

INSTALLATION GUIDE

AUSTRALIAN STONE COLLECTION LUXURY VINYL TILES

LVT 2.55mm

Australian Stone Collection LVT products are suitable for indoor use only. Please confirm with local regulations if this product is approved for wet areas like bathrooms.

Installation must comply with Australia and New Zealand Standard: AS / NZS 1884:2021

Pre-Installation Checklist:

Please complete the below checklists before any installation commences.

Product Checklist:

- ☐ The installer is responsible for inspecting all materials to verify the supplied product is the correct range, colour, batch, quantity, and is free from defects.
- ☐ The installer should verify with the customer to ensure the product's features - such as product, pattern, colour, shade, size, and embossing - meet their expectations. A minimum of 5 boxes should be opened and planks spread out for accurate assessing.
- ☐ Acclimatise planks and adhesive for at least 4 hours in the installation space, with boxes stacked flat and individually.
- ☐ IFC does not permit mixing batches/dye lots.

Site Checklist:

- ☐ The site temperature should be regulated between 17-27°C for 24 hours before and 48 hours after installation.
- ☐ Extra care should be taken in areas with windows, where direct sunlight can rapidly raise the temperature of the floor above the maximum of 27°C and cause 'hot spots'.
- ☐ If such areas are identified, windows should be blacked out for 24 hours before and 48 hours after installation. For guidance on managing direct sunlight exposure after installation, please refer to the IFC LVT Warranty document.
- ☐ Subfloor complies with AS/NZS 1884:2021

Installation can begin once all the above checks have been completed and approved. If any issues arise from the above checklists, contact your IFC representative immediately for a quick resolution. By completing the installation, you confirm that all the above conditions have been reviewed and accepted. Complaints and claims regarding clearly identifiable errors or defects will not be accepted after installation.

Subfloor Preparation:

All subfloors must be prepared in accordance with AS/NZ 1884:2021 guidelines. This guide provides important steps to assist in the preparation process but does not replace the AS/NZ 1884:2021 standard or those of a certified flooring contractor.

It is recommended that any existing floor coverings or remnants are uplifted and removed along with any adhesive residues. Existing cushioned vinyl is never a suitable subfloor for the installation of vinyl planks. This type of existing floor covering must always be uplifted and removed. Please ensure any material being removed is asbestos-free. If asbestos is possible please engage with a registered expert in the handling of the project.

The subfloor must be solid, clean, dry, smooth, flat and level as per AS / NZS 1884:2021. The subfloor must be prepared per the guidelines below for your specific type of subfloor.

- ☐ **Solid:** No Loose tiles, boards, panels. There should be no movement when walked upon.
- ☐ **Clean:** Free from all dust, dirt and existing residues.
- ☐ **Dry:** The subfloor must have a relative humidity of 80% or less (AS 1884:2021)
- ☐ **Smooth:** No more than 0.5mm abrupt surface deviation below a 150mm straightedge.
- ☐ **Flat:** Height difference should not exceed 4mm over any 2000mm distance
- ☐ **Level:** No more than 10mm in any room and no more than 20mm over the entire footprint.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure the concrete subfloor has a moisture content of 80% or less as stated in the Australian Standards. It is advised a probe test be carried out and recorded for security against a floor failing post installation caused by moisture that was not encountered at the time of installation.

Some surfaces may need priming before adhesive due to porosity. Any floor primer may be used, provided it is applied as per the manufacturer's guidelines and is compatible with the adhesive selected.

It's important to note that if the LVT is installed over different subfloors, the acceptable rates of expansion and contraction may vary slightly.

If the subfloor isn't concrete and is raised off the ground with direct exposure to external elements, certain precautions must be taken for optimal performance. The timber or particle board subfloor must be covered with a Masonite/hardboard or fibre cement sheet installed to Australian Standards OR alternatively flooded with suitable compounds to a minimum depth of 4mm. (A suitable combination is Mapei Eco Prim Grip Plus+Ultraplan

Renovation+Eco VS90 plus). In this circumstance a high temperature hard set adhesive should always be used.

IFC or the installer cannot be held responsible for any issues caused by subfloor movement after the LVT have been installed as this is a structural issue not an installation or product fault.

***Please note that the void below the house must comply with current Australian standards for ventilation set out in AS1884:2021.**

If the subfloor is not covered in this installation guide, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact an IFC representative for clarification before proceeding.

