

# LUXURY VINYL PLANK INSTALLATION GUIDE

## 4.5 - 5mm products

### **Sub floor Preparation**

All subfloors need to be prepared in accordance with AS/NZ 1884: 2012 guidelines. This brochure provides guidelines and tips that can assist in these preparations but not replace the AS/NZ 1884:2012 guidelines or those of a certified flooring contractor.

Prior to any plank installation the subfloor must be dry, clean, level, smooth, structurally sound and without large cracks. Any concrete joins, cracks, holes, roughness, unevenness etc. must be filled and levelled with materially compatible based filler. Failure to do so could result in imperfections such as shadowing, protrusions, depressions etc. being transferred through from the subfloor to the installed plank layer.

To achieve an ideal smooth and even subfloor surface there should be no more than a 2mm difference in height over any 2000mm distance, and no more than a 1mm difference over any 1500mm distance.

Extra care should be taken to ensure the elimination of any chemical residues that may remain from any cleaning preparation undertaken of the subfloor. Chemical residues can compromise the backing layers of the plank and reduce the quality of the plank performance.

### **Existing Flooring**

It is recommended that any existing floor covering be uplifted and removed and all residues of aged adhesives and any remnants of adhered previous floor covering should also be removed. The sub floor should then be prepared according to AS/NZ 1884:2012 in conjunction with the NFD guidelines for sub floor preparation already stated above.

Note- Existing cushioned vinyl is never a suitable sub floor for installation of vinyl planks. This type of existing floor covering must always be uplifted and removed.

If a decision to lay vinyl planks over ceramic tiles or timber flooring is taken then the retailer/purchaser and not NFD will assume the responsibility of any deficiency in product performance and/or appearance due to any uncorrected sub floor defects being transferred through to the installed vinyl plank from the existing sub floor covering.

### **Ceramic Tiles**

If the vinyl plank is installed over ceramic tiles a few pointers should be noted. Any loose tiles must be secured. All grout lines must be filled, again with materially compatible based filler. The prepared surface must be dry, level, smooth, sound, free of defects, surface dye and chemical compounds. . Failure to do so may result in a transfer of underlying defects that result in a deficiency of plank performance and/or appearance. Also again, the recommended guidelines for sub floor preparation according to AS/NZ 1884:2012 in conjunction with NFD guidelines for sub floor preparation stated above should then be followed.

### ***Timber Flooring***

If the vinyl plank is installed over existing timber flooring it should also be noted that any loose boards should be secured, any protrusions such as nails etc. should be removed. Failure to do so may result in deficiency of plank performance and/or appearance. Install Australian Flooring Standard hardboard over existing timber flooring to attain the desired and recommended condition of the pre installation sub floor. Sand and feather finish joins if necessary.

All AS/NZ 1884:2012 guidelines should be followed.

### ***Yellow Tongue***

National Flooring Distributors recommends that for NFD 4.5mm and 5.0mm LVT products to be installed over yellow tongue, the subfloor must be:

1. Lightly sanded
2. Primed with Roberts Universal Primer or equivalent
3. A Skim of Ardex Feather Finish applied
4. High-tac pressure sensitive adhesive (Roberts 656 or equivalent) applied with a V1 notched trowel

Please note that all other National Flooring Distributors installation methods must be followed.

### ***Painted Surfaces, Vinyl Sheeting & Linoleum***

If installing the vinyl plank over painted surfaces any flaking paint needs to be removed. It may be necessary to ascertain whether remaining paint will be compatible with adhesive used on the backing layer of vinyl plank. If not the effectiveness of adhesive strength could be compromised.

If installing over vinyl sheeting or linoleum any loose material needs to be secured and surface polishes, chemicals etc. be removed.

Then, when proceeding, the AS/NZ 1884:2012 guidelines for sub floor preparation in conjunction with NFD guidelines for sub floor preparation stated above should then be followed.

### ***Preparation of Vinyl Planks - Pre Installation***

Prior to installation the flooring product must be inspected for defects and to ensure correctness of product selection, dye continuity and quantity.

Prior to installation vinyl planks need to be acclimatised to the surrounding temperature of the area of installation. This temperature should be stable between ( 16 C-25 C ).To ensure acclimatisation planks should be delivered to installation site, unpacked and permitted to lay flat,(stacking acceptable if planks remain flat ) at least 24-48hrs prior to commencement of installation. This ideal temperature range should then be maintained throughout installation and extended for at least 24-36 hrs after installation. To assist in the climate maintenance, windows should be covered to eliminate any temperature variance. The subfloor should also have less than 4.5% moisture content. A high sub floor moisture content, lack of plank acclimatisation, and/or temperature variances during and shortly after installation can lead to

deficiencies in plank performance, such as spacing /peaking and in adhesive bonding capabilities.

To ensure a random pattern and an authentic natural look, it is recommended that prior to installation planks be mixed together and that planks should be staggered when installing to obtain a random finish.

Installation Planning, Technique and Tips. We have listed below some easy to follow instructions and tips on installation of the vinyl plank.

### ***Pre-Planning***

It is highly recommended that time be spent on pre-planning the installation of the planks. Although it is often decided that planks should run in the same direction of the longest wall it is not necessarily always the case. It is therefore advised that in deciding the direction that a plank should run within an installation area that the retailer and flooring contractor should consult with the purchaser.

In a DIY situation the purchaser if in doubt should seek advice from the retailer or a certified flooring contractor.

Good planning will ensure the width of a room is calculated and how many planks will fit into the area and how much space will remain so that no less than 1/5th of plank widths will be needed. The same calculation should be done in regards to the length of the room with no less than 1/8th of plank length needed.

### ***Small Installation Areas***

In smaller areas, such as rooms 3mts by 3mts etc, the plank can be confidently loose layed with only a pressure sensitive adhesive strip of minimum 10cm width used for the room perimeter. Planks should be installed tightly to each other and to the floor to enable them to lay flat and secure.

### ***Large Installation Areas Commercial Heavy Duty Wear Areas***

In areas greater than 3mx3m and commercial usage an all over pressure sensitive adhesive should be utilised. Note- Pressure sensitive adhesives still allow for a simple and easy replacement of plank/s.

In areas in direct contact with sunlight (floor to ceiling windows, sliding doors and large windows) a hard set adhesive should be used.

## **Methods of Plank Installation**

The first decision when beginning the installation of vinyl planks is where to lay the first row. Some installations will begin with the room's centre point, and the first row will begin from this point. Sometimes the first row is started along one side of a wall. In some areas the first row will begin from the wall that is predominantly visible when entering the room. Other methods may be used in accordance with consumer preference. For this very reason it is advised that the retailer and/or certified flooring contractor should consult with the purchaser in making the decision as to which method is best suited to their installation area.

## Post Installation

Do not allow usage of the newly installed floor for a minimum of 24hrs.

After this time period a brush, dry cloth or vacuum cleaner can be used for cleaning purposes.

Where water/cleaning fluid is required ensure the minimum amount is used. Use a damp cloth or mop with a neutral cleaner.

Use window coverings to protect floor from heat and fading from direct sunlight. Tinting windows may be necessary.

Protect flooring from dramatic temperature changes as they can result in joints peaking and/or gaps to occur.