

TOOLS REQUIRED

1. Spacers
2. No. 2 White Rubber Mallet
5. Utility knife / Guillotine / Saw
3. Ruler / measuring tape
4. Pencil



HYBRID FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

GUIDELINES BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

- Installation of Flooring by Victoria's hybrid planks should adhere to the AS1844-2012 Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles Installation practices.
- Any Variation from the AS1844-2012 Australian Standard Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles Installation practices and the Flooring by Victoria's installation instructions will affect the warranties.
- Flooring by Victoria's hybrid planks must be installed using a floating floor system. DO NOT secure individual planks to the subfloor with mechanical fasteners or adhesives. DO NOT install cabinets, kitchen islands, door hardware or other non-movable objects on top of or through the flooring.
- Ensure that the product and accessories supplied are correct prior to installation: colour, pattern and quantity. In daylight, check each plank for visual defects or faults prior to installing. If the product is incorrect or has an obvious visual defect contact your retailer. DO NOT install defective product. Flooring by Victoria will not be responsible for any visible defects after the product has been installed.
- Use of a small, soft bristle brush to clean the joints prior to locking will ensure that there is no debris which will cause stressing or failure of the joint after interlocking the pieces together.
- Improper locking of the mechanism may cause one or more of the following conditions in your flooring: Joints to be distressed resulting in a 'peaked' appearance; delamination due to ledging; separation of joints from normal environmental temperature changes; cupping or side joint failure. These joints have not been designed to be engaged and disengaged multiple times.
- Flooring should be protected from direct sunlight and not exposed to direct sunlight for extended periods of time by the use of blinds, curtains or suitable window coverings or be in use in areas of large amounts of direct sunlight exposure.
- Do not use tapping blocks, adjustable spacers (screw type) or other tools common to hardwood and laminate flooring installation to prevent damage to the locking mechanism. A small 150mm piece of our Hybrid plank scrap flooring with the top joint tongue intact should be used as a tapping block and locked into the joint groove before tapping.
- Although Flooring by Victoria's hybrid planks are waterproof they should not be installed in areas subject to flooding and excessive moisture exposure such as saunas and outdoor areas
- If Flooring by Victoria's hybrid planks are being installed in a wet area such as a bathroom or laundry, it is important to refer to the Wet Area Installation Guidelines at the end of the Installation Instructions.
- Flooring by Victoria's hybrid planks cannot be installed over any electrical radiant heating systems. The speed of sudden temperature changes can negatively affect the floor.
- For hydronic underfloor heating systems please refer to the installation recommendations for hydronic underfloor systems at the end of the Installation Instructions.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

	Residential	Commercial
Acclimation	Not Required ¹	24 hrs. in normal operating temperature of installed environment
Optimal Interior Conditions	10°C to 38°C (maximum) degrees	10°C to 38°C (maximum) degrees
Expansion spacing at vertical surfaces	8mm minimum	8mm minimum
Large Space Transition Requirements	Not Required ²	Required ²
Doorway Transition Requirements	Not Required ³	Required ³

Subfloor Flatness	As per AS1844-2012 Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles Installation practices	As per AS1844-2012 Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles Installation practices.
Substrate Moisture Limits	Concrete: 85% RH (ASTM F2170); see installation guide	Concrete: 85% RH (ASTM F2170); see installation guide
Vapor Barrier (6 mil poly)	Not Required ⁴	Not Required ⁴

1. Flooring temperature, storage environment and installation environment should have no more than 9°C temperature difference when performing installation; flooring temperature should always be greater than 10°C. Extreme Temperatures - If the flooring is exposed within 24 hours prior to installation for over 2 hours to extreme temperatures under 10°C or over 50°C, acclimatization is required. The planks, in their unopened cartons, should be acclimatized between 18°C to 29°C for a minimum of 12 hours prior to installation. The planks should be stacked with a minimum of 200mm between them and no more than 3 packs high. The temperature range of 18°C to 29°C must be maintained through-out the installation.
2. Required in rooms greater than 20m with 8mm expansion spacing at all vertical surfaces, door frames, cabinetry, etc. For rooms greater than 20m in length and 20m in width, use 13mm expansion spacing on the perimeter.
3. Wooden door frames must be undercut completely to studs and allow for 8mm of clear expansion spacing. Metal door frames shall have flooring material scribed to the frame allowing for 8mm expansion spacing. Door jamb mouldings shall be kept 0.4mm above the surface of installed flooring.
4. Use of a poly moisture barrier is not required with Flooring by Victoria's hybrid planks. Moisture testing should be conducted as per the AS4844-2012 recommended guidelines and limits for moisture content observed. Should a high moisture situation occur in the substrate proper remediation of the slab should be performed.

