed in accordance with these instructions. It is considered best practice to acclimatise the planks on-site. Site conditions and acclimatisation must follow the guidelines outlined in AS/NZS 1884, Clause 4.11 – on site storage and conditioning. Airlay Hybrid flooring performs to its intended specifications when installed at room temperatures between 15°C and 18°C. The product should be acclimatised in the room where it will be installed for at least 48 hours before installation, during the installation process, and for 48 hours afterward.

PRE – INSTALLATION

Pre Installation should comply with AS/NZS 1884: (2021)

- Always handle, store and transport the planks carefully to prevent distortions. Store and transport the cartons on a flat surface in neat stacks. Please note that locking profiles can be damaged even while still inside the packaging.

- Inspect and confirm the hybrid flooring is in good condition and there are no damages caused during transit or manufacturing defects
- Check that the flooring received is the correct colour, batch number and style that was ordered
- Check and verify that the quantity received matches the order
- Use material from the same batch. The use of different batches will result in visible shade differences
- The product warranty may be voided if any goods with the above issues are cut or installed, unless their use has been acknowledged, agreed upon, and approved by all relevant parties.

Airlay reserves the right to deny any warranty claims for materials with visible visual or structural defects that have been cut or installed, where such defects could have been reasonably identified through inspection prior to installation.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The installer is responsible if the flooring is installed with obvious defects or on an unsuitable or poorly prepared subfloor. Installation will require an assessment of site and building conditions and appropriate judgement by the installer. If you are unsure about any aspect of the installation, please contact your relevant Account Manager or Airlay Customer Service.

- Subfloor preparation must comply with and be prepared in accordance with the current AS/NZS 1884 and as set out in these instructions.
- Subfloor preparation and hybrid flooring installation should only be installed in the final stages of completion of a construction project with all trades people have completed their work.
- All substrates must be structurally sound, plain, smooth, clean, dry and free of dust.
- Before commencing, ensure that the floor will fit under the doors and skirting boards.
- The subfloor must be flat, firm, rigid, flat, and level within 2mm over 1000mm. Preparation requirements will vary depending on the type of subfloor. Any existing hard floor coverings must be firmly adhered to the subfloor to ensure they provide a stable and lasting foundation for the hybrid flooring.

- Airlay recommends that installation be carried out by a qualified professional flooring installer who owns a moisture meter. It is the installer's responsibility to assess concrete moisture levels and ensure the subfloor is properly prepared prior to flooring installation.
- It is important that the base subfloor, whether it is concrete or timber, must be measured for moisture content according to the current AS/NZS 1884 Appendix A (or Appendix B where applicable). For any subfloor showing a moisture value above these limits, a suitable damp proof membrane / moisture suppression system must be used. The subfloor must meet overall surface quality as per AS/NZS 1884:2021 3.1.4
- Airlay Hybrid flooring is not suitable for installation over carpet or existing floating floors; these must be completely removed before installation begins.
- Hybrid flooring can be installed over existing ceramic tiles, provided the grout lines are no wider or deeper than 3mm and the surface complies with AS/NZS 1884 standards. If the tile surface does not meet these requirements, it must be repaired or properly prepared to ensure a suitable substrate for installation.
- Lightweight concrete is not suitable unless more reinforcing agent is added to it.
- Uneven or damaged surfaces must be repaired with a cement leveling compound or use a plywood underlay. Inadequate fixing will result in a noisy floor when you walk on it.
- Use a minimum 200-micron builder's plastic under the planks. This will provide a suitable substrate ready for the installation.
- Airlay Hybrid flooring comes with a pre-attached acoustic underlay as standard. The use of additional underlay is not recommended and will affect product performance.

The final responsibility for determining if the subfloor is adequately suitable for installation of the flooring lies with the installer of the product.

INSTALLATION

Installation should not begin until the installer has assessed and approved the sub-floor and conditions.

