INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

IMPORTANT NOTICE

National Select Floors recommends that all flooring installations are to be carried out by a professional flooring contractor or skilled tradesperson in compliance with Australian Standards and Adorn Laminates installation guidelines. If you have any concerns about the installation process, please contact your reseller.

Before installation, carefully check that the received goods match the correct product, codes, range, size, and colour. If there are any discrepancies or concerns about the product's appearance, **DO NOT** proceed with installation. Instead, report the issue to your flooring reseller immediately for review.

Once installed, all goods are deemed checked and accepted by the installer and/or homeowner. No responsibility is taken for costs or warranty claims related to the installation of defective or incorrect products and no liability for any issues arising from inadequate subfloor preparation or improper installation methods.

KEY INSTALLATION POINTS

- **Installation Method:** Floating installation only.
- **Expansion Tolerance:** Up to 10 m lengthwise × 6 m widthwise.
- **Usage:** For indoor use only; guaranteed only as a floor covering.
- **Installation Levels:** Suitable for below, on, or above ground level.
- **Wastage Allowance:** Allow for 10% extra to account for cuts and waste.
- **Heavy Fixtures:** Must be installed around fixed heavy items such as kitchen island benchtops, unit carcasses, and floor fixed carpentry.
- **Restricted Areas: NOT** suitable for wet or high humidity areas, including bathrooms, laundries, and saunas.
- **Subfloor Restrictions:** DO NOT install over existing floating floors, including carpet, carpet tiles, hybrid flooring, laminate, loose lay, or perimeter-fastened sheet vinyl.

JOB SITE DELIVERY AND STORAGE

- **Product Verification:** Confirm that all boxes contain the correct product, codes, range, and colour before proceeding.
- **Storage Conditions:** Store cartons in a dry, covered area, away from direct sunlight and adverse conditions.
- **Stacking Guidelines:** Flooring packs must be stacked flat, with the bottom of the box facing down. Do not stack boxes on their sides, vertically, or leaning against a wall.
- **Protection:** Ensure box corners are protected from damage during storage and handling.

ACCLIMATISATION

The purpose of acclimatisation is to bring the flooring temperature close to that of the indoor environment. Where possible, allow the flooring to acclimate in unopened boxes for a minimum of 48 hours in the area where it will be installed.

- **DO NOT** open the box ends for acclimatisation, as this may affect board end joint tolerances.
- **DO NOT** open flooring packs until the day of installation.
- If inspection is required, carefully open the box, then re tape it before continuing acclimatisation.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The subfloor is the surface on which the flooring will be installed and must be properly prepared before installation. The installer is responsible for ensuring that the subfloor is:

- **Flat** – Sufficiently level to meet installation requirements.
- **Dry** – Free from excess moisture.
- **Sound & Secure** – Structurally stable without loose or damaged areas.
- **Clean** – Free from dirt, dust, and debris before installation.

Proper subfloor preparation is essential for a successful installation and long term flooring performance.

Floor Levelling
The subfloor must be relatively flat, with no more than a 3 mm variation in height (valleys or peaks) over a 3 metre span. Floors must be levelled before installation by filling low spots with floor levelling compounds and sanding or grinding down high spots.

When using levelling compounds, always follow the manufacturer's instructions. These products, along with adhesives and moisture barriers, must be compatible and are often supplied by the same manufacturer to ensure warranty coverage.

Concrete Subfloors
Concrete subfloors must be properly cured and allowed to dry for a minimum of 90 days prior to installation. Moisture levels must be tested before installation; slabs should have a moisture content below 4% (measured with an impedance meter) or an in slab relative humidity below 85%.

The selected foam underlay may have an integrated moisture barrier (refer to the manufacturer's specifications). If not, a polyethylene moisture barrier (e.g., black builder's plastic) must be used alongside the underlay. It should be installed with lap joints over the concrete slab and, where applicable, placed between the concrete and plywood subfloor.

Wooden Subfloors
Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and securely fixed; either nailed or screwed to supporting beams, or anchored to concrete. Acceptable wood subfloors include timber boards, particleboard, or plywood, with typical moisture content ranging between 9% and 13%.

For ground level installations with soil beneath, additional care must be taken to manage rising moisture. A thorough site assessment is recommended, as damp soil and poor ventilation can cause moisture-related issues in the installed floor.

Tiled Subfloors
Ensure the tiled subfloor is sufficiently flat and free from any signs of moisture. If required, a polyethylene moisture barrier (e.g., black builder's plastic) may be installed with lap joints over the tiled surface, beneath the foam underlay.

EXPANSION GAPS, JOINTS & TRIMS

Laminate flooring can be affected by factors such as changes in relative humidity and daily temperature fluctuations. As a result, flooring may expand or contract, and allowances must be made for this movement. Perimeter expansion gaps and control joints are essential.

For larger floor areas, expansion trims may be required to reduce movement pressure and allow for expansion and contraction within individual sections. The installer should assess the best options based on the layout and room size.

Recommended expansion tolerances or raft size:

- Lengthwise: 10 metres
- Widthwise: 6 metres

Allow a minimum of 10 mm expansion gaps around wall perimeters, vertical fixtures, pipes, pillars, island benches, and where adjoining different floor types.