SUB FLOOR PREPARATION

- All subfloors should be prepared in accordance with the Australian Standard 1884-2012 Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles Installation practices regardless of composition they must be smooth, flat, dry and free from any contaminants such as but not limited to dust, oil, paints, dirt and liquids.
- All subfloors should be Flat – the subfloor level should not exceed 3mm under a 2 lineal meter straight edge. Any indentations must be filled and leveled. All raised points must be sanded or ground down.
- Concrete subfloors must be tested in accordance with AS1884-2012 Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles Installation practices for moisture using the relative humidity in-situ probe test RH levels can be up to 85%.
- Final responsibility for determining if the subfloor is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.

Concrete

- Must be cured and completely dry with a surface free of contaminants and surface irregularities.
- Depressions and cracks must be filled using a suitable levelling compound. All irregularities must be levelled.

Timber / Plywood / Particle Boards

- Must be checked for loose boards, warping/ cupping or excessive deflection of movement.
- If they contain knots and other open defects, they need to be filled and/or levelled and free of contaminants.
- If there are damaged boards or excessive movement in the boards, the subfloor needs to be re-affixed and damaged boards replaced. If work is required to prepare the subfloor – ensure that it is levelled and free of contaminants prior to commencement of installation.

Other Floorcoverings

- Flooring by Victoria's hybrid planks can be installed over most existing floorcoverings (ceramic tiles, PVC, Linoleum) providing they are flat, dry and free from contaminants and surface irregularities.
- Ceramic Tiles – should be free of cracks or loose tiles. Grout line tolerances are no more than 3mm wide or 3mm deep. If the tolerances are greater than the 3mm the grout lines should be filled to the level of the tiles with a suitable leveller. Ensure the surface is flat and free from contaminants.
- The following are not approved substrates for installing Flooring by Victoria's hybrid planks: Carpet, carpet underlay, cork or other compressible underlays, existing floating floors and other uneven or unstable substrates.

Perimeter and Expansion Gaps

- A standard perimeter expansion gap of not less than 8mm must be ensured against all fixed vertical services: Walls, benches, cabinets sliding doors etc.
- For areas over 20m long and 20m wide use a 13mm expansion spacing on the perimeter.

INSTALLATION

Flooring by Victoria's hybrid planks have been designed with an angle/drop mechanism.

The angle/drop flooring requires that the top or long sides be installed first by engaging the joint at a shallow angle while lining up the short side drop lock mechanism.

Once the top joint is engaged, firmly press the left end (top of the drop-lock joint) down with the thumb to properly seat and align the joint. The installing plank should not be resting on the face of the adjacent plank nor should there be any gaps in between the two planks. Once properly aligned the end joint can be carefully seated with a rubber mallet while tapping approximately 25mm from the end of the joint.

NOTE: The drop lock joints cannot be 'lifted' or angled apart when removing or repositioning a plank. If it is necessary to replace an installed plank during the installation the best method is to replace the whole row.

The subfloor must be prepared in accordance with the AS1884-2012 and as detailed in these instructions.

LAYOUT

1. Decide the installation direction – it is recommended to install the flooring perpendicular to direct sunlight sources, including large windows, doors, etc.
2. Dry lay a section of plank from the center lines of the room to one wall to determine that the pattern is centered and to minimise waste.
3. Measure the area to be installed and estimate the number of rows required. If the last row is not at least half the width of the plank, the first row should be cut so that the first and last rows are similar in width.
4. It is important to balance the layout of the plank format. Proper planning and layout will prevent narrow piece widths at wall junctures. Pre-determine the layout to prevent planks having less than half the width or very short length pieces.

Installation

Flooring by Victoria hybrid planks are best installed with a No.2 white rubber mallet. While not required, this will help ensure the tongue and groove are properly mated and clicked together.

Use of several 8 mm spacer blocks along the first wall will ensure the proper spacing is achieved and that floor does not 'walk' back towards the wall during installation.