You will need the following standard tools – hammer, jigsaw, spacers, pencil, tape measure, utility knife, ruler, hammer, pull bar, tapping block, drill, safety goggles and gloves. This will also ensure that you won't end up with the last row being too narrow. If the last row would

be less than 40 mm, the installation will be easier if you cut down the planks of the first row in the length.

1. Make sure the planks are mixed sufficiently when you install them, so that you do not end up with too many identical, light or dark panels next to each other. To obtain the best visual effect, it is best to fit the planks in the direction of the longest wall and parallel to the incidence of light.
2. Carefully measure the length and the width of the room to plan a precise layout to achieve a balanced appearance of the floor. Leave a 10mm gap between the flooring and all fixed vertical surfaces. Use 10mm spacers along walls, around island benches, built-in cabinets, appliances, and under all doorframes—including wardrobe doors.
3. Make sure the first and last rows of flooring are wider than 40mm. You might need to trim or shape the first row to achieve this. If you cut a board to less than half its original width, apply glue (like Type A seam sealer or similar PVC cold weld) to secure the end joints.
4. Planks should be fitted with random staggered end joints with a minimum 300mm between short ends. End joint staggers and pattern repeats should be checked regularly.
5. Ensure that the end joints of the panels in two successive rows are never in line. Always ensure that the joints are staggered by at least 300mm. To get the best mix of colour and pattern, use planks from at least three different boxes as you lay the floor. Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 to 30° to the panel already installed. Move the panel gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure. The panels will automatically click into place. With this locking mechanism, you can also tap the panels into each other without lifting. Never strike the product directly. For this method, you can use a tapping block. The planks should not be joined with a single tap. To avoid damaging the panels you must tap them together gradually.
6. The first three rows are the most important— they set the foundation for the whole floor. Ensure they're perfectly straight and aligned with the room and keep checking your progress with a string line as you continue.
7. Remember that Airlay Hybrid planks can expand when it's warm and shrink when it's cool. That's why you need to leave a small gap around the edges of the room and next to things like walls, cabinets, and door frames. It also helps to add a gap at doorways so the floor can move without affecting other rooms—this is called 'compartmentalisation'.

8. Once the flooring is finished, take out all the spacers around the edges before adding any trims, accessories, or skirting boards.

9. Note that each installation is different. Large, open spaces in stable conditions don't need as many control measures as smaller, trickier spaces. For single-room installations up to 20m x 15m, you won't need expansion breaks. However, when installing in multiple rooms, always plan for expansion breaks and transitions.

10. Once completed, remove all spacers from perimeters prior to installing trims, accessories and/or skirtings.

Trims, Skirting and Accessories

- Ensure all trims leave a minimum 10mm expansion gap as required.
- Use a door threshold strip at doorways to protect the edges of the floor and create a stylish transition between different floor types.
- Ensure the colour of the flooring and trims match closely for a seamless look.
- Hybrid flooring, like all floating floors, must be able to expand and contract to avoid performance issues after installation. Note the following:
 - Scotia should be attached directly to the wall or vertical surface, leaving at least a 0.5mm gap between the floor and the scotia, beading, or skirting to allow the floor to expand and contract.
 - Endcap and T-mould should be glued directly to the sub-floor after the entire floor is installed.
 - Do not glue trims to the hybrid flooring.
 - Do not ever install fixtures or fittings (e.g. Door stoppers, door tracks, cabinetry, etc) through the flooring as this will prevent the flooring's ability to expand/contract.
 - Unless it's specifically recommended for wet area installations, don't use silicone or any type of sealant to fill, cover, or hide expansion gaps. Silicone acts as an adhesive and could affect the floor's performance and may void the warranty.

Maintenance after Installation

You can immediately walk on your new Airlay Hybrid Floor after installation

- Airlay Flooring Hybrid Planks should be protected from heavy traffic for 48 hours after installation so that the planks can stabilise at consistent temperature between 15°C – 18°C.
- Avoid bringing dirt, water and sand indoors by providing a suitable floor mat at the door.
- Protect furniture and chair legs. Never drag furniture over the floor.
- Sweep and Vacuum after installation, refer to our Airlay's Cleaning and Maintenance guidelines.