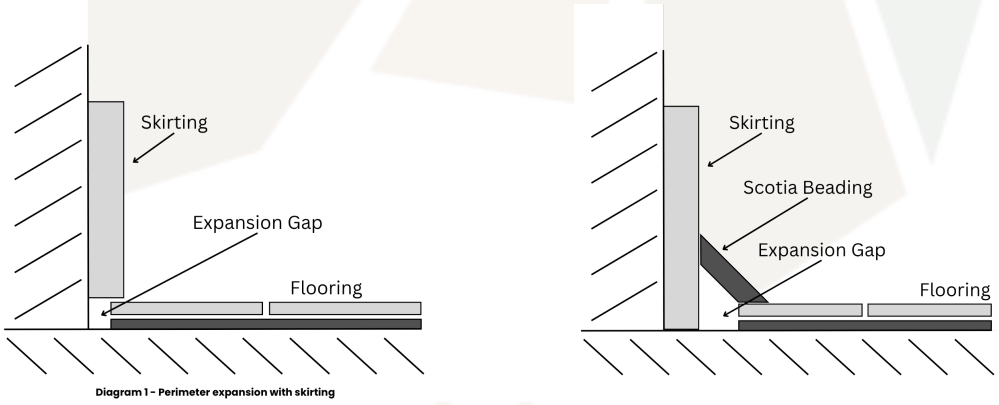

Diagram 1 - Perimeter expansion with skirting

Aluminium trims can be used as expansion trims and control joints.

Skirting boards and scotia should be fixed only to the wall or cabinets, not directly to the installed floor.

Do not apply sealant at the junction between the floor and any vertical surface (e.g., benches, skirting boards or scotia).

BEFORE INSTALLATION

- The room temperature during installation should be between 10°C and 30°C, and the relative humidity should be between 45% and 65%. Flooring must be installed in a temperature controlled environment.
- Ideally, remove any skirting boards before installation and reinstall them afterward. If removal is not possible, or if you choose to keep the skirting, use scotia or aluminium trims to cover the expansion gaps.
- Undercut door jambs and allow for a 10 mm expansion gap.
- Ensure the installation area is well lit to spot any imperfections, such as sheen differences, visible defects, or damage, before and during installation.
- Remove all carpets, carpet pads, and carpet tacks. Check for any nails or other obstacles that could affect the installation process.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Tape Measure; Utility Knife; Circular Saw or Flooring Cutter; Multi Tool; Rubber Mallet; Tapping Block; Pull Bar; Space bar; Spacers; Ruler; Pencil; Safety Glasses; Broom or Vacuum Cleaner; Hardwood Floor Cleaner.

INSTALLATION FOR FLOATING FLOOR

Ensure the subfloor is prepared according to the **Subfloor Preparation** section above.

- **Underlay Installation**
  Roll out the foam underlay, ensuring each row is lapped and joined with moisture resistant adhesive tape. Follow the underlay manufacturer's instructions. The maximum underlay thickness is 5 mm.

- **Starting Point**
  Begin with the grooved side of the board facing the wall where the installation will start. Use spacing wedges regularly along the starting wall to maintain an expansion gap of at least 10 mm between the first row of boards and the wall.

- **Check Wall Alignment**
  Snap a chalk line from the chosen wall to ensure it is straight. Starting from this point is crucial to minimise the visual effect of non parallel or bowed walls. It also ensures that boards cut adjacent to the walls are as wide as possible.

- **Room Layout**
  Floors are typically installed lengthwise down hallways. Consider the layout to ensure the floor is installed parallel to hallway walls. Also, plan where control and expansion joints will be placed. Begin laying the floor from a corner of the starting wall.

- **Staggering Joints**
  Start the next row with a piece left over from the previous row, or with a board that is at least 450 mm shorter or longer than the first board in the previous row. End joints of adjoining boards should be staggered by at least 450 mm. Avoid a brick-like pattern, as random end joints provide a more appealing look.

- **Completing Rows**
  Continue laying the floor row by row until you reach the opposite wall. The final row may not fit exactly, so you will need to trim the boards along their length. Ensure that the 10 mm expansion gap is maintained along the wall (remove tongues if needed).

- **Final Row Installation**
  When installing the last row, position the boards as close to the wall as possible. Use protective blocks or flooring offcuts to shield the wall and boards from damage when using the spacing bar. The spacing bar can be used to carefully force the boards into position.

- **Finishing**
  Once the floor is installed, fix skirting boards or scotia to the wall or cabinets. Never fix scotia trims directly to the installed floor.

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INITIAL CARE (within 24 hours of installation)

- Thoroughly sweep or vacuum using a soft bristled brush.
- Be cautious when placing furniture and appliances on the new floor.
- Avoid dragging heavy objects or furniture. When moving items, lift and walk them across the floor or place a protective material, such as cardboard, underneath.
- For heavy furniture, use smooth, non staining fabric faced furniture sliders, or move furniture over sheets of plywood or cardboard to prevent damage.
- Protect your floor by covering furniture legs with felt protectors.

HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

To maintain the warranty and ensure efficient service in case of a claim, the following must be followed:

- Flooring must be installed according to Adorn Laminates Installation Guidelines.
- Use safe and appropriate cleaning products.
- Keep at least five (5) planks of the flooring for repairs and testing, if needed.
- Retain and be able to provide the original sales receipt or proof of purchase, including details of the purchase and installation date.

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