1. Starting in the farthest left upper corner of the room, position the first plank so that both the head and side seam groove is exposed. This requires installing the product from left to right in the room. Trim the top tongue from the piece.
2. Install the second plank in the first row by laying the short-end tongue onto the previously installed plank short-end groove. Fasten the planks together by firmly pressing down with your thumb along the seam to vertically align the edges of the planks together. Use of a soft, white No. 2 rubber mallet is recommended to fasten the tongue & groove together by tapping the surface of the installing plank approximately 25mm from the edge of the joint. You will feel the planks lock together. DO NOT force a joint together if it is out of alignment, this could result in permanent damage to the end groove
3. Maintain an expansion gap of 8mm from the wall. Then cut a plank in half or 1/3 of the length to start the second row. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. This is best done with a low angle (20° to 30°) of the plank and then angling down to lock it in.
4. Continue the first row by laying the short-edge tongues onto the previous plank short-end groove and firmly pressing the seam down with the mallet until the planks click together as in Step 3 above. Measure and cut the last plank in the row while maintaining the 8 mm spacing at the right-side wall.
5. Install the remaining planks in the second row by first aligning the long edge tongue into the groove of the previous row while making sure the short-edge tongue is laying on the short-edge groove of the previous plank. Remember to ensure alignment of the end joint as in step 2 above.
6. Angle the long edge tongue into the plank in the row above and lock it together.
7. Firmly tap or press the short-edge tongue into the short edge groove of the previous plank as in Step 3 above. It is critical to keep these two rows straight and square, as they are the "foundation" for the rest of the installation. Check for squareness and straightness often.
8. Use the cutoff plank from the first row to start the third row. Work across the length of the room installing rows of planks as in the first row while using the cutoffs as starter pieces. This will help in maintaining a random appearance.
9. Continue installing the planks being certain to maintain a random appearance and offset end seams by at least 152mm. Maintain an 8mm expansion gap at all fixed vertical surfaces.
10. Check to be certain all planks are fully engaged; if slight gapping is noticed, simply disengage the long/top side joint and then carefully slide the short/end joint apart. Reinstall the plank.
11. Install wall mouldings and door transition strips last. All mouldings are to be attached directly to the wall or subfloor: DO NOT place fasteners through the planks.
12. Ensure that when fitting wall mouldings that a spacing of 0.4mm is kept above the floor

Wet Area Installation

In the event that a floor waste is installed in the area, and it is intended to grade the floor to waste, the sub floor **MUST** be prepared within the tolerances as stated in the Flooring by Victoria Sub Floor preparation instructions. Please note that due to the rigidity of the Flooring by Victoria hybrid planks, they cannot be manipulated to provide any fall to waste or accommodate variations in flatness of the floor greater than the tolerances stipulated in the sub floor preparation guidelines for this product. If these tolerances cannot be achieved, then a different product should be used.

Following the instructions set out in Wet Area Installation (a):

- Separate the wet area from the balance of the floor area with a 3 in 1 trim or similar at the doorway or other adjoining areas.
- Using a bathroom grade silicon, seal the perimeter of the floor. This will prevent moisture from seeping under the floor.

Hydronic Radiant Underfloor Heating

- a. This product can be installed over radiant heating systems which use water. Before installing over newly constructed hydronic underfloor radiant heating systems, operate the system at maximum capacity for a minimum of 7 days to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system.
- b. Shut down the heating at least 48 hours prior to installation.
- c. Make sure that the temperature in the room is at least 18°C during installation. It is recommended that the radiant heat be applied in a gradual manner after installing the floor.
- d. After installation ensure that the temperature of the subfloor never exceeds 27°C. Refer to the hydronic underfloor radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

AFTER INSTALLATION

1. Ensure that the planks are set, flat and have tight edges.
2. In the event that the Flooring by Victoria hybrid planks not the last portion of the construction project, the floor must be protected from construction traffic and damage. Utilize a reinforced fiber protective board or a heavy Kraft paper (min. 27kg) and cover the floor. Please make sure that any adhesive tape and protective material used does not affect the quality and overall look of the finished installation.
3. Initial maintenance can be performed immediately after installation. Cleaning utilizing a neutral pH cleaning solution and mop is recommended. Rinse the floor thoroughly and allow to air dry. Do not overwater the flooring.