Any variation from this document provided by IFC must be in writing before commencing.

Types of Subfloors:

If vinyl planks are installed over ceramic tiles or timber flooring, the retailer or purchaser, not IFC, assumes responsibility for any issues relating to product performance or appearance caused by uncorrected subfloor defects transferring through from the existing subfloor.

Ceramic Tiles

If the vinyl plank is installed over ceramic tiles a few pointers should be noted. Any loose tiles must be secured or removed. A minimum 4mm flood coat is required using a suitable flood compound and applied following the manufacturer's installation procedure. Please ensure the correct curing time is allowed before LVT installation.

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.

Yellow Tongue

The timber or particle board subfloor must be covered with a Masonite/hardboard or fibre cement sheet installed to Australian Standards OR alternatively flooded with suitable compounds to a minimum depth of 4mm. (A suitable combination is Mapei Eco Prim Grip Plus+Ultraplan Renovation+Eco VS90 plus). The subfloor must meet the above smooth, flat, level tolerances set out in AS 1884:2021.

Rubber Flooring

IFC recommends the use of acoustic 'PerformancePlus' 3mm rubber cork underlay or equivalent. Installation of rubber must be carried out in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines and adhesive used for Subfloor-Rubber and Rubber- LVT must be approved by the adhesive supplier and applied as per manufacture's recommendations.

Painted Surfaces, Vinyl Sheeting & Linoleum

It is not recommended that IFC LVT is installed over any painted surface, vinyl sheeting or linoleum. All paint should be removed and any chemical if used for removal is given the appropriate time to dissipate before application of adhesives to avoid any chemical reaction.

Layout of Planks:

Proper planning is essential for a successful vinyl plank installation. While it's common to lay planks in the direction of the longest wall, this isn't always the preferred option. Therefore, the retailer or flooring contractor should discuss the direction with the customer to ensure their expectations are met. For DIY installations, the purchaser should consult the retailer or a certified flooring contractor if unsure.

To achieve a natural, randomised look, planks should be mixed and staggered during installation.

The first decision when beginning the installation of vinyl planks is where to lay the first row. We have listed some options below

- At the room's centre point;
- Along the side of the longest wall;
- Along the wall that is most visible when entering the room; or
- Any other method that may be necessary to meet customer expectations.

Before installation, calculate the room's dimensions to ensure enough space for the planks. No plank should be cut smaller than one-third of its width or one-eighth of its length. A minimum of 15m² dry installation is recommended to check for defects and determine the optimal pattern placement. Temperature must be maintained constant from point of dry install to installing on adhesive to avoid any size variation due to expansion and contraction. It is advised to get the customer's approval of pattern placement before applying adhesive.

Adhesives:

Always adhere to the adhesive manufacturer's recommended installation methods and work times.

IFC recommends the usage of a hard-set LVT adhesive.

In areas where direct sunlight from floor to ceiling windows, sliding doors and large windows can cause 'hot spots'; a hard-set high temperature resistant adhesive, such as Roberts 280HT or Mapei Ultrabond Eco VS90 Plus, should be used. This glue can be used in selected areas or entire areas.

Heating Systems:

When installing vinyl planks over radiant heating systems, it is important to consider the following;

The radiant heat surface temperature must not exceed 28°C, and the radiant heat should be applied gradually (no more than 2°C per 24 hours).

Heating system must be switched off 48 hours prior to installation, and the room temperature must be maintained between 15-26°C for 24 hours prior to installation.

Acclimatise planks and adhesive for at least 24 hours in the installation space, with boxes stacked flat and individually.

A High temperature hard set adhesive must be used.

Recommended adhesive are Selleys Liquid Nails Extreme Grab and Sika Sikaflex 11 FC (PURFORM).

Silicon or flexible adhesives are not recommended.

Post Installation:

Avoid using the newly installed floor for at least 24 hours. After this period, you can clean the floor using a brush, dry cloth, or vacuum cleaner. If water or cleaning fluid is needed, use only a minimal amount with a damp cloth or mop and a pH-neutral cleaner.

To protect the floor from heat and fading due to direct sunlight, use window coverings. Tinting windows may also be necessary.

Ensure the floor surface temperature does not drop below 5°C or exceed 45°C and avoid exposing it to dramatic temperature change. A surface temperature change of more than 10°C within 2 hours is considered dramatic and can cause issues like joint peaking or gaps.